

**“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. TO THE MOTHERS  
AND THE FATHERS, THE  
BROTHERS AND THE  
SISTERS, FOR THE BREAKING  
UP OF FAMILIES AND  
COMMUNITIES, WE SAY  
SORRY. AND FOR THE  
INDIGNITY AND  
DEGRADATION THUS**

**INFLECTED 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.”**

—Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, February 13, 2008

COMPLETE TEXT - [www.aph.gov.au/house/rudd\\_speech.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/rudd_speech.pdf)

**Cathy Busby**  
**WE ARE SORRY**

Ocular Lab Inc, Melbourne, Australia, 2008  
Yukon Arts Centre, Whitehorse, Yukon, 2009  
City of Melbourne Laneway Commissions, Melbourne, Australia, 2009  
Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, 2010  
see: [www.cathybusby.ca](http://www.cathybusby.ca)

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OF CANADA SINCERELY  
APOLOGIZES AND ASKS  
THE FORGIVENESS OF THE  
ABORIGINAL PEOPLES OF  
THIS COUNTRY FOR FAILING  
THEM SO PROFOUNDLY.  
NOUS LE REGRETTONS.  
WE ARE SORRY.”

AS IT WAS INFAMOUSLY  
SAID, '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

TRADITIONS AND CULTURES,  
AND TO ASSIMILATE THEM  
INTO THE DOMINANT  
CULTURE ... BASED  
ON THE ASSUMPTION  
ABORIGINAL CULTURES AND  
SPIRITUAL BELIEFS WERE  
INFERIOR AND UNEQUAL.  
INDEED, SOME SOUGHT,

“TWO PRIMARY  
OBJECTIVES  
OF THE RESIDEN  
TIAL SCHOOLS  
SYSTEM WERE  
TO REMOVE  
AND ISOLATE  
CHILDREN FROM  
THE INFLUENCE  
OF THEIR HOMES,  
FAMILIES,