

**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada
Media Clips**



**Résolution des questions des pensionnats indiens
Canada
Manchettes**

Wednesday, April 26, 2006 ♦ mercredi, 26 avril 2006

Table of Contents/ Table des matières

IRS ARTICLES-ARTICLES DE PI

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS NATIONAL CHIEF STATEMENT ON MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FINAL AGREEMENT**3**

LIBERAL INDIAN AFFAIRS CRITIC ANITA NEVILLE WELCOMES THE SIGNING OF AGREEMENT ON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS.....**6**

FINAL DEAL TO COMPENSATE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS STUDENTS REACHED**7**

UN ACCORD FINAL DE COMPENSATION DES EX-PENSIONNAIRES AUTOCHTONES EST CONCLU**9**

FINAL DEAL MADE ON NATIVE-SCHOOL ABUSE CLAIMS..... **11**

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL DEAL ALMOST FINAL..... **12**

ALL SIDES AGREE ON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL DEAL, MINISTER SAYS **13**

RESIDENTIAL-SCHOOLS-DEAL **14**

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SETTLEMENTS PROCEEDING **15**

EX-RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL STUDENTS GET \$1.9 BILLION..... **16**

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SETTLEMENT REACHED..... **18**

DEAL REACHED FOR SCHOOL VICTIMS **19**

RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS TO BE COMPENSATED.....**21**

CANADA**22**

HOUSE OF COMMONS-LA CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL.....**23**

Source: CNW

Date: April 25, 2006

By-line: AFN

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Statement on Minister of Indian Affairs - Announcement on the Residential Schools Final Agreement

Today in the House of Commons, federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice stated: "It's

with pleasure that I rise to inform the House that the Government's representative, the Honourable Frank Iacobucci, together with the Assembly of First Nations legal representatives of the former students of the Indian Residential Schools and representatives of three of the churches running the schools have today reached substantive agreement on a final Residential School settlement agreement. ... I've been informed that the lead representatives for the Catholic Church groups involved with, has given their assurance as well that all of those organizations will be confirming their support for the settlement agreement. The Government will now immediately consider the settlement agreement and the interim payments and the timing of those payments, and I will keep the House informed, Mr. Speaker."

The Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine stated in response:

"When I went public with my own experience in 1990, I knew that any efforts to resolve the legacy of the residential schools would have to involve not only compensation, but healing and reconciliation as well. In 2004, the AFN issued a major report that presented a better approach than what had been available up until that time. It set-out an approach that provided for healing and reconciliation between First Nations and Canada as well as fair and just compensation for all residential schools survivors. Our approach was and is comprehensive. It is good for First Nations because it provides for healing and redress and it is good for Canada because it is faster and more cost-effective than lengthy court battles and class actions. I stated earlier this week that the AFN endorsed the Final Agreement which can now go to federal Cabinet because it is based on our approach. The AFN and survivors have been leading this process and we endorsed the Final Agreement earlier this week because it is based entirely on our approach. We welcome today's announcement by Minister Prentice and his statement that the government will give immediate consideration to the Final Agreement. He has our full support as he secures approval from the federal Cabinet. This is a tremendous day for First Nations, for survivors of residential schools and for Canada."

Phil Fontaine
National Chief
Assembly of First Nations

A Chronology of events leading to the Residential Schools Final Agreement is attached. Media are invited also to review the AFN statement endorsing the Residential Schools Final Agreement issued through Canada Newswire on April 23rd.

The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada.

Residential Schools - A Chronology

1890s - early 1900s

Residential and Industrial Schools were established in locations across Canada, predominantly in Western Canada for the purpose of "killing the Indian in the child." Over 150,000 children attended these residential schools up to 1973.

1990

Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief of the Manitoba Chiefs goes public as the first Indian leader to tell the story of his own abuse in residential school and calls for recognition of the abuse, compensation and an apology for the inherent racism in the policy.

1991

Several individual law suits are launched.

