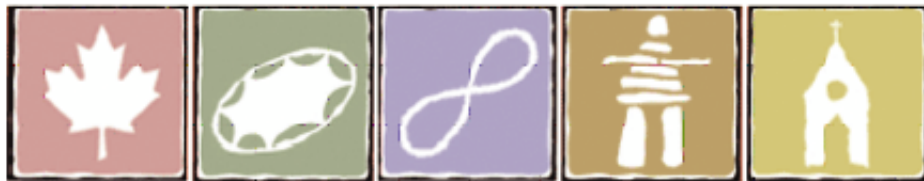


**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada
Media Clips**



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

Monday, November 27, 2006 ♦ lundi, 27 novembre 2006

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CTV Canada AM "WWII vets exposed during chemical testing to be compensated"

O'REGAN: Some World War II veterans who volunteered to undergo chemical warfare testing at the British Army facility at Porton Down, England will now be eligible to receive compensation for their contribution. The Canadian government announced last week that the veterans who served abroad and underwent the chemical testing will be compensated with a \$24,000 payment.

Joining me now from Vancouver is World War II Canadian veteran Len McFarlane. Len volunteered to undergo chemical warfare testing in both Canada and the UK.

Thank you for joining us, sir.

McFARLANE: Oh, you're most welcome.

O'REGAN: Tell me, while serving in Canada during World War II you volunteered to undergo chemical testing in Canada and in England. Tell us what happened there.

McFARLANE: Well, I did it in England and Canada just before I went overseas, because I'd signed up -- I lied about by age. I was underage. And I wanted to prove to the other soldiers around there that I was just as much a man as they were. [laughs] So, I went and volunteered for this stuff.

And then when I went overseas I did it again in Porton Downs, in England. Now, the testing I did in Ottawa had actually no ill effects from that. It was mostly gas. We weren't told what type of gases they were. There was more than one.

I had no bad effects from that. But then when I volunteered in England, to go to Porton Downs, I had quite a bad reaction from the testing there. I went there with another buddy of mine from my regiment, named Andy Timm [uncertain spelling]. And the pair of us, we didn't really know what this is about. It was very classified information that we were given, and we were just told, we were given transport and sent to Salisbury.

But when we arrived we were told that we were going to be chemical warfare gas -- and if we didn't want to we didn't have to go through with it. It wasn't mandatory.

O'REGAN: Did you know what kind of gas they were testing on you?

McFARLANE: No, they never told us. They never told us about the gas or the fluids that they put on our arms. Everything was very, very restricted.

But the gas one was a horrendous thing where they put the five of us -- the three British soldiers and Andy Timm and myself -- in a field. And they had five goats that they hollowed into the ground there. And we stood next to them. And then they had these special respirators, a new type of respirator. And they poured the gas on us. And the goats died within a few minutes, right

at our feet. Foam came out of their mouths like candy floss that you see at the carnivals. And they just collapsed right there.

O'REGAN: You've also received payment for the testing that you took part in while in Canada. Are you going to be eligible for compensation for the testing done in England?

McFARLANE: Well, evidently, Colonel Sutherland in Ottawa, I was talking to him on the phone yesterday, he said no. And I questioned that, because how many soldiers actually did this twice? How many did it in Canada and then did it again in Porton, England?

O'REGAN: What was the reason for turning you down, sir? What did they tell you?

McFARLANE: He just said quite flatly, he said, "Well, you're only compensated once."

O'REGAN: You can't be too happy about that, I imagine.

McFARLANE: Well, no. I'm happy that I'm still alive and I've got six wonderful children and 11 grandchildren, and I'm still standing up above ground, not underneath it. I'm 82 in a few weeks. And I feel quite lucky, compared to a lot of veterans.

O'REGAN: Well, sir, let me wish you an early happy birthday. We hope you'll keep us posted, keep us up to date on how things are progressing on this.

McFARLANE: Thank you very much.

Len McFarlane, World War Two Veteran

782 words / mots.

Vancouver Province (also in Times-Colonist, Edmonton Journal) "Forces offer compensation, apology to victim's family"

[David Pugliese, CanWest News Service](#)

OTTAWA -- The Canadian Forces will issue an apology today as well as agree to financial compensation for the family of a soldier killed in a training accident more than 14 years ago.

The written apology and a financial settlement are an about-face for the military that just seven months ago determined that Christina Wheeler and her two daughters didn't deserve compensation for their suffering, even though a 2004 ombudsman's report blasted the Forces for putting them through an emotional roller-coaster of "inattention and insensitivity."

Today's announcement marks what Wheeler hopes is the end of her battle with the military bureaucracy, a fight first launched to find out what happened the day her husband Rick was killed, and then later to clear his name after officers blamed him for causing his own death. Master Cpl. Wheeler, 29, died in April 1992 when he was run over by an armoured personnel carrier during a training exercise in Alberta.

Wheeler, of Victoria, said although her battle with the Forces was originally to clear her husband's name, she continued on with the fight to make sure no other families go through what she and her daughters were subjected to.

"It has never been about getting compensation," she said.

"There needs to be a lot more in the way of transparency and accountability in the Forces."

Wheeler said she hopes the military will bring in changes to its policies, regarding how it handles such incidents. She said on three different occasions in the past she had been promised there would be changes -- but none were made.

"Accidents will happen but you treat people properly," she added.

ILLUS: Colour Photo: CanWest News Service, file / Christina Wheeler holds a family photo as she reflects on happier times in Victoria. Her husband, Master Cpl. Rick Wheeler, was killed during an army exercise at CFB Suffield when an army vehicle ran over him in 1992.

313 words / mots.