

**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada  
Media Clips**



**Résolution des questions des pensionnats indiens Canada  
Actualité**

**Monday, November 14, 2005 ♦ lundi, 14 novembre 2005**

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**Source: Edmonton Journal (also appeared in Ottawa Citizen, and Montreal Gazette)**

**Date: 2005.11.14**

**Byline: Mario Dion**

### **Residential school claims being settled expeditiously -- Deputy Minister**

Re: "\$70M spent to pay \$18M in native school claims," by Richard Foot, The Journal, Nov. 10.

Foot's article highlights several figures relating to the operating costs of Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada which paint an inaccurate and incomplete picture. I would like to shed more light on the matter.

It is indisputable that a comprehensive and lasting resolution of the legacy of Indian residential schools lies at the heart of reconciliation and a renewal of relationships between Aboriginal Peoples who attended these schools, their families and communities, and all Canadians.

Since the inception of the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process two years ago, the government has continuously adjusted and refined the process in order to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. The goal remains to make the process as responsive as possible to the needs of former students, while still maintaining an appropriate level of validation of claims.

As of Nov. 7, 2,555 former students have opted to participate in the ADR process as the method to resolve their claims, 463 decisions have been rendered with a total value of \$23 million, and more than 500 claims are at the hearing stage.

In fact, since this April alone, more than 1,000 former students have applied to the ADR process, 340 decisions have been made and a total of \$16.7 million has been awarded. The government is receiving on average 40 new ADR claims a week, and compensation paid in the ADR process is nearly three times that of operating costs.

In addition, of those former students who choose to pursue their claims through litigation processes, 2,428 have had their claims resolved and more than \$94 million has been paid in compensation to those individuals.

A fair and lasting resolution of the legacy of Indian residential schools requires an even more comprehensive approach, and toward that goal, discussions led by the government's representative, Frank Iacobucci, with legal counsel for former students, legal counsel for the churches, the Assembly of First Nations and other aboriginal organizations, are actively underway.

These discussions focus on exploring ways to recognize the Indian **residential school** experience of all former students, including support for healing, and an alternative dispute resolution process for claims of physical and sexual abuse.

Solid progress is being made in these discussions, and Iacobucci is on track to deliver his recommendations to the government in the spring, as anticipated.

Mario Dion,

deputy minister, Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada

**Source: Nunavut News North**

**Date: 2005.11.14**

**Inuit's best interest; Bickering doesn't help former residential school students**

Former residential school students may be forgiven for being a bit confused these days. Two groups, one led by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the other represented by a lawyer in Alberta, are at odds over how to get the federal government to include Inuit in a residential school compensation package.

The lawyer, Steven Cooper who grew up in Coral Harbour but now lives in Alberta, is representing 350-400 former students. NTI is asking former students to let it know who they are so it can make sure they get compensation. NTI even filed a lawsuit on their behalf. Cooper says Inuit students will be compensated whether or not NTI is involved.

That leaves the students being pulled in different ways and hurtful words flying back and forth. This dispute is only going to hurt those who should benefit from the compensation.

What are former students supposed to think? The disagreement will only confuse the matter more.

These two factions need to work together to ensure former students are not subjected to more conflict and that a fair resolution is arrived at in a speedy fashion.

**Source: News North (NWT)**

**Date: 2005.11.14**

**Byline: Nora Beaver**

### **Let's take back what is ours**

Thebacha/Fort Smith

The pain from the past has surfaced and I am feeling a lot of pain today for the Native, aboriginal people who are still suffering from the effects of the government. For me as an aboriginal person who has been a victim of the system, I still have a lot of anger and feel that I am unable to fill a void due to having identity and culture taken from me when I was taken away from my parents and placed in a residential school . Yes, I agree some of us were removed from our homes with good intentions and placed in what was supposed to be a safe environment, to provide us with shelter, nutrition and proper educational guidance.

In this process some things were stripped off us, like our language and the kinds of food we were raised with. Today many of us are suffering with many social issues due to certain teaching while in residential school . A lot of our people are lost and have taken the wrong path in life as a result of being stripped of who they are, what they are and where they belong.

To Phil Fontaine, Canada owes us more than money, we were the first people here, we want our lands back. Money, alcohol and man-made drugs were never part of our Dene culture. We have to respect our mother earth and put a stop to the white government in polluting and destroying our lands and people.

The way of our people

Respect, love and care is the way of our people. In respect for our ancestors and their teachings, let us keep our culture strong, let us become one strong nation and live in harmony. Thanks to my Creator, parents and elders for finding me. I am thankful for learning to finally express my true feelings and I know what my goal is now. I am here for a reason, like everyone else, we must find it within ourselves as to what purpose we have in life.