Some residential school survivor groups are formed

1996

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommends that a public inquiry be held to investigate and document the abuses in Indian Residential Schools

1997

July - Phil Fontaine elected as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

AFN initiates negotiations with federal government officials for an out-of-court settlement for the residential school abuses.

1998

Consultative dialogues take place between AFN, survivors, federal government and church officials to set out the Guiding Principles for resolution of residential school claims.

January - AFN and National Chief Phil Fontaine negotiate the Statement of Reconciliation with a Healing Fund of \$350 million for survivors of residential schools. Government admits wrongdoing for the first time and apologizes to residential school survivors in the Statement of Reconciliation.

May - The Aboriginal Healing Foundation is established.

A class action is commenced for a single Indian Residential School in Ontario.

2000

Further class actions launched by law firms.

2001

Department of Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada is formed to deal with the out of court settlement of residential school abuse claims.

2003

November - Canada launches an Alternative Dispute Resolution process.

2004

March - AFN and the University of Calgary Law School organize a national conference to examine the ADR process and delegates find it to be seriously flawed.

November - AFN, through an expert committee, publishes the Report on Canada's Dispute Resolution Plan to Compensate for Abuses in Indian Residential Schools, which sets out the requirements for a holistic, just and fair settlement for all residential school survivors, the key elements of which are:

- a lump sum payment for all survivors of \$10,000 and \$3,000 per year for every year attended;
- and early payment for the elderly;
- a truth commission;
- a healing fund;
- a commemoration fund;
- a more comprehensive and fair and just process for the settlement individual abuse claims.

2005

January - AFN begins discussions with officials to consider the elements of the AFN Report.

May 30 - National Chief Phil Fontaine signs the Political Agreement with Canada. The Agreement appoints the Hon. Frank Iacobucci to be the government representative in final settlement negotiations. The Agreement states that the AFN will play a "key and central role" and that the AFN Report will form the basis of the Settlement.

July - Negotiations with all parties commence in various locations in Canada.

November 30 - All parties to the negotiations sign the Agreement in Principle, incorporating all of the key AFN Report recommendations.

2006

All parties commence negotiations leading towards a final settlement agreement.

April 24 - All parties sign a final agreement, which awaits final Cabinet approval.

>>

Source: Liberal.ca

Date: April 25, 2006

By-line: Anita Neville

Liberal Indian Affairs Critic Anita Neville welcomes the signing of Agreement on Residential Schools

April 25, 2006

Ottawa – Indian Affairs critic Anita Neville today welcomed the government's decision honour the Liberal agreement on residential schools, following her ardent advocacy on behalf of the victims who will now see their just compensation.

"After much stalling, I am pleased to see that the government has finally agreed to endorse the Agreement in Principle signed in November, 2005 by the previous Liberal government, the Assembly of First Nations, and church leaders," said Ms. Neville.

"It called for a fast track payment to victims who were elderly and sick. "Although the Conservative government stalled on implementing that immediate payment for far too long, I am pleased to see they are now standing by the previous government's good faith agreement. By doing so they are no longer putting the honour of the crown at risk."

Ms. Neville also called on Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives to honour the previous Liberal government's other key commitments to Aboriginals, including the groundbreaking Kelowna Accord.

"The well-being of Canada's Aboriginals was one of the previous Liberal government's priorities. It should be one of this government's priorities as well," said Ms. Neville.

"I implore this government to continue to abide by the previous government's commitments to Aboriginal people. Now that they have committed to the Residential Schools Agreement, I urge them to do the same with the groundbreaking Kelowna Accord."

Source: Canadian Press Newswire (Also appeared in the Leader-Post, The Chronicle-Herald, Winnipeg Free Press, The Guardian, Toronto Sun, CanWest News Service)

Date: April 25, 2006

By-line: Sue Bailey

Final deal to compensate residential schools students reached

OTTAWA (CP) _ A final deal has been reached that will offer about \$2 billion in compensation and healing programs for former students of native residential schools.

