



Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution of Canada

2002-2003
Estimates

Part III – Report on Plans and Priorities

Canada

The Estimates Documents

Each year, the government prepares Estimates in support of its request to Parliament for authority to spend public monies. This request is formalized through the tabling of appropriation bills in Parliament. The Estimates, which are tabled in the House of Commons by the President of the Treasury Board, consist of three parts:

Part I – The Government Expenditure Plan provides an overview of federal spending and summarizes both the relationship of the key elements of the Main Estimates to the Expenditure Plan (as set out in the Budget).

Part II – The Main Estimates directly support the *Appropriation Act*. The Main Estimates identify the spending authorities (votes) and amounts to be included in subsequent appropriation bills. Parliament will be asked to approve these votes to enable the government to proceed with its spending plans. Parts I and II of the Estimates are tabled concurrently on or before 1 March.

Part III – Departmental Expenditure Plans which is divided into two components:

- (1) **Reports on Plans and Priorities (RPPs)** are individual expenditure plans for each department and agency (excluding Crown corporations). These reports provide increased levels of detail on a business line basis and contain information on objectives, initiatives and planned results, including links to related resource requirements over a three-year period. The RPPs also provide details on human resource requirements, major capital projects, grants and contributions, and net program costs. They are tabled in Parliament by the President of the Treasury Board on behalf of the ministers who preside over the departments and agencies identified in Schedules I, I.1 and II of the *Financial Administration Act*. These documents are tabled in the spring and referred to committees, which then report back to the House of Commons pursuant to Standing Order 81(4).
- (2) **Departmental Performance Reports (DPRs)** are individual department and agency accounts of accomplishments achieved against planned performance expectations as set out in respective RPPs. These Performance Reports, which cover the most recently completed fiscal year, are tabled in Parliament in the fall by the President of the Treasury Board on behalf of the ministers who preside over the departments and agencies identified in Schedules I, I.1 and II of the *Financial Administration Act*.

The Estimates, along with the Minister of Finance's Budget, reflect the government's annual budget planning and resource allocation priorities. In combination with the subsequent reporting of financial results in the Public Accounts and of accomplishments achieved in Departmental Performance Reports, this material helps Parliament hold the government to account for the allocation and management of public funds.

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**Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution
of Canada**

2002-2003

Report on Plans and Priorities

Deputy Prime Minister

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I Messages

1.1 Message from the Deputy Prime Minister

In our first year as a department, the Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution of Canada has made considerable progress by focussing federal government efforts to find long-term, comprehensive solutions to the grievances of former Indian Residential Schools students who suffered abuse.

In recognition of the government's commitment to address the legacy of the schools, the Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution of Canada was created in June 2001. It centralizes all federal resources and monies to create ways to resolve those claims for which the Government believes it is legally responsible and to manage the Indian Residential School claim inventory.

Residential schools grievances of abuse are sensitive and complex. The Government is committed to moving as many cases as possible away from the court and into faster and more compassionate processes for the individuals. At the same time, there is a sustained effort to resolve outstanding issues of financial liability with church organizations that were charged with operating the schools. Settlements with the churches could further smooth the path to healing and reconciliation for victims and their communities.

As the Minister responsible for the Indian Residential Schools issue, it is important to me that we maintain our focus on the former students. Many of them allege sexual and physical abuse and these traumatic experiences cannot go unanswered.

Despite the complexity of this issue, I want to assure Canadians that the federal government is committed to finding a solution that is equitable to the former students, church organizations and Canadian tax payers.

With a mandate to manage and resolve Indian residential schools claims, the next year brings opportunity to expedite settlements with former students with claims for which the Government believes it is legally responsible. Meanwhile, strengthening partnerships within government and with Aboriginal people, religious denominations, and other citizens allows us all to address and resolve issues arising from the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

1.2 Management Representation Statement

Report on Plans and Priorities 2002-2003

I submit, for tabling in Parliament, the 2002-2003 Report on Plans and Priorities (RPP) for the Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution of Canada.

To the best of my knowledge the information in this document:

- Accurately portrays the organisation's plans and priorities.
- Is consistent with the reporting principles contained in the Guide to the preparation of the 2002-2003 Report on Plans and Priorities.
- Is comprehensive and accurate.
- Is based on sound underlying departmental information and management systems.

I am satisfied as to the quality assurance processes and procedures used for the RPP production.

The Planning, Reporting and Accountability Structure (PRAS) on which this document is based has been approved by Treasury Board Ministers and is the basis for accountability for the results achieved with the resources and authorities provided.