People must stop hurting other people and doing wrong, it is not the way of native people and yet we must find justice for the wrong that was done to many of our people while in residential school . The Dene, Metis and Inuit have to work together as a nation and take back what is rightfully ours, we are not to be treated as second or third on our own land.

The government way is not the Dene way, we don't need a corrupt system. Many of our people have been misled by the government and as a result have been destroyed either through alcohol abuse or drug use and loss of their aboriginal cultures. Another thing: why are we asked or forced to negotiate for our land. When did the government become owners that we, the aboriginal people, now have to negotiate for lands in which we hunt, fish and live on. The government has stolen off us, they make money off our lands and we are laughed at. What happened to the agreement, "As long as the river flows and the grass grows our mother earth will not be bought or sold." Now we as natives must take a stance and take back what is ours

<i>Média:</i>	<b>SRC-R1 (Saskatchewan)</b>	<i>Date:</i>	<b>10 nov 05</b>
<i>Émission:</i>	<b>Midi Plus</b>	<i>Heure:</i>	<b>12:06</b>
<i>Animateur/Journaliste:</i>	<b>Guy Michaud, Mathieu Rompré</b>	<i>Durée:</i>	<b>02:30 min.</b>
<i>Sujet:</i>	<b>Le coût lié au scandale des pensionnats ne cesse de croître</b>		

**Guy Michaud:** Voici donc ce qui se passe en Saskatchewan à cette heure-ci. Bien le coût des règlements qui sont liés au scandale des pensionnats autochtones continue de croître sans que les contribuables ne puissent voir la fin de leur participation financière.

Le réseau Canwest nous apprenait ce matin qu'il en coûte quatre fois plus en frais d'administration qu'en argent réellement versé aux victimes d'agression physique et sexuelle.

Mathieu Rompré s'est intéressé à la question. On le joint en studio à Saskatoon. Bonjour, Mathieu.

**Mathieu Rompré:** Bonjour, Guy.

**Guy Michaud:** Donc, Mathieu, donnez-nous un petit peu d'abord un aperçu des coûts engendrés par le programme de dédommagement, un programme fédéral, il faut le dire.

**Mathieu Rompré:** Oui, vous savez, Guy, on estime que la responsabilité du gouvernement dans ce dossier, lorsque tout sera terminé, pourrait s'élever jusqu'à 5 milliards de dollars. Pourtant, si on continue au rythme où vont les choses, c'est 20 milliards de dollars, donc quatre fois plus, qui auront été dépensés par Ottawa en gestion, en administration du programme pour cette erreur historique.

Alors, on a depuis longtemps reconnu les erreurs survenues dans ces pensionnats-là autochtones qui ont été donc plus ou moins des tentatives d'assimilation des Amérindiens, principalement dans les prairies mais pour dédommager ces personnes, ça semble être beaucoup plus difficile à faire que de simplement reconnaître une erreur.

Peut-être, en 2004 seulement, la gestion des programmes de dédommagement a coûté 70 millions de dollars au trésor public. Pourtant, c'est seulement 18 millions de dollars qui ont été dégagés pour payer des ex-pensionnaires.

**Guy Michaud:** Vous avez parlé à une fonctionnaire fédérale ce matin et elle vous a dit que les coûts étaient justifiés?

**Mathieu Rompré:** Oui, bien Sarah Mangione, des relations avec les médias à Résolution des questions des pensionnats indiens Canada, c'est le nom du ministère, elle affirme que les coûts engendrés par les programmes sont malheureusement nécessaires, si on veut.

Pourquoi? Bien parce que chaque année, parce que chaque demande, chaque année demande énormément de recherche. Il y a des coûts qui sont rattachés. On doit retrouver des témoins, on doit fouiller les archives, on doit faire des entrevues et ça, évidemment, ça coûte des sous.

Ça serait donc un mal nécessaire que tout cet argent investi là-dedans. Ça pourrait prendre bien du temps encore parce qu'on estime qu'il y a au Canada environ 86 000 ex-pensionnaires toujours vivants et il faut dire que ce bureau des résolutions a été créé en 2001 et il a un mandat de sept ans. Donc, jusqu'en 2008.

**Guy Michaud:** Mathieu Rompré à Saskatoon, merci beaucoup.

**Mathieu Rompré:** Merci à vous.

**Guy Michaud:** Au revoir.

\* \* \* \* \*



**Source: Globe and Mail**

**Date: 2005.11.12**

### **Ottawa writes a cheque to keep grievances alive**

There must be an election in the wind. The federal government is playing another round of money for grievances, the political exercise in which it tosses public funds to groups that can point to this country's past offences against them or, more commonly, their ancestors. In August, it offered money in acknowledgment of the internment of Ukrainian Canadians and other Eastern Europeans during the First World War.

