

# #4

## The Davin Report

Multiple excerpts from a confidential report entitled “Report on Industrial Schools for Indians and Half-Breeds” that was written by Nicholas Flood Davin and submitted to the Canadian Government in Ottawa on March 14, 1879.



*Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.*

But it was found (in the United States' experience) that the day-school did not work, because the influence of the wigwam was stronger than the influence of the school. Industrial Boarding Schools were therefore established, and these are now numerous and will soon be universal (used everywhere in the United States). The cry from the Agencies where no boarding industrial schools have been established is persistent (tenacious) and earnest to have the want supplied.

.....

The experience of the United States is the same as our own as far as the adult Indian is concerned. Little can be done with him. He can be taught to do a little at farming, and at (live) stock-raising, and to dress in a more civilized manner, but that is all. The child, again, who goes to a day school learns little, and what little he learns is soon forgotten, while his tastes are fashioned at home, and his inherited aversion (avoidance) to toil (work) is in no way combated (stopped).

.....

There is now barely time to inaugurate (begin) a system of education by means of which the native population of the North-West shall be gradually prepared to meet the necessities of the not to distant future; to welcome and facilitate (help), it may be hoped, the settlement of the country; and to render its government easy and not expensive.

.....

I should recommend, at once, an extensive application of the principle of industrial boarding schools in the North-West, were it not that the population, both Indian and half-breed, is so largely migratory (nomadic) that any great outlay at present would be money thrown away.

.....

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(2.) Not more than four industrial boarding schools ought to be established at first. If the Department should

Nicholas Davin Flood, “Report on Industrial Schools for Indians and Half-Breeds” (Ottawa, 1879) p. 9 | Internet Archive [http://archive.org/details/cihm\\_03651](http://archive.org/details/cihm_03651) (Accessed April 26, 2012)