``The government will now immediately consider the settlement agreement and the interim payments and the timing of those payments," Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice said Tuesday in the Commons.

The deal must be cleared by cabinet, a formality that's expected within days. It must then be approved by courts in several provinces.

If upheld and accepted by enough survivors, the agreement would allow about 78,000 people to apply for compensation. Many are over age 65 and living in poverty.

Payments are not expected before early next year even if the legal process goes smoothly.

Prentice has been pressured by opposition critics and survivors' groups to offer advance or fast-track cheques as promised last November when an interim deal was announced by the former Liberal government.

Hundreds of former students have died waiting for such a gesture.

Those who are sick or over age 65 were told last fall that they could apply to receive \$8,000 even before the agreement is finalized by the courts.

That interim deal offered all former students of the once-mandatory network of live-in schools \$10,000 plus another \$3,000 for each year they attended.

Descendants of those who died after May 30, 2005 _ when Ottawa appointed former Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci to help negotiate a settlement _ could also apply.

Sources say the new final agreement also proposes funding for healing and education programs and for a truth and reconciliation forum to allow survivors to tell their stories.

The federal government admitted in 1998 that abuse in the schools meant to educate and ``Christianize" native kids was rampant.

More than 13,000 plaintiffs have since sued Ottawa and the Catholic, Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches that once ran the institutions.

While some defend the educational benefits of the now defunct schools, their sorry history has long been cited by native leaders struggling with epidemic rates of alcoholism, drug addiction and sexual abuse.

Phil Fontaine, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, was one of the first public figures to tell his own story of sexual and physical abuse at the Fort Alexander School in Manitoba.

He welcomed Prentice's announcement Tuesday.

``When I went public with my own experience in 1990, I knew that any efforts to resolve the legacy of the residential schools would have to involve not only compensation, but healing and reconciliation as well."

Those who take the lump-sum payments would release the government and the churches that ran the schools from further legal liability, except in the worst instances of sexual and physical abuse.

In those cases, an improved out-of-court settlement process to be overseen by independent adjudicators was proposed by the interim deal.

Compensation is in part meant to derail more than 21 class-action lawsuits alleging billions of dollars in damages. Many such cases were expected to bog down in court for 10 years or more.

A settlement deal would also pay off dozens of lawyers who have worked for years on related files with little compensation.

For example, a consortium of 20 law firms that led the largest national class-action was expected to receive about \$40 million under the interim deal.

Those lawyers point out that the Department of Justice spent an estimated \$80 million to \$100 million fighting related litigation for the government.

Source: Presse Canadienne (Aussi L'Acadie Nouvelle)

Date: 25 avril 2006

By-line: Sue Bailey

Un accord final de compensation des ex-pensionnaires autochtones est conclu

OTTAWA (PC) _ Un accord définitif a été conclu pour l'indemnisation d'ex-résidants de pensionnats pour autochtones. Une somme d'environ 2 milliards \$ leur sera versée à titre de compensation et pour des programmes de guérison.

"Le gouvernement va maintenant examiner immédiatement l'accord d'indemnisation, les paiements intérimaires et le calendrier des paiements", a affirmé le ministre des Affaires indiennes Jim Prentice, mardi, aux Communes.

L'entente doit obtenir l'approbation du cabinet, ce qui ne devrait être qu'une formalité et ne prendre que quelques jours. Elle doit ensuite être approuvée par les tribunaux de différentes provinces.

Si elle est confirmée et acceptée par un nombre suffisant de survivants, l'accord permettrait à environ 78 000 personnes de soumettre une demande de compensation. Plusieurs de ces personnes ont aujourd'hui plus de 65 ans et vivent dans la misère.

Même si le processus judiciaire va bon train, aucun paiement ne sera vraisemblablement effectué avant le début de l'an prochain.

