Manitoba Studies in Native History XI

## "A National Crime"

The Canadian Government and the Residential School System, 1879 to 1986

John S. Milloy

The University of Manitoba Press

"A National Crime" © John S. Milloy 1999

The University of Manitoba Press Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 5V6 www.umanitoba.ca/uofinpress

Printed in Canada on acid-free paper

Fifth printing, 2006

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in a database and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the University of Manitoba Press, or, in the case of photocopying or other reprographic copying, a license from CANCOPY (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency), 6 Adelaide Street East, Suite 900, Toronto, Ontario M5C 1H6.

Cover design: Doowah Design Text design: Karen Armstrong

Cover photographs: (foreground) two portraits of Thomas Moore; (background) Cross

Lake School.

## Canadian Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Milloy, John Sheridan.

A national crime: the Canadian government and the residential school system, 1879–1986

(Manitoba studies in native history, 0826-9416:11)

Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 0-88755-166-1 (bound); 0-88755-646-9 (pbk)

1. Indians of North America—Canada—Residential schools—History. I. Title. II. Series.

E96.5.M54 1999 371.829'97091 C98-920228-3

The University of Manitoba Press gratefully acknowledges the support for its publishing program provided by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Manitoba Arts Council, and the Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship.

"A National Crime" is a revised and adapted version of "Suffer the Little Children," a research paper prepared by John S. Milloy for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. The copyright notice for this background paper is "Suffer the Little Children." All rights reserved. © Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada – 1999, as represented by the Minister of Public Works and Government Services.

No part of the RCAP paper "Suffer the Little Children" may be reproduced in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services.

## **Contents**

Pre	eface	vii
Αc	Acknowledgements	
Int	Introduction	
Pa	rt 1 - Vision: The Circle of Civilized Conditions	
1	The Tuition of Thomas Moore	3
2	The Imperial Heritage, 1830 to 1879	11
3		
	1879 to 1920	23
Pa	rt 2 – Reality: The System at Work, 1879 to 1946	
4	"A National Crime": Building and Managing the System,	
	1879 to1946	51
5	"The Charge of Manslaughter": Disease and Death,	
	1879 to 1946	77
6	"We Are Going to Tell You How We Are Treated": Food and	
	Clothing, 1879 to 1946	109
7	The Parenting Presumption: Neglect and Abuse	129
8	Teaching and Learning, 1879 to 1946	157
Pa	rt 3 – Integration and Guardianship, 1946 to 1986	
9	Integration for Closure: 1946 to 1986	189
10	Persistence: The Struggle for Closure	211
11	Northern and Arctic Assimilation	239
12	The Failure of Guardianship: Neglect and Abuse, 1946 to 1986	259

## vi Contents

Epilogue: Beyond Closure, 1992 to 1998	295
Appendix	307
Notes	309
References	380
Index	389