

FACTSHEET – 4th cycle
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CANADA

LOOKING IN ONTARIO



CHILD RIGHTS AND INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

(IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM OTHER NGO'S)

(collaboration factsheet with 60's Scoop Legacy, 60's Scoop Network and Origins Canada in addition to Looking in Ontario's other factsheet)

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS CYCLES

Canada had 2 types of “Scoops” of Children between 1950 and 1995 – the 60’s Scoop and the Baby Scoop.

The 60's Scoop involved the forcible removal of Indigenous children from their families. The children were of varying ages. The vast majority of Indigenous children were adopted by non-Indigenous families.

The Baby Scoop involved the forcible removal of babies from unwed mothers. Indigenous mothers were also targeted. This usually happened at birth or shortly afterwards. The babies were adopted out to non-Indigenous families.

In both cases, adoptions were forced and the victims suffered physical and verbal abuse.

There have not been any recommendations put forward for the scoops at any time in any cycle.

There was a side event at EMRIP about the 60's Scoop but that did not lead to any recommendations. The issue of the Canadian Baby Scoop has never been raised at any level.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

There was a 60's Scoop class action in which the Ontario Superior Court ruled in 2017 that such practices constitute “Cultural Genocide” (Looking in Ontario provided evidence for this). The Federal government was forced to pay compensation nationwide. There was no apology. Metis and Inuit Indigenous peoples were excluded and a time limit on putting in claims. This has excluded a lot of people.

The Senate of Canada held hearings about the Baby Scoop. A report was produced called “The Shame is Ours: Forced Adoptions of the Babies of Unmarried Mothers in Post-War Canada. Origins Canada took the lead in the Senate of Canada hearings on this issue. Approximately 300,000 babies were taken from unwed mothers through forced adoption.

<https://sencanada.ca/en/info-page/parl-42-1/soci-adoption-mandate/>

CHALLENGES

The Federal Government of Canada will not apologise to 60's Scoop victims and Baby Scoop Victims.

The 60's Scoop of children and the Residential school children are 2 different issues but they get conflated. People think they are the same thing when they are not. The Residential school children have received an apology while the 60's Scoop children have not.

In both scoops, parents were told that their babies had died when that was not true.

IMPACTS

The families feel that they don't matter. They feel that their voices are not heard. This denies them closure and healing.

60's Scoop victims feel that they are overshadowed and that their voices are not heard.

Families cannot reunite. Parents will not look because they believe their children are dead. Indigenous people cannot claim their status rights. It is difficult to prove that the person is in fact alive.

RECOMMENDATIONS (these must be done within the year)

- 1) The Federal Government of Canada must apologize to both 60's Scoop victims and Baby Scoop victims.**
- 2) False Death records must be annulled and deleted.**
- 3) Inquiries must be held for both Scoops.**
- 4) 60's Scoop claims should be extended to include Metis and Inuit Indigenous people. The time limit should be dropped.**

Contact – Cathy Henderson – Looking in Ontario www.lookinginontario.com

info@lookinginontario.com

We work in collaboration with many other NGO's