

**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada
Media Clips**



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

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1. **Prince George Citizen** (21 August 2006): "Last residential school suspect eludes police" FRANK PEEBLES Citizen staff

Edward Gerald Fitzgerald, the former senior administrator of the Lejac Indian Residential School and St. Joseph's Residential School, is now the only remaining suspect RCMP are searching for over allegations of sexual and physical abuse of students

He is charged with 21 counts of assault against 10 boys, who attended two schools in the region.

Fitzgerald is one of the most wanted men in northern B.C. history, and one of the key suspects in the RCMP's massive investigation into residential school abuses.

Fourteen men have been charged in the sweeping campaign by the RCMP, launched in 1994. Since then, they have arrested 13, the most recent on Aug. 1.

Police have charged Gordon Irvin Kinney, 65, with five counts of sexual misconduct towards students at his school in Mission in the '60s. Working with police agencies in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, the Royal Thai Police and the Philippine National Police, RCMP were able to track Kinney to an apartment complex in Chonburi, Thailand. He is now in custody awaiting extradition back to B.C.

Cpl. Mike Pacholuk said Fitzgerald is now the only one still in their sights, but there is a reason he hasn't been arrested.

"We know exactly where he is," Pacholuk said. "Without going into specifics, he is living in the Republic of Ireland and for some reason he is reluctant to return to Canada."

Fitzgerald fled Canada for his native country in the summer of 2002, days before formal charges were set to be laid against him.

Unlike Thailand, there is no extradition treaty between Canada and Ireland.

Governments are at work to establish extradition protocols between Canada and Ireland, but Fitzgerald is now 82 years old. Pacholuk said getting him back to Canada before his death would be unlikely, even if there was an extradition process in place, with all the hearings and appeals a person is entitled to under any international transfer laws.

"We just hope the aboriginal community recognizes how badly we want these guys to account for these allegations," said Pacholuk. "We are prepared to go anywhere in the world to get these guys back, if the legal means is there. When it comes to the sexual abuse of children, we will do whatever we legally can to bring them to justice, no matter where they are in the world."

Of the 13 suspects police arrested in the residential school campaign, eight were convicted, one was acquitted, charges were stayed against two, one died while awaiting trial and Kinney's case is now before the courts.

2. Vancouver Sun (21 August 2006): “Quick settlement and restitution are needed”

All former residents of Woodlands School, Tranquille, Glendale and the Endicott Centre deserve restitution without delay for the abuse they endured while in the care of these institutions. They have developmental disabilities and are approaching their later years. Delaying even another day makes it difficult to begin the healing process.

As the provincial federation advocating for people with developmental disabilities for more than 50 years, the BC Association for Community Living has asked the provincial government for quick restitution, a meaningful public apology and assurances that large institutions will never re-open. Former residents all share a common experience of institutionalization -- widespread and systemic abuse as confirmed by the 2002 Dulcie McCallum report. It is this "common experience" that should be the only standard needed to qualify for restitution.

We continue to join former residents, their families and other advocates in urging the government to implement a fair and timely restitution process. It is long overdue.

Norma John

President,

Board of Directors

BC Association for Community Living