

**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada  
Media Clips**



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

**Friday, September 8, 2006 ♦ vendredi, 8 septembre 2006**

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**ANGLICAN JOURNAL (VIA CANADIANCHRISTIANITY.COM) (8 SEPT 06) "LOGISTICS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS CASES PROBLEMATIC"**

**Logistics of residential schools cases problematic**

The first court hearing on the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) began Aug, 29, with Ontario Superior Court Justice Warren Winkler questioning how "realistic" the goal is of resolving -- within the agreement's prescribed six-year period -- cases involving former students who have alleged sexual and physical abuse. Government lawyers said it was the agreement's intent that 2,500 hearings be held every year. Justice Winkler questioned whether there are enough resources, both human and financial, to handle such a caseload. He said his past involvement in class action suits showed that some hearings, especially those that require settlements for loss of income and future care, "cannot possibly be cleaned up in one day." -- *Anglican Journal*

**Yellowknifer** (8 Sept 06) "Child abuse is all around us"

Arlene Hache

In Yellowknifer's follow-up editorial to "Pedophile lawyer told to stay away from family centre," August 25, 2006, it accuses the Centre for Northern Families of turning its back on women and child victims of violence by turning a "blind" eye to the conviction of Charles McGee.

The opposite is true, and in fact it is the courts, the government, the media and a contented community that continues to ignore the fact there is an epidemic of violence.

A study of one region in the NWT found 4 out of 5 girls and 3 out of 5 boys had been sexually assaulted by the time they were 18 years-old.

Sexual assaults in the North are three times the national average with more than half of those carried out against children and youth. In the mid-1990s, a Yellowknife hotel was used as a base for that criminal activity under the very nose of the RCMP. Gamblers at the "Five Aces Social Club," included politicians, bureaucrats, business leaders and "Indian Chiefs." Where was the outrage? Who turned a blind eye?

The truth is society buys into the things that generate violence against women, children and anyone else who is vulnerable in dozens of ways beginning with unchallenged institutional power and ending in billion dollar industries that sell them as objects to be used, abused and/or killed.

The courts whose first mandate is to protect the community, fail miserably, leaving victims to fend for themselves.

Although the Centre for Northern Families respected parents' requests not to have Mr. McGee on the property during day care hours, we are concerned it promotes a false sense of security.

People who sexually assault children are everywhere - in homes, churches, apartment buildings, schools, sports circles, parks and the community in general.

They are lawyers, teachers, social workers, doctors, preachers, counsellors and athletes and they are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, siblings, babysitters and friends of the family. Most remain unidentified for long periods of time.

If they are identified, the legal system ensures their rights are protected and guarantees they are able to resume their lives at some point - regardless of the risk they pose to the community.

Some are marginalized and float in and out of jail for a variety of crimes.

Some, who can afford too, move to a new community and others get a "pass" from families and friends who can't believe the evidence and denounce the victims.

The Centre supports individuals and families regardless of the challenges they face.

Decision-makers in our agency have been impacted by childhood and adult sexual violence. Addressing root causes of violence and oppression and building safe communities is our passion and it involves much more than a knee jerk reaction to sensationalized headlines.

It requires an understanding of the complexity of the issue, a belief that it can be resolved and resources to make it happen.

Mr. McGee victimized children.

Those victims and their families need to know this community will hold him accountable.

They also need to know he will not be in a position to harm other children. In our view, that can only be achieved with 24-hour supervision on a permanent basis - a measure not necessarily equated with jail.

Mr. McGee was not, nor would he ever be in a position to be alone with a child at the Centre.

Can the same be said when he isn't? As you pointed out, the court didn't give it a thought just as they didn't in the case of Nelson McClelland, Ed Horne, Wing Lee and dozens of other men who have been convicted of sexually assaulting children in this community and across the North.

The courts are clearly not the answer - at best a short intervener in a long standing problem.

At the end of the day the safety of children rest with measures put in place by the family and community.

Mr. McGee and his family are members of this community.

They need to stay here rather than move to the anonymity of another town.

Like the community, they may need support to avoid the natural tendency to disbelieve or minimize what happened and to avoid making a pariah out of either the offender or the victims. Mr. McGee should give back to the community in meaningful ways and be in a position to financially support himself and his family.

Given his education and skills why would the community provide for his financial needs?

Why should his family suffer the result of his actions more than they do already?

Mr. McGee has acted as an advocate and provided us with information on the court process. His expertise has supported women pleading for urgent help because they have been deserted by the legal system and are at the mercy of the courts.

They are treated like criminals, "condemned" and "sentenced" without the benefit of legal counsel.

They are separated from their children, forced into poverty and homelessness and into situations that leave them and their children at risk of violence.

In this role and under our supervision, Mr. McGee is not in a position of trust nor is he able to connect with children.

991 words / mots.

**Charlottetown Guardian** (8 Sept 06) "Minister cool on payday loan bill"

[CP](#)

The federal government might not move any time soon to crack down on the payday loan industry.

Justice Minister Vic Toews says the issue is under consideration, but is not among his immediate priorities.

Toews, who was speaking in Winnipeg, says several criminal law issues top his fall agenda. He plans to introduce legislation eventually that would let the provinces set and police interest rates.

The federal Criminal Code limits annual interest rates to 60 per cent, but the limit has rarely been imposed on short-term loans.

104 words / mots.

**Montreal Gazette** (8 Sept 06) "Compensation policy under study"

[PC](#)

The province has struck a committee to review and update how victims of criminals acts are compensated.

The current compensation program dates from 1972 and needs to be re-examined to correct certain inequities, Justice Minister Yvon Marcoux said. Victims of criminal acts have complained they receive less compensation from the government than victims of traffic or work accidents do.

The committee is expected to submit a report in March. Marcoux noted the committee's work will have no impact on the adoption of Bill 25, tabled in the spring, which provides an indemnity for the funerals of crime victims and reimbursement for psychological care for family members of victims.

126 words / mots.