Today, it is expected to officially recognize several more wrongs committed in the course of the 20th century, and to announce a down payment on a sum that may reach \$50-million, to be shared among several ethnic organizations. Call it the currency of grievance or, given the timing, the purchase of electoral good-will. Certainly the misdeeds were reprehensible.

Today's painful memories include the levying of racist head taxes on Chinese immigrants, the spurning of a shipload of immigrants from British India in 1914 (the first ship of migrants to be turned away in Canadian history), the inexcusable rejection of a ship bearing German Jews fleeing the Nazis in 1939, and the internment of Croatian Canadians during the First World War and of German Canadians and Italian Canadians during the Second World War. Italian-Canadian groups stand to receive an immediate \$2.5-million for commemorative exhibits and signs, rising to \$12-million, though one surviving internee has already grumbled that he won't get individual compensation of the sort prime minister Brian Mulroney gave Japanese-Canadian internment survivors in 1989.

It is one thing for the government, on behalf of all Canadians, to remember the past and to officially recognize the sins of previous generations of Canadians. It is another to spend millions on shrines to those sins, doubling the amount it set aside for redress in its 2005 budget. The government is in effect funding an industry of outrage and victimhood, an industry predicated on reminding new generations of the country's failures of a century and a half-century ago. It is using the money, group by group, to fan the flames of grievance -- the antithesis of a forward-looking public policy. It is spending unwisely.

**Source: Globe and Mail**

**Date: 2005.11.12**

**Byline: Campbell Clark**

### **Ottawa to unveil Italian redress package**

The federal government will recognize today the wrong done to Italian Canadians who were interned in the Second World War as part of a \$50-million package designed to redress the historic grievances of seven ethnic groups. Today's package will not include an outright apology or financial compensation for the survivors. Instead, the government is planning to recognize the injustice committed against hundreds of Italian Canadians and create a \$12-million fund for commemorative exhibits, signs and other historical material.

The fact the Liberal package does not include direct financial compensation riles some of the former internees, including Canadian-born Antonio Capobianco, who spent 14 months behind barbed wire in Petawawa, Ont., in 1940 and 1941.

"I'm not happy. We're the ones who should receive indemnification. They indemnified the Japanese, but we're not receiving indemnities," the 92-year-old Montreal resident said in an interview yesterday.

Ottawa recently addressed the concerns of Ukrainian Canadians who were interned during the First World War.

Prime Minister Paul Martin will unveil the plan for Italian Canadians today in Montreal with Heritage Minister Liza Frulla, whose father, grandfather and great-uncle were detained for up to eight months.

The announcement will be followed at later dates by similar commemoration for the head tax on Chinese immigrants, the internment of Croatian Canadians during the First World War and German Canadians during the Second World War, the refusal to allow a ship of Jewish expatriates fleeing Nazi Germany, the St. Louis, to land in Canada, and the turning back of a ship carrying hundreds of Sikhs, the Komagata Maru, in Vancouver in 1914.

The redress packages remain controversial with some communities, especially with the Chinese Canadian National Council, which wanted a full apology and compensation.

Multiculturalism Minister Raymond Chan, who has been responsible for hammering out the redress package with community groups, once supported that campaign.

But he said that after he became a cabinet minister and learned that several communities were seeking compensation, he agreed with a 1994 decision that it would not be appropriate for the government to expose today's taxpayers to a major liability.

"[When] I became a cabinet minister, when I fought for this file, then I saw that generations after generations of immigrants, no matter whether they grew up in Asia, have faced some kind of discrimination. That's the time when I accepted the '94 decision," he said.

"But at the same time I still feel, I have always felt, that the story needs to be told. More for the future generations, rather than remembering the wound."

Government lawyers say that delivering a full apology would expose the government to lawsuits, as would compensation, Mr. Chan said.

Several groups have pushed for such packages since Brian Mulroney's Tory government compensated Japanese-Canadian internees with \$300-million in 1989.

Mr. Chan said government lawyers determined that case was unique, and compensation was paid because the government had a liability related to interning an entire community of Canadian citizens.

"Everyone that I talked to agreed, except [the CCNC]," Mr. Chan said.

Victor Wong, executive director of the Toronto-based Chinese Canadian National Council, said the government's decision not to apologize is unacceptable to more than 4,000 people who paid the head tax that the organization represents. "This does not offer dignity to people who are affected," he said.

Mr. Wong criticized Ottawa for reaching an agreement with another group, the National Congress of Chinese Canadians, saying: "You do not just work with a group who is willing to sign on to your preconditions."

The National Congress of Chinese Canadians said it is satisfied with the recognition and support for activities to promote racial harmony. "We do not see an apology from this government as any use. What was done was done years ago," Paul Chow, the organization's director, said in an interview from Victoria.