Des membres de l'opposition et des groupes de survivants ont fait pression sur le ministre Prentice pour qu'il offre des avances ou qu'il accélère le versement des chèques tel que promis en novembre dernier, au moment de l'annonce d'un accord intérimaire par le précédent gouvernement libéral. Des centaines d'ex-pensionnaires sont morts dans l'attente d'un tel geste.

Ceux qui sont malades ou âgés de plus de 65 ans ont été informés l'automne dernier qu'ils pouvaient demander à recevoir un montant de 8000 \$ avant même que l'accord ne soit validé par les tribunaux. Cette entente intérimaire offrait à tous les anciens élèves 10 000 \$, plus une somme additionnelle de 3000 \$ par année de fréquentation des pensionnats.

Les descendants de ceux qui sont décédés après le 30 mai 2005 _ quand Ottawa a chargé l'ex-juge de la Cour suprême Frank Iacobucci d'aider à négocier un accord _ pouvaient également déposer une demande.

Selon des sources anonymes, la nouvelle entente finale propose également de consacrer des fonds à des programmes d'éducation et de guérison, et à la tenue d'un forum pour la vérité et la réconciliation qui permettra aux survivants de raconter leur histoire.

Le gouvernement fédéral a admis en 1998 que les mauvais traitements étaient courants dans ces écoles censées éduquer et "convertir" les jeunes autochtones. Plus de 13 000 plaignants ont depuis intenté des poursuites contre Ottawa et les Eglises catholique, anglicane, unie et presbytérienne qui ont dirigé ces institutions.

Phil Fontaine, le chef national de l'Assemblée des premières nations, a accueilli favorablement l'annonce du ministre Prentice, mardi.

Les personnes qui accepteront les paiements forfaitaires devront libérer le gouvernement et les Eglises qui dirigeaient les pensionnats de toute responsabilité juridique ultérieure, sauf dans les cas les plus graves d'agressions physiques et sexuelles.

Source: Globe and Mail
Date: April 26, 2006
By-line: Bill Curry

Final deal made on native-school abuse claims

The Conservative government has reached a final deal to compensate all former students of residential schools, supporting the main points of the \$1.9-billion agreement in principle signed by the Liberals. Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine, who has spoken passionately about being abused at a residential school himself, praised the announcement.

"This is a tremendous day for first nations, for survivors of residential schools and for Canada," Mr. Fontaine said in a statement.

Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice made the announcement yesterday during Question Period.

The minister said all parties have agreed to the final settlement, including the federal government, legal representatives of the former students of the Indian residential schools and representatives of three of the churches running the schools.

"The government will now immediately consider the settlement agreement and the interim payments and the timing of those payments, and I will keep the House informed," he said.

Mr. Prentice remained in the House after Question Period and would not come out to speak with reporters about his announcement.

A draft copy of the final agreement obtained by The Globe and Mail shows the deal's "designated amount" for financing the promises remains at \$1.9-billion.

However, "personal healing credits" will be renamed as personal credits to be used to obtain services from an education facility, rather than from a "healing entity" as described in the agreement in principle.

The main principle of the deal remains, which is to provide \$10,000 to each of the nearly 80,000 former residential school students plus an additional \$3,000 for each year spent in a residential school.

Liberal MP Anita Neville says she is pleased there are only minor changes from what the Liberal government signed last November.

Source: CBC.ca

Date: April 25, 2006

By-line: N/A

Residential school deal almost final

A final deal to compensate thousands of people who attended native residential schools has passed another hurdle and the federal cabinet could approve it within days.

All parties in the negotiations have approved the agreement, Jim Prentice, minister of Indian affairs and northern development, announced Tuesday in the House of Commons.

The statement caused members of cabinet to stand up and applaud.

Although negotiators had indicated that the Conservatives would not give elders early payments, that now appears to have changed.

"The government will now immediately consider the settlement agreement, and the interim payments and the timing of those payments," said Prentice.

There are about 78,000 residential school survivors in Canada and about 8,000 are seniors.