Deputy Minister

Date

II Raison d'être

Residential Schools were boarding schools for Aboriginal children between the ages of 5 and 16 years old that operated throughout Canada for well over a century.

The earliest residential schools predated Confederation and were run by church missionaries. The federal government began to play a role in the development and administration of this system as early as 1874, as part of its federal responsibility, under the *Indian Act*, to provide education to Status Indians.

Over 130 residential schools operated over time throughout Canada. The schools were located in every province and territory, except Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Of the 130 schools that existed, it is estimated that up to 100 of these schools could be involved in lawsuits today.

The Government of Canada operated nearly every school in partnership with various church organizations. On April 1, 1969, the Government assumed administrative responsibility for the residential school system, although in many instances church organizations remained involved in administering schools through contractual arrangements. The majority of these schools ceased to operate by the mid-1970s and the last federally-run residential school in Canada closed in Saskatchewan in 1996.

In 1991, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) was created to improve relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada.

The Commission held 178 days of public hearings, visited 96 communities, consulted dozens of experts, commissioned scores of research studies and reviewed numerous past inquiries and reports for the final report which was issued in 1996. Among other things, the RCAP Report outlined for the first time, in a comprehensive way, the impacts that the Indian residential school system had, and continues to have, on Aboriginal people.

In 1998, the federal government issued its response to the RCAP report called *Gathering Strength - Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan*. This plan outlined a four-point strategy for addressing residential schools issues: apology; healing; litigation strategies and dispute resolution framework.

Apology: The Government of Canada delivered a *Statement of Reconciliation* to all Aboriginal peoples which included an apology to those people who experienced sexual and physical abuse while attending residential schools.

It also stated that the federal government regretted the treatment of Aboriginal people. *"As a country, we are burdened by past actions that resulted in weakening the identity of Aboriginal peoples, suppressing their languages and cultures, and outlawing spiritual practices."*

Healing: The Government provided \$350 million to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation – an organization set up at arms-length from the government to provide funding for community-based healing projects.

Litigation Strategies: In instances where claims proceed to court, Government lawyers, working on behalf of the Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution of Canada, represent the interests of the Crown and contribute to the management of the government's response to the litigation. Where possible, we are working to move as many cases as possible away from the court and into faster and more compassionate processes for the individuals.

Dispute Resolution: The Government sponsored eight Exploratory Dialogues across Canada in 1998/99 which provided former students, government and church representatives with the opportunity to sit down and jointly develop solutions to resolve residential schools issues. This marked the first time the three parties were able to sit together and constructively discuss these issues.

In response to the dialogues, the Government established a number of Alternative Dispute Resolution Pilot Projects. At present, 11 Alternative Dispute Resolution projects are underway across the country.

In recognition of the importance of the residential school issue, the Deputy Prime Minister was given the responsibility of coordinating all initiatives on behalf of the Government. To this end, the Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution of Canada, was created on June 4, 2001, to centralize resources that are focussed on resolving valid claims of recognized causes of action.

In June 2001, formal negotiations between the Government and the churches began on the issue of financial apportionment. Both parties are seeking a comprehensive and long-term solution for the victims who suffered abuse, the churches and the Canadian taxpayers.

In an effort to speed up the settlement of claims with former students, the Government announced on October 29, 2001 that it would offer 70 per cent of agreed-upon compensation to victims with validated claims of recognized causes of action in instances where both the federal government and a church organization were involved in the school. This initiative ensures that claimants' needs and interests are not set aside during the negotiations between the federal government and the churches on the apportionment of compensation.

The Government of Canada will continue to compensate individuals 100 per cent for those claims for which the Government believes it is solely responsible, in law, for the claimant's loss.

Under the general theme of “Healing and Reconciliation” the Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution of Canada works to engage Aboriginal people and other Canadians in creating initiatives which commemorate those that attended these schools, explore the history of this system, and building our future by resolving litigation associated with these schools and promoting local, regional and national partnerships by supporting programs and projects of lasting impact in addressing the legacy of the residential school system.

**Mandate - Office of Indian Residential
Schools Resolution of Canada**

To engage Aboriginal people in initiatives that:

- commemorate
- explore our history
- build our future
- support programs and projects

III Plans and Priorities by Strategic Outcome

3.1 Strategic Outcome

The management and resolution of Indian residential school claims.

