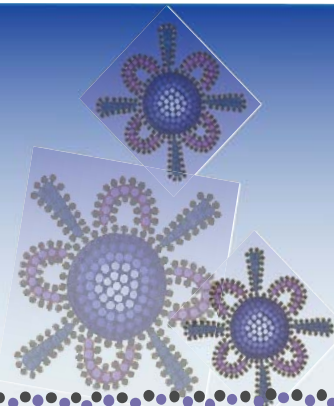


Bulletin



Indians Residential Schools - March 2008
Vol.1, Edition 1



A word from your liaison officer

Since August of 2007, I have occupied the new Indian Residential Schools Liaison Officer position at the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission. Essentially, my role consists of making the connection between the Indian Residential School survivors, the various Aboriginal organisations and the different governments involved in the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA).

With that in mind, I am pleased to present you the first bulletin that deals with the Indian Residential Schools Issues. A page in history that little is known about in general, but allows us to take opportunities for healing and to work towards the improved well-being of our future generations.

What were the Indian Residential Schools?

Despite the fact that some of you are already aware of Indian Residential Schools – the following is a brief overview of the background information.

Starting in 1874, with the implementation of the Indian Act, the Federal Government played a major role in foster the integration of Aboriginal people into his general Canadian society. The Federal government used Residential Schools for children as a means to achieve this objectives. In Quebec, there are 10 institutions that are recognized by the Settlement Agreement. This, however, does not mean that other institutions cannot be added. Therefore, in collaboration with

religious organisations, the Federal Government exploited these institutions.

However, despite some positive experiences in the Indian Residential Schools, many Aboriginals experienced physical and sexual abuse, a loss of identity, language and solid family ties. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples also describes a tragic heritage that the Indian Residential Schools heritage has left upon many former students.

All things considered, on May 30, 2005, the Government of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations signed the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. After having met the legal requirements, the Indian Residential School survivors can make a Common Experience Payment request since September 19, 2007, for survivors who are living or who have passed away after May 30, 2005. It is estimated that there are 13 000 to 15 000 First Nations survivors in Quebec and over 80 000 survivors across Canada.

Moreover, the IRSSA includes other components such as the Independent Assessment Process, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commemoration. I encourage you to review this bulletin or contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

Eric Duchesneau



VISIT OUR SITE WEB

We encourage you to visit the new Indian Residential Schools section under the Social Services tab located at www.cssspnql.com. Various information documents and updates can be found on the website.

Please do not hesitate to contact **Éric Duchesneau** by telephone at **418 842-1540** or by email at educhesneau@cssspnql.com for any additional information.



COMPONENTS OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (IRSSA)



1. COMMON EXPERIENCE PAYMENT (CEP)

Following a verification, each eligible former student who has lived in an Indian Residential School and who submits a CEP claim will receive \$10 000 for the first year of attendance, followed by \$3 000 for each following year. The average payment is estimated at \$28 000 per individual.

Service Canada and the Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada (IRSRC) are fiduciaries and have the mandate to deliver the proposals for the CEP.

Service Canada will ensure that the information in the claim forms is as complete as possible and will verify the identification documents. The missing information requests will be carried out in writing or through personal contact with the claimants. For their part, the IRSRC will be responsible for determining eligibility.

Former students may submit a proposal:

- *By mail to a centralized treatment centre or in person through Service Canada's outreach services,*
- *In person: by visiting one of the 320 Service Canada centres across the country.*

Each eligible person has the choice of receiving payment either by mail or by direct deposit.

Please note that legal counsel is not required for the CEP.

Following a verification, each admissible former student who has lived in an Indian Residential School who submits a CEP claim will receive \$10 000 for the first year of attendance, plus \$3 000 for each subsequent year. The average payment is estimated to be around \$28 000 per individual.