'Painful part of our history'

All those over age 65 and living in poverty will be able to apply immediately for \$8,000 in compensation even before the agreement is finalized in the courts.

Rosemarie Kuptana, who went to residential school for 10 years in Inuvik, says she has met a number of them in the Northwest Territories.

"It's time that the First Peoples in this country dealt with a very painful part of our history," she said.

Liberal Indian Affairs critic Anita Neville has seen a copy of the agreement that was approved by the parties involved in the negotiations.

She says it hasn't changed much under the Conservatives. It still includes a promise to spend \$1.9 billion to compensate survivors.

"I am pleased to see that the government has finally agreed to endorse the agreement in principle signed in November 2005 by the previous Liberal government, the Assembly of First Nations and church leaders," said Neville in a news release.

Phil Fontaine, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, says approval by all parties is significant, since it took many years of complicated negotiations to get to this point.

"It's very significant to have all of the diverse interests that have been involved in the very complicated process of negotiations accept the final agreement," said Fontaine.

Source: CBC News Saskatchewan

Date: April 25, 2006

By-line: N/A

All sides agree on residential school deal, minister says

A final deal to compensate thousands people who attended native residential schools has passed another hurdle and the federal cabinet could approve it within days.

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice announced Tuesday in the House of Commons that all parties in the negotiations have approved the agreement.

The statement caused members of cabinet to stand up and applaud.

Although negotiators had indicated that the Conservatives would not give elders early payments, that now appears to have changed.

"The government will now immediately consider the settlement agreement and the interim payments and the timing of those payments," said Prentice.

There are about 78,000 residential school survivors in Canada and about 8,000 are seniors.

It all means those over age 65 and living in poverty, will be able to apply immediately for \$8,000 in compensation even before the agreement is finalized in the courts.

Rosemarie Kuptana, who went to residential school for 10 years in Inuvik, says she's met a number of them in the Northwest Territories.

"It's time that the First Peoples in this country dealt with a very painful part of our history," she said.

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She says it hasn't changed much under the Conservatives. It still includes a promise to spend \$1.9 billion to compensate survivors.

"I am pleased to see that the government has finally agreed to endorse the agreement in principle signed in November, 2005 by the previous Liberal government, the Assembly of First Nations, and church leaders," said Neville in a news release.

Phil Fontaine, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations says approval by all parties is significant, since it took many years of complicated negotiations to get to this point.

About 13,000 people who attended residential schools in the 20th century have filed claims against Ottawa and church organizations alleging abuse and loss of language and culture.

About 3,000 of the claims are from Saskatchewan.

According to the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, there are between 17,000 to 19,000 Saskatchewan people who attended the schools for an average of 5.5 years. Survivors will receive an average payment of \$25,000, the FSIN says.

Source: Broadcast News
Date: April 26, 2006
By-line: N/A

Residential-Schools-Deal

OTTAWA -- A final deal has been reached that will offer about two (b) billion dollars in compensation and healing programs for former students of native residential schools.

Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice made the announcement yesterday.

The deal must be cleared by cabinet, a formality that's expected within days.

It must then be approved by courts in several provinces.

If upheld and accepted by enough survivors, the agreement would allow about 78-thousand people to apply for compensation.

Many are over age 65 and living in poverty.

The federal government admitted in 1998 that abuse in the schools that were meant to educate and "Christianize" native children was rampant.

More than 13-thousand plaintiffs have since sued Ottawa and the Catholic, Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches.

Source: The Ottawa Citizen
Date: April 26, 2006
By-line: CanWest News Service

Ontario

Residential school settlements proceeding

Federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice yesterday announced that one of the final hurdles has been cleared in the legal logjam over a \$4-billion compensation package to victims of Indian residential schools. Mr. Prentice confirmed in the House of Commons that the government, Assembly of First Nations, legal representatives of some of the former students of the Indian residential schools and representatives of three of the churches running the schools have agreed on a final settlement. The federal cabinet can now move to approve and implement a compensation plan reached by the former Liberal government last November. The new Tory government had been under fire for dragging its feet on the compensation package, which native groups have been pursuing for years. Just days before Paul Martin's government was toppled in November, the Liberals announced a compensation plan that would pay \$10,000 plus \$3,000 to each student for every year spent in the government and church-run schools.

