

BLM 4 – Historical Voices on Indian Residential Schools (Duncan Campbell Scott and P. G. Anderson)

The following quotations are from Duncan Campbell Scott, appointed Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs by the government of Canada from 1913 to 1932, and one of Scott's successors at the Federal Department of Indian Affairs, P.G Anderson. Scott was responsible for making it compulsory for Indian children to attend residential schools and was determined to "take the Indian out of the Indian" through residential schools.



Thomas Moore before and after his entrance into the Regina Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan in 1874.
Library and Archives Canada / NL-022474

I want to get rid of the Indian problem. Our object is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question and no Indian Department." ... "They are a weird and waning race...ready to break out at any moment in savage dances; in wild and desperate orgies.

statement by Duncan Campbell Scott, 1920, cited at www.shannonthunderbird.com/residential_schools.htm

It is observed with alarm that the holding of dances by the Indians on their reserves is on the increase, and that these practices tend to disorganize the efforts which the Department of Indian Affairs is putting forth to make them self-supporting. I have, therefore, to direct you to use your utmost endeavours to dissuade the Indians from excessive indulgence in the practice of dancing.

excerpt from a letter written December 15, 1921
by Duncan Campbell Scott as a circular to staff

You will not give up your idle, roving habits to enable your children to receive instruction. It has therefore been determined that your children shall be sent to schools where they will forget their Indian habits and be instructed in all the necessary arts of the civilized life and become one with your white brethren.

Indian Superintendent, P.G. Anderson, 1946 cited at www.shannonthunderbird.com/residential_schools.htm