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## Algoma U offers to host truth commission — COMMENT ON THIS STORY

Posted By BY MICHAEL PURVIS, THE SAULT STAR

Updated 1 day ago

Algoma University College will offer its facilities and assistance to the commission charged with hearing accounts of abuse at native residential schools.

The independent Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission was to begin June 1 its five-year Canada-wide mission of truth-gathering.

"Naturally, as an institution, if they need places to meet we should be a place, as we were with the Prime Minister's apology," on Wednesday, said AUC President Celia Ross.

Ross noted AUC's site, the former Shingwauk Residential School, and the school's close ties with both the Children of Shingwauk Alumni and Shingwauk Education Trust.

Algoma hosted a large gathering of residential school survivors in its lecture theatre, where they watched a live feed of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's apology for the abuses suffered at the federally-funded, church-run schools.

"Because of our history, because of our student composition, because of the Shingwauk Project which we proudly house, this is part of who we are," said Ross.

AUC's board of governors agreed Thursday night to issue a letter to the truth commission, offering to be involved.

"It's one thing to apologize, it's another thing to really involve the players, those that remain, involve the institutions and bring peace and closure forward-looking into the future," said Ross.

The \$60-million independent commission is partly based on the South African model, which dealt with that country's history of apartheid.

The five-year Canadian process aims to uncover the stories of those who were affected by residential schools and educate Canadians about the system's legacy.

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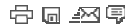
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