Source: The Toronto Star
Date: April 26, 2006
By-line: Graham Fraser

Ex-residential school students get \$1.9 billion

Deal by Ottawa, natives, churches Average payout pegged at \$24,000

A final \$1.9 billion agreement has been reached on the long-awaited residential schools question.

Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Jim Prentice told the House of Commons yesterday "a substantive agreement on a final residential schools settlement agreement" was reached between the federal government's representative, former Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci, the Assembly of First Nations, and lawyers for former students and three of the churches running the schools.

Prentice said legal representatives of the Catholic church groups have also assured their support for the agreement - something that will be confirmed.

"The government will now immediately consider the settlement agreement and the interim payments and the timing of those payments," he said.

An agreement in principle for a \$1.9 billion settlement for up to 85,000 aboriginals who were taken from their homes and sent to residential schools was reached last November with the former Liberal government.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine said they had known the new government would take some time to examine the agreement in principle.

"I wasn't alarmed by the time it has taken to do this review," he told the Star yesterday.

"I know that people would be left somewhat anxious by what they saw as an unnecessary delay, but it's been essentially something that had to be done."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said last week his government was ready to act on the agreement as soon as possible.

The terms have been approved by caucus and cabinet, but must return to cabinet for ratification.

There's a six-month period for the agreement to be considered by those affected, but there are provisions to speed payments to the sick and elderly who attended residential school.

The process was extremely complex, involving several government departments, four churches, thousands of individuals affected, some of whom had launched legal actions, and the Assembly of First Nations.

"I call it the world's greatest jigsaw puzzle," quipped David MacDonald, a minister in Joe Clark's former Conservative government and the special representative of the United Church in negotiations.

MacDonald credited three people for making the agreement possible Fontaine, Iacobucci, who kept the different groups at the table, and Prentice.

"The trilogy of Fontaine, Iacobucci and Prentice made this happen," he said. "It's quite miraculous that the right people were involved at the right time."

Some 21 class-action suits launched against the government on behalf of 15,000 former residential school students will be wiped out by any new agreement.

The students, many of them taken from their families by force, have testified they suffered physical and sexual abuse and cultural deprivation at residential schools, and lost their language and traditional skills.

The final agreement was the 26th draft based on the 12-page interim agreement reached last November, and grew to a 79-page legal document that was sent out last week for signatures from all the groups involved.

The agreement calls for \$1.9 billion in reparations payments - an average of \$24,000 for each of the 80-85,000 former residential school students - new investments in aboriginal education, a \$125 million healing fund to be run by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, funding for commemoration initiatives, and a so-called "truth and reconciliation" process.

Source: Yellowknifer
Date: April 26, 2006
By-line: Andrew Raven

Residential school settlement reached

Aboriginal leaders have officially signed off on a \$1.9 billion settlement package for former residential school students.

The deal, which has been in the works for several years, still needs final approval from the federal cabinet and several lawyers before former students can access the money.

The settlement includes a \$10,000 lump sum payment for each student plus \$3,000 for each year they attended the schools. The institutions, which existed across Canada, were renowned for their brutal treatment of students.

There are 6,000-8,000 former students living in the Northwest Territories, according to estimates from the Assembly of First Nations - the group that signed off on the settlement, Monday.

Source: The StarPhoenix (Also in National Post)

Date: April 26, 2006

By-line: Paul Samyn

Deal reached for school victims

\$4B compensation package now to be assessed by courts

OTTAWA -- Federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice Tuesday announced that one of the final hurdles has been cleared in the legal log jam over a \$4-billion compensation package to victims of Indian residential schools.

