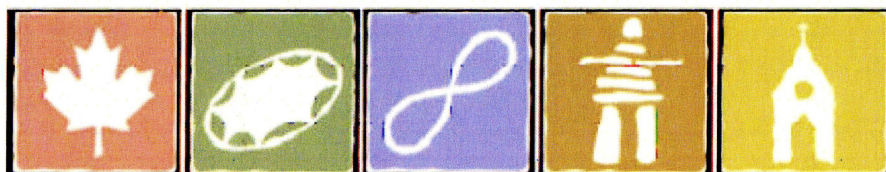


**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada
Media Clips**



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

Friday, August 25, 2006 ♦ vendredi, 25 août 2006

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Long Plain museum plans on hold due to cash crunch: chief

By Leighton Klassen
The Daily Graphic Wednesday August 23, 2006

Portage la Prairie — The plans are blueprinted, but funding issues have put a crimp in the construction on Indian Residential School Museum of Canada.

The project, an initiative of Long Plain First Nation, has received funding from the reserve, government grants, community fundraising efforts and numerous other organizations.

But Long Plain Chief Dennis Meeches said it hasn't been enough. He has his sights set on a federal fund for former residential school students -- called the commemoration fund -- which he said is integral for the shovel to hit the ground.

"For me, the biggest concern is the commemoration fund -- that's the key," he said yesterday from The Pas, where he is attending an Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs meeting, adding the project will cost between \$6-\$8 million. "We're not getting the approvals in time, and in a nutshell, it's a fairly substantial amount (of money) to get the museum off the ground."

The museum is in Methodist Indian Residential School, which operated from 1915-75. It was also called Portage Residential School, and is located on Crescent Road West. The Rufus Prince building, as it is now known, is being renovated to become a museum which reflects on the damage done by residential schools in trying to assimilate Canada's native peoples.

It was originally set to open in spring of 2008.

The chief wasn't able to say how much money has been spent on the project because the documents are at his office in Long Plain. He also said he doesn't know how much it will receive from the federal fund, but expectations are high.

"I would like to see about \$4 million, but I'm not holding my breath," he said, pointing out numerous organizations will want a piece of the monetary pie.

The funding bind has resulted in minimal progress on the museum's development.

Curator Michael Meeches said not much has been done over the last few months.

"There hasn't been any physical changes at all," he said adding the staff of four has been mainly working on plans for the structure and locating artifacts.

Earlier this spring, four people were hired -- two researchers, a project co-ordinator and curator. But the insecure funding has forced changes on the staffing front, Michael Meeches said.

"Because of funding restrictions, we had to let our two researchers go," he said.

But the void has been filled. Meeches said Edward Thompkins was recently hired as a second curator and will take on the same duties as the two researchers.

"With our financial status, it was very difficult to retain (the two researchers). It was easier just hiring another curator in their place," he said, adding Thompkins has a wealth of experience and has worked in various museums in France.

The museum staff will now work to obtain more funding, Michael Meeches said.

"We'll look at more ideas and write (proposals) for grants," he said, adding a fundraising gala is planned for November.

Dennis Meeches is confident the federal funding will come down the pipe.

"I think this project will work out in the end," the Long Plain chief said. "It's a very important project for Indian people in Canada."

August 25, 2006

[THE CALGARY SUN](#)

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ABUSE IN HOCKEY PREVALENT

[CP](#)

Ten years after Sheldon Kennedy rocked hockey circles with revelations of abuse at the hands of his coach, a culture of closed ranks and blind ambition continues to pervade junior hockey in Canada, fostering the risk of abuse and discouraging parents from speaking out against it, experts say.

Those familiar with the system say it remains a place where a win-at-all-costs attitude prevails, outsiders are made to feel unwelcome and parents are forced to put their faith in coaches and officials.

"The culture of hockey basically instills fear and (bullying) when it comes to hockey parents," Gerry Hickey of the Canadian Hockey Parents Association said yesterday.

"You really have to drop your kid off at the rink and pray."

Hickey, whose 14-year-old son, Justin, plays hockey, came forward six years ago with allegations of a coach being verbally and physically abusive.

Hockey Canada, the amateur game's governing body, established the Speak Out Program in 1997 in response to revelations by former Calgary Flames forward Sheldon Kennedy that he'd been sexually abused at the hands of junior coach Graham James.

Speak Out is an educational program aimed at preventing not just abuse, but also harassment and bullying, said Todd Jackson, Hockey Canada's senior manager of safety.

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