

Episode 2: “A condition disgraceful to the country”

The transcript for this episode is available on nationalcrimepod.ca.

More resources on historical thinking are available through [The Critical Thinking Consortium](#).

Pre-Listening Discussion Questions

Discuss these questions as a class or in small groups:

- How do we decide who is historically significant in Canadian history?
- Why is it important to present the bad and good things people have done?
- What do you know about Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce or Duncan Campbell Scott?

Listening Activities

While listening, take notes on any of the following:

- How Residential Schools contributed to tuberculosis transmission.
- Advocacy efforts to improve the system.
- How tuberculosis is a “social disease”.
- Findings of the 1907 Bryce report and government and media reactions to the findings.

Post-Listening Questions

Discuss these questions as a class or in small groups:

1. What stood out to you while you were listening to the episode?
2. What contributed to the high rate of tuberculosis transmission in Residential Schools?
3. In addition to Dr. Bryce, who else stood up for better conditions in Residential Schools?

Post-Listening Activity

Historical Thinking Concept: Historical Perspectives

History tries to understand the past and the concerns, beliefs, and values of the people living through a historical period or event. Nevertheless, many interpretations of history are influenced by present values. Examining historical perspectives allows us to understand the past through the variety of social, intellectual, and ethical lenses of the time.

Review the first paragraph of the [1907 report](#). What perspectives does Bryce share with scientists and government workers of the time? Based on the episode, how did his actions differ from his peers?

Additional questions

1. How is the 1907 Bryce report significant to Canada’s history?
2. How should Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce be remembered by people living in Canada? What should they know about his efforts?
3. How does the 1907 Bryce report inform your understanding of the on-going searches for unmarked graves at Residential Schools sites?