

**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada
Media Clips**



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

Tuesday, March 6, 2007 ♦ mardi, 6 mars 2007

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CBC Special Report, Monday, March 5, 2007, 5:50 p.m.

PETER HOPE, CBC: If you've been to residential school and you're wondering what's happening right now with the money, what's the hold back, well the Dene National Chief will be sharing with us this afternoon. There's a meeting that's coming up here in Yellowknife, in Ndilo in fact, and he's going to let us know what is happening with that. So we've reached him over in Edmonton on the telephone. Hi, Bill, welcome to Trails End.

ERASMUS: Yes, good afternoon.

CBC: Bill, tell us about the Indian residential school meeting that's coming up here in Yellowknife.

ERASMUS: Well we're planning on meeting next week, Tuesday and Wednesday in Ndilo. What we're wanting to do is get as much information out as possible to mainly survivors and other people that are interested. As you know, the agreement was put in place last May and there's a lot of conflicting stories and everyone doesn't have the proper information. So we're trying to get as much information out as possible.

CBC: What sort of concerns do people have?

ERASMUS: Well people, first of all, want to make sure that they're in the system. A lot of people have sent out the forms and then they find that the Canadian government is telling them that they can't find their files. So that seems to be probably the biggest problem. The next one is when are they going to get paid.

CBC: And what is happening with that?

ERASMUS: Well, the court cases have happened where all of the judges have said that they support the agreement. However, there's the one law firm that's outstanding and my understanding is I believe it's today that they're meeting to try and rectify that. So if there's a positive decision today then things should move quickly after this to the next stage where people will then have to fill out a new form and then they should be getting their payment hopefully by the summertime.

CBC: Is there a way that they can just concentrate strictly on that situation and still go ahead and give out the money to the survivors?

ERASMUS: Well we're hoping that payout to the lawyers is not going to stall the agreement. The payout to the lawyers was part of the agreement and what we're hoping is if it's outstanding and it needs some fixing then let's put that money aside and go ahead with the payment to the people that are deserving.

CBC: So why are you having the meeting here in Yellowknife in Ndilo?

ERASMUS: Initially we were going to have it in another community because we were going to meet in the new fiscal year, but the residential school agency in Ottawa came back to us and said that they had some funding for this fiscal year and the easiest way is to have it in Yellowknife. It's less travel for our staff and we can organize it quickly. So this time around we're going to have it in Yellowknife and Ndilo and we're planning on having another meeting when our chiefs meet. We're looking at meeting in early May in Fort

Smith where we can repeat a lot of this because our chiefs need to know what's going on. If they don't fully understand this then it's difficult for this to work in our communities.

CBC: Bill, who is going to be all here?

ERASMUS: We'll we're inviting all of our chiefs. We're going to cover them, some of our elders and whoever is working with our people in the communities. There's frontline workers, some of the friendship centres, some of the band employees and so on. We're encouraging as many people as possible. We're anticipating anywhere from 150 to 200 people to attend.

CBC: Now is the grand chief going to be here?

ERASMUS: We're trying to get the grand chief for the second day on the Tuesday. Right now it's not confirmed, but that's what we're working on.

CBC: So if anybody has got questions who can they call?

ERASMUS: They can call our office in Yellowknife, 873-4081 and we're trying to make an extra effort because we found out actually that people in the NWT, the majority, we have a lot of people that are eligible for this claim because our institutions were kept open later than a lot of other places in the country. So we have a lot of people that we have to get the information to. So it's quite important.

CBC: Thank you very much for sharing this with us.

ERASMUS: Okay, thank you for the opportunity.

CBC: Okay, bye now.

ERASMUS: Bye.

CBC: And that's Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus talking with us this afternoon and we'd like to thank him.