

The Genocide Question in Canada — Unit 4 Project

The 3 strongest cases of genocide of Indigenous Peoples by the Canadian government were presented to the United Nations by Phil Fontaine and Bernie Farber on 14 October 2013.

Their case was laid out in an article titled, "What Canada committed against First Nations was genocide. The UN should recognize it" [CLICK ON TITLE LINK TO ARTICLE] in the *Globe and Mail* on the same date.

Fontaine and Farber assert that at least three actions on the part of Canadian governments constitute genocide under the *UNGC* rules.

CASE 1 — The Indian Residential School (*IRS*) system and especially the decision of the head of the *Department of Indian Affairs* Duncan Campbell Scott not to address rampant tuberculosis among students [CLICK ON TITLE LINK TO ARTICLE].

CASE 2 — Sir John A. MacDonald's policy of deliberately starving Indigenous Peoples to make way for settlers in the Canadian west [CLICK ON TITLE LINK TO ARTICLE].

CASE 3 — The forcible removal of Indigenous children from their homes for the purpose of adoption by white families, a practice known as the "Sixties Scoop." [CLICK ON TITLE LINK TO ARTICLE] Estimates put the number of children removed between the 1960s and the mid 1980s at around 20,000.

TOPICS

Students **MUST** work with CASE 1 (the *IRS* system) and have a choice between working with CASE 2 **or** CASE 3.

TASK

Using course materials and additional research —

1. Students create a FACT LADDER for CASE 1 (your information must include facts and evidence from all 10 stages of genocide).
2. Students create a FACT LADDER for CASE 2 **OR** CASE 3 (your information must include facts and evidence from all 10 stages of genocide).
3. Students place facts from their CASE 1 fact ladder onto **either** the INTERNATIONAL LAW LADDER **or** the CANADIAN LAW LADDER to make the case for genocide. How far up the ladder do the facts connect to the law?
4. Students place facts from their CASE 2 **or** 3 fact ladder onto the LAW LADDER **not** used in CASE 1 to make the case for genocide. How far up the ladder do the facts connect to the law?

NOTE — one of your cases will apply the facts to the INTERNATIONAL LAW LADDER and the other case will apply the facts the CANADIAN LAW LADDER.

SEE — the project page for the already built INTERNATIONAL LAW LADDER and the information you must use to build the CANADIAN LAW LADDER <<http://www.socialglobalstudies.com/unit-4-genocide-question>>.