



## **SASKATCHEWAN INMATES TO MAKE STATEMENTS TO TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION NOVEMBER 8, 9**

November 6, 2012 – The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) will visit a federal correctional institution for the first time on November 8 and 9, when it gathers statements from inmates of the Saskatchewan Penitentiary and Riverbend Institution in Prince Albert.

“The Commission is committed to ensuring that inmates of correctional facilities have an opportunity to be heard concerning the impact that the Indian Residential Schools have had on their lives,” said TRC Chair Justice Murray Sinclair. “There’s perhaps no other group of individuals in this country that better exemplifies the schools’ tragic legacy.”

In recent months, the TRC has visited provincial/territorial correctional institutions in Kenora, ON and Yellowknife, NT, listening to the personal accounts of Survivors of the schools and their descendents – the “intergenerational Survivors” whose lives have been indirectly damaged by the experiences of their parents and grandparents. Aboriginal inmates make up a disproportionately high number of those incarcerated in Canada.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established as a result of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to tell Canadians about the 150-year history of the schools in part through the statements of those whose lives were affected by them, and to guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

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