

PRIDE AND CAMARADERIE: Stories of Residential School and Sport



Day-to-day experiences at residential school included fear, loneliness, trauma, abuse and at the same time could also include hope, support, resistance and respite in activities like art, music and sports.



Survivors often share stories about the role that sports played in their daily life at school, and many remember their time participating in sports quite fondly. While experiences with sports at residential school were not always positive, team sports often meant time away from school, an escape from abuses and a way to grow physically and mentally stronger in order to face trying times.



Often, athletes competed at highly competitive levels but were rarely recognized for the same achievements as non-Indigenous teams and students.

Sports offered a way to gain physical and mental strength during years of negligence and deprivation. Athletes had opportunities to travel and could find an escape from school through sport.

These images and stories of sport in residential school have been generously contributed and shared by the Sparrow Family, Brissenden-Loyie Family and the United Church of Canada.

- 1 Musqueam lacrosse team
- 2 Coqualeetza Institute
- 3 Girls basketball team, Alberni Indian Residential School
- 4 Hockey team, clearing rink, St. Bernard Mission Residential School
- 5 Hockey team on ice, Red Deer Institute
- 6 Hockey team, St. Bernard Mission Residential School
- 7 Boys basketball team, Alberni Indian Residential School
- 8 Girls softball league, Alberni Indian Residential School
- 9 Playground and basketball court, Ahousaht School
- 10 Girls basketball team, Ahousaht School
- 11 Football team, Coqualeetza Institute
- 12 Hockey team, Morley Indian Residential School

