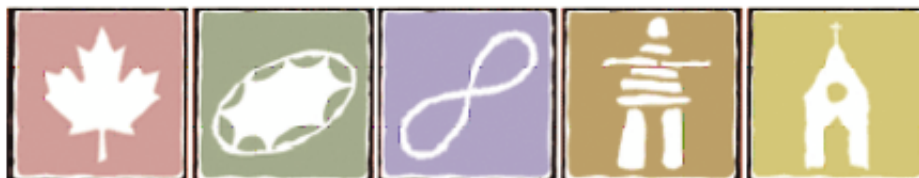


**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada  
Media Clips**



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

**Tuesday, January 2, 2007 ♦ mardi, 2 janvier 2007**

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**Whitehorse Star** (29 Dec 06) "The top 10 Yukon stories of 2006"

Choosing the year's top stories is, to an extent, an arbitrary task. It's a mixture of our judgment, of stories that have occupied considerable media attention, or those that have the largest effect on the largest number of Yukoners - or both.

Here, then, are the top 10 stories in the Yukon in 2006:

1. Whitehorse housing prices rocket to historic highs throughout the year, capping a 71-per-cent increase since 2000.

As of the end of November, the price of a single-family home in the capital sits at \$255,100. An average country residential property is priced at \$308,300.

Critics say the eye-popping escalation is pricing young people out of the housing market. Mike Racz, president of the Yukon Real Estate Association, says he's concerned that virtually no new land is being made available to help real estate prices moderate.

Nor is the limited available land cheap. In November, it's revealed that lots in the new Whitehorse Copper subdivision will sell for between \$80,000 and \$100,000 apiece.

This month, prospective lots buyers learned the 27 country residential parcels at the planned Meadow Lakes Golf and Country Club subdivision will go for between \$140,000 and \$160,000 each (including a well and power to each lot).

2. For the first time since 1989, Yukoners re-elect a sitting territorial government on Oct. 10.

Premier Dennis Fentie's Yukon Party is summoned to serve a second term, which could last as long as five years, by winning 10 seats. Arthur Mitchell's Liberals take five seats to retain official Opposition status, while Todd Hardy's New Democrats earn three. Fentie's government is the first re-elected regime since Tony Penikett's New Democrats managed a second term in the Feb. 20, 1989 election.

3. Controversies over planned residential lot development play a prominent role in Whitehorse throughout the year as various proposals prove on-again, off-again, or remain bogged down in negotiation and/or regulatory procedures.

In February, Daryl Novakowski announces a goal of building 44 homes in a treed, Yukon government-owned area hugging Holly Street in Porter Creek. He says Energy, Mines and Resource Minister Archie Lang has authorized him to act as the government's agent.

After council votes down the plan, an angry Novakowski denounces Whitehorse: "It's not a city; it's a town, and it's going back in time."

Then-mayor Ernie Bourassa suggests the government transfer all Crown-owned land in the city to the city.

In April, the Whitehorse Cross-Country Ski Club says it opposes the development of private lands in the Fish Lake Road area because one of its ski trails would be affected.

Days later, city councillor Doug Graham strongly objects to the Meadow Lakes plan, saying the land wasn't meant to become a residential area.

In May, following a heated debate with Takhini West area residents, developer Wayne Cunningham has a planned condo development approved by city council.

On June 22, 1,118 Whitehorse voters say "yes" to adopting a new green space bylaw to govern future development while 1,047 vote "no." The turnout is just 21 per cent.

Then-councillor Bev Buckway warns the result will help raise taxes - a prediction vindicated when December's proposed budget raises property taxes five per cent.

4. Onlookers weep Oct. 17 as a Whitehorse woman recounts the horrors she endured while attending a **residential school** during her childhood.

"As a whole, as a people, it was genocide," Irma Scarff tells a Yukon Supreme Court hearing into a proposed nation-wide settlement with the victims.

This month, Justice Ron Veale releases his approval of the proposed damages. The common package would see survivors of all approved **residential schools** between 1920 and 1997 receive \$10,000 for the first year they attended and \$3,000 for each subsequent year.

"It's time to move on **for Indian residential school survivors** who want to bring closure to a very dark chapter in the ongoing relationship between Canada and its aboriginal people," Veale writes in his 25-page decision.

5. A group of about 50 Whitehorse residents launch a high-profile fight against the city's drug dealers.

On July 19 and 20, they stand outside the Capital Hotel as a united front to warn drug pushers to leave. One suspected dealer is escorted out of the bar without incident. Later, posters depicting alleged sellers are found attached to Copper Ridge mailboxes.

On July 29, about 200 people attend a rally at Rotary Peace Park with the message that drug peddlers are not welcome in the community.

