

“When the school is on the reserve the child lives with its parents, who are savages; he is surrounded by savages, and though he may learn to read and write his habits, and training and mode of thought are Indian. He is simply a savage who can read and write. It has been strongly pressed on myself, as the head of the Department, that the Indian children should be withdrawn as much as possible from the parental influence, and the only way to do that would be to put them in central training industrial schools where they will acquire the habits and modes of thought of white men.”

- John A. MacDonald, Canada’s first Prime Minister, *spoken in the House of Commons, May 9th, 1883*



“I want to get rid of the Indian problem...That has been the whole purpose of Indian education and advancement since the earliest times...Our object is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question, and no Indian Department, that is the whole object of this Bill.”

- Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs (1913-1932),
presented to a Special Committee of the House of Commons regarding the Indian Act, 1920

