

**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada
Media Clips**



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

Friday, April 28, 2006 ♦ vendredi, 28 avril 2006

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Source: First Perspective

Date: April 28, 2006

By-line: FP/Drum Staff

AFN totally overwhelmed with response from residential school survivors

The Assembly of First Nations reports that it has been overwhelmed with calls about the planned residential schools payout and is directing to people to alternate sources for information.

It is also letting people know that the deal hasn't been finalized yet and that applications for compensation are not yet available. AFN also reminds potential applicants that the federal government will be handling the entire process and making relevant announcements as well as making application forms available.

This week the federal government announced it was supporting the agreement but a final, formal approval is still needed from the cabinet and approval from the courts is also required. A group of lawyers who represent survivors has already given approval.

Shannon Swan of the AFN's Indian Residential Schools Unit, says it is not possible for AFN to respond to all inquiries and has directed people to alternative numbers.

"There is much confusion surrounding the settlement and compensation process," she says, adding that AFN will make a strong effort to provide people with contact to relevant sources once the application and payout process becomes known.

In the meantime it is directing people to alternate sources. These are the Government of Canada Help Desk at 1-800-816-7293 and the National Survivors Support Line at 1-866-925-4419. There is also written information on the AFN website at www.afn.ca.

Source: First Perspective

Date: April 25, 2006

By-line: N/A

AFN National Chief makes statement on residential school settlement

The Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine has responded to the statement by federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice made in the House of Commons on April 25, 2006. **English Version**

April 25 2006 - 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

Version Français

Le 25 avril 2006 - Déclaration du chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations relativement à l'annonce du ministre des Affaires indiennes sur l'accord final concernant les pensionnats indiens

Aujourd'hui, à la Chambre des communes, le ministre fédéral des Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada, Jim Prentice, a déclaré: "C'est avec plaisir que je prends la parole pour informer la Chambre que le représentant du gouvernement, l'honorable Frank Iacobucci, les avocats de l'APN représentant des anciens élèves des pensionnats indiens et les représentants des trois églises qui étaient en charge de ces pensionnats ont conclu aujourd'hui un accord quant au principe d'un règlement de la question des pensionnats indiens. ... On m'a avisé que les principaux représentants des groupes de l'Eglise catholique qui avaient dirigé ces écoles ont donné leur parole, ainsi que celle de toutes les autres organisations, qu'ils appuieraient l'accord de règlement. Monsieur le président, le gouvernement tiendra immédiatement compte de l'accord, des paiements provisoires et du calendrier de ces paiements, et je tiendrai la Chambre au courant des démarches du gouvernement."

Le chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations, Phil Fontaine, a répondu en ces termes: "Lorsque j'ai relaté en 1990 ma propre expérience, je savais que toute mesure adoptée en règlement de la question de ces pensionnats ne devait pas seulement consister en une compensation monétaire, mais qu'elle devait aussi comprendre la guérison et la réconciliation.

En 2004, l'APN a publié un important rapport sur cette question dans lequel elle proposait une meilleure solution que ce qui avait été envisagé jusqu'alors. Cette solution prévoyait la guérison et la réconciliation entre les Premières Nations et le Canada ainsi qu'une compensation juste et équitable pour tous les survivants des pensionnats. Notre solution était et est toujours globale. Cette solution est bonne pour les Premières Nations parce qu'elle comprend guérison et réparation, et elle est bonne pour le Canada parce qu'elle est plus rapide et plus économique que de longs procès ou recours collectifs. J'ai déclaré plus tôt cette semaine que l'Assemblée des Premières Nations avaient approuvé l'accord final. Celui-ci, fondé sur la solution que nous avons proposée, peut maintenant être soumis au conseil des ministres. L'APN et les survivants ont lancé ce processus et nous avons appuyé cet accord final plus tôt cette semaine parce qu'il est entièrement fondé sur notre solution.

Nous saluons l'annonce faite aujourd'hui par le ministre Prentice ainsi que sa déclaration selon laquelle le gouvernement étudiera immédiatement l'accord final. Nous appuyons totalement le ministre dans les démarches qu'il entreprendra pour obtenir l'approbation du conseil des ministres. C'est un jour fantastique pour les Premières Nations, pour les survivants des pensionnats et pour le Canada."

Phil Fontaine Chef national
Assemblée des Premières Nations

Source: First Perspective

Date: April 20, 2006

By-line: Lyndenn Behm

Residential school survivors show concern to Harper

Dozens of residential school survivors - fearful about what is happening with their compensation package - were among the hundreds of protestors who showed up to deliver a message to Prime Minister Stephen Harper during his first visit to Winnipeg.

It was a message that went unheard by the prime minister, who was whisked in through a door at the opposite end of the building from where the demonstrators had gathered for Harper's address at luncheon in the Winnipeg Convention Centre on Wednesday (April 19).

"I came to be heard and seen - that I am still here," said Angela Eastman, who travelled nearly 200 kilometres by bus from the Sandy Bay First Nation to take part in the noon-hour rally.

"I am disappointed. Everybody is disappointed. At least he (Harper) should have acknowledged the people who came."

Eastman condemned the delays and doesn't want more survivors to die before payment is made. It is already too late for her husband Clifford Eastman who died two years earlier at 61. Like her, he was a residential school survivor.

She said his early death can be linked to the school. He was never healthy as an adult and this may have been linked to punishment like being forced to sometimes go all day without being allowed to go to the bathroom as well as being denied good food. The nuns at the school ate much better than the children who stayed in the schools.

Eastman is a school teacher, but she said many survivors don't have jobs and are impoverished. She feels sorry for them because of the delays in payment.

The demonstration was organized by the Southern Chiefs Organization of Manitoba. They were concerned by the Harper government's inaction on the proposal, which was agreed to by the former Liberal government. Harper says the plan has to be approved by the courts before it can be given final approval by the federal cabinet, but SCO asserts that cabinet approval must come first, then it has to be referred to the courts. SCO also contends that the matter is urgent, because more school survivors continue to die while awaiting compensation. The package was to include fast-track payments for survivors who are elderly or sick. The agreement reached last November was an agreement in principle that still required final authorization.