



They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School

By Bev Sellars

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"Deeply personal, sorrowful and ultimately triumphal, *They Called Me Number One* is an important addition to the literature on residential schools, and Canada's reckoning with its colonial past." - Winnipeg Free Press. "Her memoir provides invaluable insight into the enduring effects of a tragic and shameful part of our collective past, and also helps to begin the process of healing." - Danna Hansen, Quill & Quire. "Much of what has been written about the residential schools system, however, is so densely academic or historical that many readers simply tune it out. It is the story of a courageous child and woman who survived by clinging to the pieces of her life that were kind and good. Her wonderful Gran who taught her compassion and even a few caring words from a dormitory supervisor. *They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School*. by Bev Sellars. No Customer Reviews. BC Book Prize, Non-Fiction, Bev Sellars, *They Called Me Number One* (Finalist) Burt Award for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Literature: Bev Sellars, *They Called Me Number One* (Third Prize winner) Like thousands of Aboriginal children in Canada, and elsewhere in the colonized world, Xatsu'll chief Bev Sellars spent part of her childhood as a student in a church-run residential school. These institutions endeavored to "civilize" Native children through Residential schools have a long history in Canada. The first residential facilities were developed in New France by Catholic missionaries to provide care and schooling. However, colonial governments were unable to force Indigenous people to participate in the schools, as First Nations people were largely independent and Europeans depended on them economically and militarily for survival. Most of the residential schools were in the four Western provinces and the territories, but there were also significant numbers in northwestern Ontario and in northern Québec. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island had no schools, apparently because the government assumed that Indigenous people there had been assimilated into Euro-Canadian culture.