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Truth and Reconciliation Commission's first national event postponed

November, 20, 2008 - 06:40 pm THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO - The first in a series of nationally scheduled meetings between aboriginal residential school survivors and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been postponed.

The meeting was to have taken place in Vancouver in January. The commission says on its website the decision was made "given the circumstances," and that the intention is to reschedule the event once a new chair is appointed.

The commission into Indian residential school sexual and physical abuse was derailed when its head, Justice Harry LaForme, resigned in October.

Lawyers representing aboriginal groups, the federal government and the churches that ran the schools met Thursday in their ongoing effort to salvage the forum.

Details of that meeting were not immediately available.

Time is of the essence because many of the estimated 80,000 former students are sick and elderly.

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