TWO PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE **RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS** SYSTEM WERE TO REMOVE AND ISOLATE CHILDREN FROM THE INFLUENCE OF THEIR HOMES, FAMILIES, TRADITIONS AND CULTURES, AND TO **ASSIMILATE THEM** INTO THE DOMINANT CULTURE... BASED **ON THE ASSUMPTION ABORIGINAL** CULTURES AND SPIRITUAL BELIEFS WERE INFERIOR AND UNEQUAL... SOME SOUGHT ... "TO KILL THE INDIAN IN THE CHILD." TODAY, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS POLICY OF ASSIMILATION WAS WRONG, HAS CAUSED GREAT HARM. AND HAS NO PLACE IN OUR COUNTRY...THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SINCERELY APOLOGIZES AND ASKS THE THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES OF THIS FORGIVENESS OF COUNTRY FOR FAILING THEM SO PROFOUNDLY ... WE ARE SORRY.



Cathy Busby, BUDGET CUTS, billboard, AKA Gallery and Paved Arts, Saskatoon, September 2012.

National Aboriginal Health Organization - cut by 100%

First Nations Statistical Institute - cut by 100%

National Centre for First Nations Governance - cut by 100%

Aboriginal Healing Foundation – cut by 100%

Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth - budget freeze of \$22 million

Sisters in Spirit - cut by 100%

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples - health budget cut by 100%

Native Women's Association - health budget cut by 100%

Metis Nation of Canada - health budget cut by 100%

Assembly of First Nations - health budget cut by 40%

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada - cut by 100%

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami - health budget cut by 40%

"There is a growing frustration among First Nations across the country with lack of action and lack of commitment on the part of the Government of Canada to work in real partnership with our peoples and governments," said AFN [Assembly of First Nations] National Chief Shawn Atleo. "Five years ago, the Prime Minister stated: 'There is no place in Canada for the attitudes that inspired the Indian Residential Schools system to ever prevail again.' Those attitudes include the colonial notion that other governments know best for First Nations and have the right to make decisions for us, yet we have not seen change in the continued pattern of unilateral approaches and imposed legislation. This is incongruent with the apology and other commitments. We must break the pattern once and for all. Actions must match words. Our people are calling for a true and collective commitment to reconciliation that respects First Nations peoples and rights as the way forward to a stronger Canada."

- nationtalk.ca, June 11, 2013

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Protesters gathered at Tom Davies Square http://www.thesudburystar.com/2013/07/26/protesters-gathered-at-tom-davies-square

July 24, 2013

Aboriginal nutrition tests focus of rallies across Canada

http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2013/07/24/pol-cp-aboriginal-nutrition-experiments-rallies. html

July 18, 2013

Hungry Aboriginal kids used in nutritional experiments: AFN reacts http://www.canadianprogressiveworld.com/2013/07/18/hungry-aboriginal-kids-used-in-nutritionalexperiments-afn-reacts/

July 16, 2013

Hungry aboriginal people used in bureaucrats' experiments

http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/story/2013/07/16/mb-aboriginal-nutritional-experiments-canada.html

July 10, 2013

ACFN Disappointed by JRP's Initial Approval of Shell Tar Sands Mine Expansion http://www.idlenomore.ca/acfn_disappointed_by_jrp_s_initial_approval_of_shell_tar_sands_ mine_expansion

July 10, 2013

Elsipogtog First Nation Shale Gas Protests Update from Halifax Media Co-op

http://indigenouswaves.com/2013/07/10/elsipogtog-first-nation-shale-gas-protests-update-from-halifax-media-co-op-reporter-miles-howe/

July 5, 2013 Healing Walk July 5, 6 2013 http://www.healingwalk.org/

July 1, 2013

territory

Bill McKibben and Naomi Klein to join Canada's tar sands 'healing walk' http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jul/01/canada-tar-sands-project-healing-walk

July 1, 2013 Happy Canada Day? Learning about Treaties in tar sands territory http://www.vancouverobserver.com/opinion/happy-canada-day-learning-about-treaties-tar-sands-

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Idle No More hosts flash mob during Canada Day celebrations in Saskatoon http://www.thestarphoenix.com/life/Idle+More+hosts+flash+during+Canada+celebratio ns/8603215/story.html

June 26, 2013

Occupy and Idle No More could team up to block pipelines going east

http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/06/26/john-ivison-occupy-and-idle-no-more-could-team-up-to-block-pipelines-going-east/

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Idle No More: Canada Escalates War on First Nations

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Largest Environmental Groups in North America Declare Support for First Nations Tar Sands Healing Walk

http://www.sys-con.com/node/2709113

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First Nations groups resolute in their opposition to Keystone XL

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AFN national chief warns government's 'unilateral' approach risks increased confrontation

