REEL CANADA

INDIAN HORSE

Content Advisory Chart

This moving drama follows Saul Indian Horse from childhood, where he is placed in a residential school, through his adolescence as a gifted, rising hockey star, to later adulthood, when he succumbs to substance abuse and must draw on his own indomitable spirit to overcome the harrowing experiences he suffered in the residential school system. This film deals with mature subjects such as physical and sexual abuse, racism, and the ongoing trauma and impact of Canada's residential school system, all of which may be triggering and difficult for viewers. However, the ultimate message of the film is one of hope and healing, and it provides an excellent opportunity for thoughtful conversation among students and teachers, which can lead to deeper empathy and understanding.

FILM RATINGS from each provincial film review board
NR indicates that the film was not rated in this province

AB	BC	MB	NB	NL	NT	NS	NU	ON	PE	QC	SK	YK
PG	14A	14A	*NR*	*NR*	PG	*NR*	PG	14A	*NR*	14A	14A	14A

	Frequency				
Content	Once	Rare	Occasional	Frequent	Context/Notes/Examples
VIOLENCE					
Guns	✓				A shotgun is used to block the doorway when The Moose team try to leave a bar (not pointed at them).
Physical Violence				✓	Four men beat up Saul's teammate and then urinate on him; brawling; body checking in hockey games.
Child Abuse				✓	In the residential school, children are punished by being placed in isolation in a cage in the dark basement; after a child wets his bed, the priest pushes the boy's face into the soiled sheets; the priest forces Saul to perform oral sex on him.
Suicide		✓			While in the cage, a young girl hits her head repeatedly against the bars. The next day, she is found dead. Later, her older sister stabs herself off-screen.

NUDITY					
Partial Nudity	✓				The residential school officials force-strip the six-year-old Saul and Lonnie to their underwear and push them into the bath.
SEXUAL CONTENT					
Oral Sex and Sexual Abuse	✓				Flashback to when six-year-old Saul was forced to perform oral sex on a priest. No nudity.
LANGUAGE					
Racial Slurs			✓		“So many redskins”, “Wagon Burner”, “We’re gonna scalp you Indians”, “Keep your head up, Chief”
SUBSTANCES					
Alcohol				✓	Saul and his teammates drink at a bar; Saul drinks alone several times in his middle age; Saul in the hospital with dried-up vomit on his face.
Cigarettes			✓		Both adults and teenagers are seen smoking cigarettes.

Helpful Resources

SOURCE: reconciliationcanada.ca/need-help

Need Help?
Are you in crisis or an emergency?
If you are in an emergency, or feel that you or someone else is at risk of harm, please contact someone immediately:
Call 911 for help right away.

Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre
Confidential, non-judgmental, free emotional support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including feelings which may lead to suicide.
Phone: 604-872-3311
Deaf or hearing-impaired: 1-866-872-0113
Website: crisiscentre.bc.ca

KUU-US Crisis Line Society
The KUU-US Crisis Line Society operates 24 hours and is a provincial Aboriginal crisis line.
Phone: Adult Crisis Line: 250-723-4050, Youth Crisis Line: 250-723-2040
Website: kuu-uscrisisline.ca

Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS)
The Indian Residential School Survivors Society encourages you to take time to care for your mental and emotional wellbeing. Please contact the Indian Residential School Survivors Society 24-hour crisis line if you require further emotional support or assistance.
Phone: 1-866-925-4419
Website: irsss.ca

Kids Help Phone
Immediate and caring support, information and, if necessary, referral to a local community or social service agency. The 24-hour distress line is staffed by counsellors and trained volunteers who are committed to helping youths in crisis.
Phone: 1-800-668-6868
Website: kidshelpphone.ca

First Nations Health Authority: fnha.ca

Canadian Mental Health Association: cmha.ca