The actions were precipitated by the previous weekend's violence at the annual Dust Ball dance, which the young people attribute to drug dealers. Several people are facing assault charges.

Later in the year, the legislature approves the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act, designed to make it easier for law enforcement officials to close down drug dens.

Fentie's message to the drug pushers: "Saddle up, get the hell out!" 6. On Oct. 19, four months before the start of the 2007 Canada Winter Games, Whitehorse voters rebuke Bourassa's bid for a third term, replacing him with Buckway.

"People have made their decision," says the defeated mayor. "There'll be challenges coming up," says his successor.

The places of Bourassa and retiring councillor Mel Stehelin are filled by newcomers Florence Roberts and Jeanine Myhre; all other incumbents are re-elected.

7. Worsened by -30 C temperatures, a massive power failure leaves thousands of Yukoners growing colder by the hour in the darkness of the afternoon and evening of Jan. 29.

People are left without power for between three and nine hours. Yukon Energy eventually traces the trouble to one of nine cables that connect the turbines to a transformer at the Aishihik dam site in southwest Yukon.

Hardy worries about the plights of the elderly and those with disabilities, especially living alone.

8. Five people die after a mini-van plunges off an embankment off the Dempster Highway, just several hundred metres inside the Yukon from the Northwest Territories border.

The victims, most from Ontario and one from Whitehorse, are part of a Muslim community Outreach program, studying how Muslims live and practise Islam across Canada.

The only worse highway accident in Yukon history killed six Carcross residents in the early 1990s on the Alaska Highway in Whitehorse. Later that decade, five people died after a smaller vehicle slammed head-on into a motor home on the same highway east of Haines Junction.

9. Yukoners are shocked in August after Hardy is suddenly diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and medevaced to Vancouver for hospital treatment.

The 49-year-old Whitehorse Centre MLA is able to return to the territory for the final stages of the fall election campaign, but leaves for Vancouver in late November for a stem cell transplant.

Hardy says Dec. 13 that doctors have reported the transplant from his sister's cells has been successful. He is unable to return to the territory for Christmas, and continues to work his way through a 100-day monitoring period. Today, his office says he's been released from the Vancouver hospital to stay at a place for cancer patients. 10. The legislature is jarred by three MLAs switching parties. As March dawns, Hardy fires Kluane MLA Gary McRobb from the NDP caucus after he learns McRobb is exploring other political options. He calls the MLA's actions "a violation of trust, of ethics." McRobb calls his ousting "knee-jerk and vindictive."

A day later, Hardy removes Mayo-Tatchun MLA Eric Fairclough from the caucus for essentially the same reasons. "They are not martyrs," Hardy says of his former colleagues. Both eventually join the Liberals, who take the title of official Opposition from the New Democrats.

Later, then-education minister John Edzerza announces himself "a free agent" come election time, and eventually migrates to the New Democrats, retaining his McIntyre-Takhini seat under that party's colours.

PHOTO: Star photo by VINCE FEDOROFF

ILLUS: MAKING A STAND - An estimated 200 Whitehorse residents flocked to Rotary Peace Park in July to listen to speakers discuss the necessity of fighting the city's drug trade.; Bev Buckway

1509 words / mots.

**CKUA** (22 Dec 06) “Major campaign to persuade former residential school students”

TRANSCRIPT

<b>Media Outlet:</b>	<b>CKUA</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Dec22/2006</b>
<b>Program:</b>	<b>Morning News</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>09:03</b>
<b>Anchor / Reporter:</b>	<b>Brenda Finley, Jose Belmar</b>	<b>Length:</b>	<b>01:15</b>
<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Major campaign to persuade former residential school students</b>		

Brenda Finley: The Assembly of First Nations is planning a major campaign to persuade former residential school students to not opt out of the federal government’s compensation package. If more than 5 000 students don’t accept the deal, the entire offer falls apart.

Earlier this year, the federal government signed off on a \$1.9 billion compensation package for 80 000 former students of residential schools.

Jose Belmar: The National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations says it has taken up a lot of his time to reach the settlement. Phil Fontaine says losing the deal would be a major disappointment to survivors.

Phil Fontaine: It has so many elements that are good and important for the survivors and we are going to tell them that it is fair and it is just.

Jose Belmar: Fontaine says staff will travel to many aboriginal communities to make sure survivors know exactly what is in the deal and urge them to accept it. Each former student will get a minimum of \$10 000 for the first year in residential schools and \$3 000 for each year after that.

Peter Iquanik went to a residential school for seven years. The former Commissioner of Nunavut does not want to see this deal die.

Peter Iquanik: The important thing right now is to make sure the elders are paid as quickly as possible because many, some of them have died already.

Jose Belmar: Lawyers across the country suspect most former students will accept the deal. They say survivors don't want the extra cost of hiring a lawyer and going through a lengthy court battle.



