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Aboriginal day school survivors file \$15B lawsuit against federal government

THE CANADIAN PRES

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Natives who were forced to attend aboriginal day schools have filed a lawsuit in Manitoba pressing for compensation from the federal government.

The \$15-billion lawsuit, which they hope will be approved as a class action, alleges aboriginal children in day schools suffered just as much abuse as residential school survivors.

But, they say, the federal government has only apologized and offered compensation to residential school survivors.

Ray Mason, who helped bring the lawsuit forward, says there are about 70,000 aboriginals who attended day schools across Canada.

He says one student says he had his mouth washed out with soap every time he spoke his own language.

Mason says the group won't rest until its plight is acknowledged by the federal government.

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