For more information on the CEP, call the following Service Canada toll free number:
1-866-699-1742

2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS (IAP)

The IAP is intended for those who experienced abuse in the Indian Residential Schools **or any other institution that is not on the IRSSA list of Indian Residential Schools**. To make a claim, it is recommended to obtain the services of a lawyer. The legal fees will be covered by the IRSSA.

For more information on the IAP, call the following toll free number: 1-866-879-4913



3. TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION AND COMMEMORATION

Within the framework of the implementation of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, there are also funds available for the implementation of individual, community and national activities through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commemoration.

The mandate of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** consists of:

1. Acknowledging the experiences, abuse and consequences of the Indian Residential Schools ;
2. Establishing a holistic, culturally-adapted and safe environment for the former students, as well as their families and communities, when they present themselves before the Commission;
3. At the community and national level, assisting in Truth and Reconciliation events and support, as well as promoting and facilitating these types of events;
4. Raising awareness and educating the Canadian general public with regard to the Indian Residential School system and its repercussions;
5. Finding the sources and developing a background document that is as complete as possible with respect to the Indian Residential School system and the consequences. This file must be saved and made available to the general public for study and future use;
6. For those who are part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, preparing and submitting a report of assorted recommendations that are intended for the Government of Canada regarding the Indian

Residential Schools system and the experiences, while including the following aspects: background information, the goal, the functioning and supervision of the Indian Residential School system, the effects and consequences of the Indian Residential Schools (most notably the systemic consequences, the inter-generational aftermath and the effects on human dignity) as well as the permanent consequences of these Indian Residential Schools;

7. Supporting of the commemoration of former Indian Residential School students and their families, in conformity with the Commemoration Policy Directive ("**Schedule J**" of the Settlement Agreement).

As for **Commemoration**, it consists mainly of acknowledging and raising awareness with regard to the wrongs that the Indian Residential School former students, as well as their families and communities, experienced and to shed light on the systemic consequences of the Indian Residential Schools and to honour the victims. The commemoration can include the erecting of permanent memorials or commemorative structures, the restoration of those that are already in place or the organisation of ceremonies or other projects.

Please be patient, as the criteria and forms to submit a claim should soon be available.

Partial source:

*Indian Residential Schools Resolution
Canada : www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca*

For more information on the TRC, call the following number: 1-613-995-0921



Other IRSSA Resources



 Health Canada Santé Canada

Your health and safety... our priority. Votre santé et votre sécurité... notre priorité.

Canada


HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES FOR FORMER INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL STUDENTS

FIRST NATIONS
INUIT
NON-STATUS
MÉTIS
NON-ABORIGINAL

If you attended an Indian Residential School, you may be eligible to receive health support services, such as:

- Counselling
- Emotional Support
- Cultural Support

1-877-583-2965



PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

Information For Managing
Residential School Settlements

The Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO)

Free CESO information sessions on personal financial management

Furthermore, we encourage you to organise First Nations community and organisation training sessions on personal financial management through the Canadian Executive Service Organisation (CESO).

It is also possible to offer this training through videoconferencing. Inform CESO of your needs!

For additional information, contact Ms. Ariane Chenard at 1-800-561-0687, ext. 107, or by email at:

www.saco-ceso.com

THE FORMS

The following forms are available in the Service Canada service centres, in the form section of the Service Canada website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca as well as on the Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada web site located at www.irsr-rqpi.ca.

Here are the types of forms that you will find on the web sites:

- Common Experience Payment claim
- Common Experience Payment Claim by legal Representation and estate representatives
- Independent Assessment Process request

CEP Processing Centre
706 Yates Street
PO Box 8729 STN Central
Victoria BC V8W 3S3

Here is the address to which you must submit your claims for a Common Experience Payment.

To obtain general information on the settlement agreement please refer to the following website or call this toll free number 1 800 O Canada (622-6232)

www.reglementpensionnatsindiens.ca

www.afn.ca/residentialschools





Regional meeting

November 14-16, 2007



A Regional meeting was held that was intended for the First Nations of Quebec organisation and community Indian Residential School file holders. The meeting objectives were to promote a common understanding of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and to support Quebec First Nations in the implementation of the IRS-SA. The report shall be disseminated shortly and will be available on our web site in the Indian Residential Schools sections under Social Services.