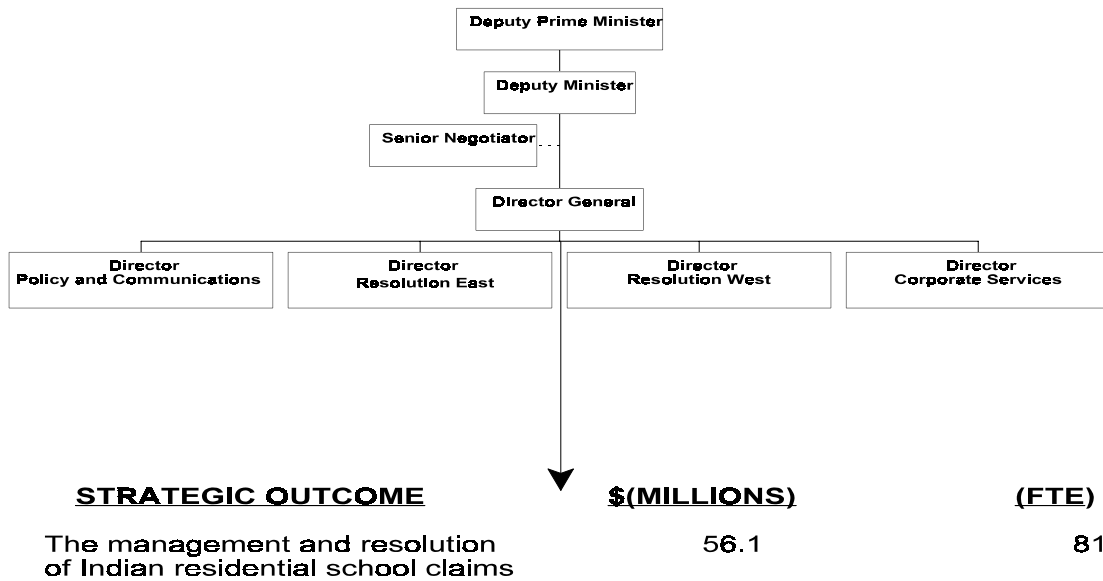
3.2 Plans and Priorities:

- Liaising with federal departments, provincial governments, aboriginal and church organizations and other former students to identify initiatives for addressing the legacy of Indian residential schools.
- Supporting programs which promote healing and reconciliation.
- Resolving as many outstanding claims as possible based on the Government's offer of 70 per cent compensation.
- Focussing on elderly claimants.
- Negotiating with churches to determine the shared cost of compensation.
- Establishing and implementing dispute resolution processes.

IV Organization

4.1 Accountability

Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution of Canada



4.2 Departmental Planned Spending

(\$ millions)	Forecast Spending 2001–2002*	Planned Spending 2002–2003	Planned Spending 2003–2004	Planned Spending 2004–2005
Budgetary Main Estimates	-	56.1	56.6	-
Non-Budgetary Main Estimates	-	-	-	-
Less: Respendable Revenue	-	-	-	-
Total Main Estimates	-	56.1	56.6	-
Adjustments to Planned Spending**	55.3	-	-	-
Net Planned Spending	55.3*	56.1	56.6	-
Less: Non-Respendable Revenue	-	-	-	-
Plus: Costs of services received without charge	2.3	3.0	3.4	-
Net cost of Program	57.6	59.1	60.0	-
Full-Time Equivalents	72	81	86	-

Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals shown.

* Reflects best forecast of total planned spending to the end of the fiscal year.

** Adjustments reflect approvals not included in the Main Estimates (e.g. Supplementary Estimates, Budget initiatives). The Department received funding through 2001-2002 Supplementary Estimates.

V Annexes

Table 5.1: Net Cost of Program for the Estimates Year

(\$ millions)	
Planned Spending	56.1
<i>Plus: Services Received without Charge</i>	
Accommodation provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)	1.5
Contributions covering employees' share of employees' insurance premiums and expenditures paid by TBS	-
Workman's compensation coverage provided by Human Resources Canada	-
Salary and associated expenditures of legal services provided by Justice Canada	1.5
	59.1
<i>Less: Non-responsible Revenue</i>	-
2002–2003 Net Cost of Program	59.1

Table 5.2: Summary of Transfer Payments

(\$ thousands)	Forecast Spending 2001–2002*	Planned Spending 2002–2003	Planned Spending 2003–2004	Planned Spending 2004–2005
Grants	350.0	500.0	-	-
Total Grants	350.0	500.0	-	-
Contributions	1,800.0	1,800.0	1,800.0	-
Total Contributions	2,150.0	2,300.0	1,800.0	-

VI Other Information

Contacts for Further Information

1. Web site address: www.irsr-rqpa.gc.ca
2. For general enquiries regarding Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution of Canada, please contact one of the following offices:

If you currently reside in the East or Saskatchewan:

Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution of Canada
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