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June 14, 2013

Native groups unclear on funding cuts

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Assembly of First Nations cut by 30%

http://www2.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/story.html?id=29eaa6d0-db92-475b-b86b-c5c516f91b58

June 11, 2013

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Notes 5th Anniversary of Parliament Apology for Residential Schools: "Actions Must Match Words"

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June 10, 2013

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Another pipeline rupture in spill-prone Alberta

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The Harper government has hit the Assembly of First Nations with \$1.7 million cut http://aptn.ca/pages/news/2013/06/06/afn-hit-with-surprise-1-7-million-cut/

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Funding cuts to major aboriginal political groups undermine 'potential for progress,' Chief Shawn Atleo says

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First Nations harmony depends on real action from Harper, Atleo says http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2013/06/02/pol-cp-shawn-atleo-first-nations-unreststephen-harper.html

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Chief Spence's hunger strike is a desperate plea for answers http://www.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/editorials/chief-spences-hunger-strike-is-a-

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Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs said his organization faces an 80 per cent cut to its core funding

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WE ARE SORRY, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, 2010

WE ARE SORRY, in Artists and Activists 10, pamphlet series, Printed Matter, New York, and Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2010

HARRIET NAHANEE, in Safe Façade, VIVO, Vancouver, 2010

WE ARE SORRY, City of Melbourne Laneway Commissions, Melbourne, Australia, 2009

WE ARE SORRY, Yukon Arts Centre, Whitehorse, 2009

WE ARE SORRY, Ocular Lab inc., Melbourne, Australia, 2008

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This pamphlet accompanies the artwork *WE ARE SORRY 2013* in the exhibition *Witnesses: Art and Canada's Indian Residential Schools* at the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, September 6 - December 1, 2013.

WE ARE SORRY 2013 is part of Art in the Library, a collaboration between the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery and the Walter C. Koerner Library at the University of British Columbia, and is made possible with the generous support of the Audain Foundation. Thanks to the City of Melbourne Laneway Commissions for sponsoring WE ARE SORRY, 2009. Witnesses is made possible with the generous support of the Audain Foundation, the Vancouver Foundation, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation, the British Columbia Arts Council and our Belkin Curator's Forum members. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the UBC Hampton Fund.

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THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR THE NATION TO TURN A NEW PAGE IN AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY BY

RIGHTING THE WRONGS OF THE PAST AND SO MOVING FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE...FOR THE PAIN, SUFFERING AND HURT OF THESE **STOLEN GENERATIONS,** THEIR DESCENDANTS AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES LEFT BEHIND, WE SAY SORRY ...FOR THE BREAKING UP OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES, WE SAY SORRY. AND FOR THE INDIGNITY AND DEGRADATION THUS INFLICTED ON A PROUD PEOPLE AND A **PROUD CULTURE, WE SAY SORRY.** WE THE PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA RESPECTFULLY

REQUEST THAT THIS APOLOGY BE RECEIVED IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT IS OFFERED AS PART OF THE

HEALING OF THE NATION.



Cathy Busby, WE ARE SORRY, City of Melbourne Laneway Commissions, Melbourne, Australia, 2009.

You are welcome to have a fragment of this artwork WE ARE SORRY 2013. In its entirety. WE ARE SORRY was first exhibited as a public artwork in Melbourne, Australia (2009 - 2013). It was made up of my edited versions of the governments' 2008 apologies to Indian Residential School Survivors in Canada and the Indigenous 'Stolen Generations' in Australia, printed on vinyl and presented on the exterior of a power sub-station. The next year, by invitation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I presented an indoor version at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (2010). WE ARE SORRY commemorated these historic apologies. Following a series of violations to the apology by the Canadian government, I made BUDGET CUTS, a billboard at AKA Gallerv and Paved Arts in Saskatoon (2012).

WE ARE SORRY 2013 is a further response to the erosion of the 2008 apologies, particularly the Canadian apology to Indian Residential School Survivors. For it, I cut a section from the vinyl of the Canadian apology of *WE ARE SORRY* in Melbourne. It is presented in the Koerner Library along with pieces of the remaining artwork for visitors to take away. I like the idea of many people dispersing this work and that pieces of it find their way into homes and offices where it can be a reminder of the need to take responsibility for a justice-based co-existence / relationship between Aboriginal and settler peoples in Canada, which was the intent and the spirit of the 2008 apology. It's up to all of us that, in the words of Shawn Atleo, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, "Actions must match words."

The reader is encouraged to learn more about these apologies, opposition to the subsequent budget cuts and related infringements by searching the sampling of links herein. This pamphlet also contains a listing of resources concerning Indian Residential Schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission available through UBC Libraries.

WE ARE SORRY 2013 is presented as part of the exhibition, *Witnesses: Art and Canada's Indian Residential Schools*, September 6 – December 1, 2013, at UBC's Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery located a few steps away from the Koerner Library.

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