Prentice confirmed in the House of Commons that the government, Assembly of First Nations, legal representatives of some of the former students of the Indian residential schools and representatives of three of the churches running the schools have agreed on a final settlement.

"I have been informed that the lead representatives for the Catholic church groups involved have given their assurance, as well, that all these organizations will be confirming their support for the settlement agreement. The government will now immediately consider the settlement agreement and the interim payments and the timing of those payments."

With that legal blessing, the federal cabinet can now move to approve and implement a compensation plan reached by the former Liberal government last November.

The federal announcement is just what the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations has been looking for.

"The compensation package (is) a step in the right direction in compensating survivors for the many hardships and suffering experienced by so many," said FSIN vice-chief Morley Watson.

The new Tory government had been under fire for dragging its feet on the compensation package, which Native groups have been pursuing for years.

Just days before Paul Martin's government was toppled in November, the Liberals announced a compensation plan that would pay \$10,000 plus \$3,000 to each student for every year spent in the government and church-run schools.

The deal must still be assessed through the courts, since the consortium represents only 7,000 of the estimated 80,000 survivors who were forced to attend residential schools which cut them off from their own language and culture.

If the courts approve the deal, Jon Faulds, a lawyer for the consortium of surviving victims, predicted that individual victims could each expect to receive about \$30,000 in compensation by December, saving them the trouble of several more years of nasty court battles.

Assembly of First Nations national chief Phil Fontaine and Liberal Indian affairs critic Anita Neville applauded the move.

"We are very pleased," said Fontaine. "Minister Prentice did an outstanding job of moving this important file forward. This is a big hurdle that we have overcome."

Neville added that she hopes the Tories will fast-track \$8,000 payments to elderly and sick victims.

Approximately 82 residential schools were run by churches and the federal government in Canada from the 1840s to 1996, when the last one was closed. According to the AFN, more than 20,000 survivors -- who were forced to attend residential schools which cut them off from their own language and culture -- have died since 1991 without any compensation.

Source: The Kingston Whig-Standard

Date: April 26, 2006

By-line: N/A

Residential students to be compensated

OTTAWA - Federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice yesterday announced that one of the final hurdles has been cleared in the legal log jam over a \$4-billion compensation package to victims of Indian residential schools.

If upheld by the courts and accepted by enough survivors, the agreement, which offers all former students of the once-mandatory network of live-in schools \$10,000 plus \$3,000 for each year they attended, would allow about 78,000 people to apply for compensation.

Source: The Hamilton Spectator

Date: April 26, 2006

By-line: N/A

CANADA

A final deal has been reached that will offer about \$2 billion in compensation and healing programs to former students of native residential schools, says Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice. But payments are not expected before next year at the earliest. The deal must be cleared by cabinet, a formality that's expected within days. But it must then also be approved by courts in several provinces.

Source: House of Commons Transcript

Date: April 25, 2006

By-line: Transcript

Residential School

>> The Speaker: The Honourable member for Kelowna-Lake Country.

>> Ron Cannan (C): Last year, an agreement in principle was reached in the Residential Schools resolution. Government agencies and those affected have been working toward a final settlement. Can the Minister for Indian Affairs please update this House on the status of the Residential Schools resolution?

>> The Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

>> Hon. Jim Prentice (C): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable member for his question. It's with pleasure that I rise to inform the House that the Government's representative, the Honourable Frank Iacobucci, together with the Assembly of First Nations legal representatives of the former students of the Indian Residential Schools and representatives of three of the churches running the schools have today reached substantive agreement on a final Residential School settlement agreement. (Applause). As well, Mr. Speaker, I've been informed that the lead representatives for the Catholic Church groups involved with, has given their assurance as well that all of those organizations will be confirming their support for the settlement agreement. The Government will now immediately consider the settlement agreement and the interim payments and the timing of those payments, and I will keep the House informed, Mr. Speaker.