We also encourage you to organize meetings with your community mem-

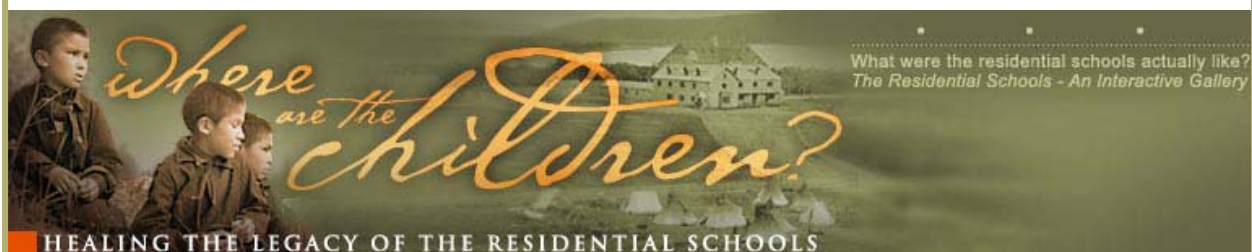
bers in order to have discussions around this issue.

Furthermore, for the communities that were absent or those that have special needs, our Indian Residential Schools Liaison Officer, Eric Duchesneau, is available upon request to meet with the communities – either in person or through videoconferencing.

REGIONAL FOCUS GROUP

In collaboration with communities, Aboriginal organisations and various provincial and federal partners, the FNLQHSSC aims to maximise the positive impacts and minimise the negative impacts stemming from this long process. In order to achieve this, a Focus Group on the Indian Residential Schools has been set up. Various meetings and conference calls have taken place on a regular basis in order to carry out follow-up work.

Another very interesting website: www.wherethechildren.ca



Public Safety

During the next few weeks, survivors will be receiving an amount of money related to the Indian Residential School settlements. It is important to remain vigilant and to inform people that they should contact the public security in your area to denounce any questionable practices.

For this reason, the FNQLHSSC met with the Chiefs of Police of the various communities on November 8, 2007, in Quebec in order to explain the IRSSA and the various programs at the Commission and to raise awareness regarding the impacts of the IRSSA's implementation.



ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF ELIGIBLE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

Decisions regarding requests for the addition of Indian Residential Schools, made before September 19, 2007, were made on November 19, 2007, and can be consulted by clicking on or visiting the following link:

www.residentialschoolsettlement.com

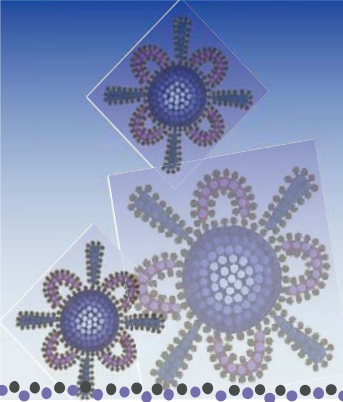
You can submit an Indian Residential School addition request form through the aforementioned website or by mail at the following address:

**Residential Schools Settlement, suite 3-505,
133 Weber st. North, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 3G9**

We suggest that you include a letter of support from your Band Council.

See the list of Quebec Indian Residential Schools that are recognized by the IRSSA

**Amos
Fort George (St. Phillip's)
Fort George (St. Joseph's Mission, Residence Couture, Ste-Thérèse de l'enfant de Jésus)
Federal Hostels at George River
Federal Hostels at Great Whale River (Poste-de-la-Baleine)
Federal Hostels at Payne Bay (Bellin)
Federal Hostels at Port Harrison (Inoucdjouac, Innoucdouac)
La Tuque
Pointe-Bleue (Mashteuiatsh)
Sept-Iles (Notre Dame, Maliotenam)**



FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR
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