

# First meeting of residential school survivors, commission postponed

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[CBC News](#)

The first meeting between aboriginal residential school survivors and the commission tasked with documenting their abuse has been postponed.

The meeting, set to take place in Vancouver in January, was thrown off schedule by turmoil within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which stems from the resignation of commission chairman Harry LaForme in October.

The commission says on its website the decision to postpone the meeting was made "given the circumstances," and that the meeting should be rescheduled once a new chair is appointed.

Lawyers for First Nations groups and the churches that ran the government-funded schools met with government solicitors again on Thursday as part of ongoing negotiations to replace LaForme.

The talks were "productive," Patricia Valladao, a spokeswoman for Indian and Northern Affairs, said Thursday night.

"All parties have agreed that the discussions were very positive and very productive," Valladao said, noting that details of the discussions would not be made public.

"They have decided whatever they discussed in the meeting is to remain confidential."

Established as part of the historic settlement agreement, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was thrown into turmoil after LaForme resigned from his post on Oct. 20, less than six months into the job.

The commission, which was established in June with the aim of completing its work in five years, is not charged with determining innocence or guilt but with creating a historical account of the residential schools, helping people to heal and encouraging reconciliation.

*With files from the Canadian Press*

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