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Thursday, April 29, 2010

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Prelim trial on for St. Mary's supervisor

The Times

Published: Tuesday, June 03, 2008

The preliminary trial for Gordon Irvin Kinney, a former school prefect accused of molesting boys at the former St. Mary's Indian Residential School in Mission, is on until June 5 at Abbotsford provincial court.

Kinney, who is now in his mid-60s, faces seven counts of indecent assault and gross indecency, stemming from alleged incidents that occurred at St. Mary's between 1964 and 1969.

A former prefect or supervisor who had between 30 to 40 First Nations boys in his care while he worked at the school, Kinney left Canada for southeast Asia in 1999.

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After the RCMP laid charges against Kinney in 2002, he was tracked down by the Royal Thai police, the Philippine National police and RCMP liaison officers stationed in the region, and arrested in August 2006. RCMP officers escorted Kinney back to the Abbotsford court last March.

Kinney was later released on bail to live with a sister in Surrey, after surrendering his passport and posting a \$25,000 bond.

The trial is a matter of urgency, as some of accusers are passing on, said Charles Chapman, a support worker with the Indian Residential School Survivors Society.

One of Kinney's accusers, Eugene Peters from Hope, died last summer.

Kinney is not the first St. Mary's Residential School worker to face charges of child assault.

Gerald Mathieu Moran was 78 and a monk in a Saskatchewan monastery in September 2004 when he was convicted of 12 counts of indecent assault and was sentenced to three years in prison. He had pleaded guilty to the assaults.

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