

Compte rendu « Statues of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II torn down in Canada »

This document is an article from the BBC website, a national British media, posted on July 2nd 2021 and dealing with the toppling and vandalism of statues in Canada. The journalist first explains that some angry people started vandalizing a statue of Queen Victoria because they wanted to raise awareness about the deaths of native autochthonous Canadians.

Then the reporter underlines the fact that, mostly, the protest was quiet and took place in Winnipeg. He adds that a statue of Queen Elizabeth was also toppled in the same city.

After that, we learn that this event took place on a particular day, July 1st, a day when Canadians celebrate the birth of Canada by former British colonies. These events led to the cancelling of ceremonies.

In the 4th paragraph, the author reports the reaction of the British government : they condemn the action even if they understand the anger of the protesters. In the next paragraph, we learn more about the reason of the protesters' anger: British colonists/ settlers wanted to assimilate indigenous children, they wanted them to integrate British culture, language and customs so they sent them in schools where they were mistreated and accommodated in bad conditions. Many of them died as a consequence and were buried anonymously.

The journalist ends up by saying that, due to these protests, many cities decided to renounce the celebration of Canada Day.

The goal of this article is to inform us about the protests that occurred on Canada Day and explain us the reasons why they took place. It is also to inform us about the tragic fate of these native Canadian children. The tone is neutral and the content is factual.