



Agreement in Principle Highlights

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

On November 20, 2005, an Agreement in Principle was reached between the Federal Representative, the Honourable Frank Iacobucci, and legal counsel for former students, legal counsel for the Churches, the Assembly of First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations. Subject to court approval, the Agreement in Principle proposes a number of elements expected to form the basis of a final settlement package:

Common Experience Payment

The Agreement in Principle recognizes what was far too often the negative experience of former students of Indian residential schools, and proposes that a Common Experience Payment be made to former students. This Common Experience Payment is a symbol of the Government's desire to heal and repair the relationships damaged by the Indian residential school system.

- Upon application, the Common Experience Payment would be paid to every eligible former Indian residential school student living on May 30, 2005;
- Subject to verification, each eligible former student who applies would receive \$10,000 as well as an additional \$3,000 for each year of attendance in excess of the first year;
- Eligible former Indian residential school students 65 years of age and older will soon be able to apply for an advance payment of \$8000;
- Acceptance of the Common Experience Payment would release the Government of Canada and the Churches of all further liability relating to the Indian residential school experience except in cases of sexual abuse and the most serious incidents of physical abuse. Those claims would be dealt with through a mandatory revised alternative dispute resolution process as detailed below;

- \$1.9 Billion has been set aside for the direct benefit of former Indian residential school students.

Independent Assessment Process

An Improved ADR Process called the “Independent Assessment Process” (IAP) will address sexual abuse claims and the most serious incidents of physical abuse.

- Should the Common Experience Payment be accepted by a former student, the new IAP process will become the exclusive vehicle by which that student could pursue a further claim for sexual or serious physical abuse.
- Compensation through the IAP would be paid at 100% by the Government in all cases following validation by an independent adjudicator.

Truth and Reconciliation

- \$60 Million would be allocated toward the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation process.
- The Truth and Reconciliation process is intended to promote public education and awareness about the Indian residential school system and its impacts on the human dignity of former students, as well as provide former students and their family members with an opportunity to share their Indian residential school experiences in a safe and culturally-appropriate environment.

Commemoration

- An additional \$10M would be invested in the existing Commemoration program.
- The Government will continue to provide funding for commemoration initiatives, events, projects and memorials on a national and community level.

Healing

- The Aboriginal Healing Foundation would receive an additional endowment of \$125 Million.

- Evaluation of the healing initiatives and programs would be undertaken by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation in the fourth year following court approval, to recommend whether and to what extent funding support should continue.
- The Church entities involved in the administration of Indian residential schools would make very significant contributions toward healing initiatives.

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