Members of the Indo-Canadian community were cool to the initiative.

Conservative MP Gurmant Grewal, who presented a petition to Parliament with 25,000 names regarding the Komagata Maru case, said the community wants an apology, not just recognition.

"These people suffered because of the exclusionary racist policy of the government of the day," he said. "They want to hear an apology."

In all, the packages are expected to cost the government almost \$50-million. That is twice the sum set aside in the 2005 budget.

The package for Italian-Canadian internees will be modeled on the August recognition of the First World War internment of Ukrainian Canadians.

Today's redress package for Italian-Canadian internment will cost about \$2.5-million, but it will eventually be increased to a total of about \$12-million, government officials said.

Mr. Capobianco was born in Canada of Italian parents. Early in the Second World War, he was volunteering for a Liberal MP and working at the port in Montreal. He was arrested for having an Italian surname and shipped to Petawawa, where he was interned for 14 months.

He returned to Montreal and worked as an insurance salesman. He is still angry at his treatment.

"We weren't enemies of Canada, we were born here," he said.

The funds for Ukrainian internment and the Chinese head tax will also total about \$12-million each, while those for the other groups will range from \$1.5-million to \$4-million, officials said.

**Source: Globe and Mail**

**Date: 2005.11.12**

**Byline: Robert Matas**

**Redress plan lacks apology, critics say: Indo-Canadians argue wrongs in 1914 can't be righted without further measures.**

The Komagata Maru sailed into Vancouver's English Bay on May 23, 1914, with 340 Sikhs, 12 Hindus and 24 Muslims aboard. As British subjects, they were entitled to come into Canada. However, the Conservative Party government of Prime Minister Robert Borden refused to allow the ship to dock. In a show of force, a Canadian warship was called out and more than 200 people from the local militia lined the shore as the stand-off stretched on.

The freighter finally left for Asia two months later, after drawing international attention to Canada's restrictive policy on immigration.

The federal government is to unveil today the first instalment in a \$50-million package designed to redress historic grievances of seven ethnic groups, including those of the Indo-Canadian community. The government plans to recognize the historic wrongs and provide funds for plaques and educational activities. The package will not include an outright apology or financial compensation for survivors or their descendants.

The government's refusal to apologize was widely condemned yesterday across the political spectrum in the Indo-Canadian community.

Formal recognition that the passengers were not allowed into Canada because they came from India is not sufficient, Balwant Singh Gill, president of a Sikh temple in Surrey, said yesterday in an interview. Neither is money, he added.

"The community deserves an apology," he said. "The government discriminated against the community. They were British subjects and should not have been turned back."

Conservative MP Gurmant Grewal, who presented a petition to Parliament with 25,000 names, said most people in the Indo-Canadian community are looking for an apology, not just recognition that the event happened.

"These people suffered because of the exclusionary racist policy of the government of the day," he said. They are not looking for money, he added. "They want to hear an apology."

Film producer Harbhajan Gill, who is raising funds for a movie about the Komagata Maru, said recognition of the event is "a start" of what the government should do.

Many families want a proper memorial at the site where the ship tried to land, he said. A place where people could learn about the episode should be built, he said. The Indo-Canadian community also wants an account of the episode to become part of the school curriculum across

the country. "Here in Canada, no one knows about Komagata Maru," he said, adding that an apology was also necessary.

Within the Chinese-Canadian community, the government's announcement received a mixed reaction. The Chinese community for decades has sought redress for a head tax the federal government imposed on Chinese immigrants as a measure to restrict immigration.

Sid Tan, president of the Vancouver-based Association of Chinese Canadians for Equality and Solidarity, said the decision not to apologize was "very disrespectful" of those Canadians who were forced to pay the tax. The association signed up 1,300 of 4,000 people who have asked for an apology and compensation.

Recognition of the injustice without an apology "does not acknowledge what my grandfather went through," he said in an interview. "There are still head-tax-payers alive, and this is very disrespectful to them. This is another humiliation for head-tax-payers," he said.

Victor Wong, executive director of the Toronto-based Chinese Canadian National Council, said the government's position was unacceptable to more than 4,000 head-tax-payers the organization represents. "This does not offer dignity to people who are affected."

Mr. Wong was critical of the federal government for reaching an agreement with another group in the Chinese community, the National Congress of Chinese Canadians. "This is not way to resolve this type of cases," he said. "You do not just work with a group who is willing to sign on to your preconditions. This is a problem with how they dealt with case."

But Paul Chow, a director of the National Congress of Chinese Canadians, said in an interview from Victoria that many people in the Chinese community would be satisfied with official government recognition and support for activities to promote racial harmony.

"We do not see an apology from this government as any use. What was done was done years ago," he said