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# N.S. residential school survivors and police face the past together

Last Updated: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 | 10:42 AM AT  
[CBC News](#)

Aboriginal people forced into a Nova Scotia residential school when they were young children are facing a potent symbol of what happened to them this week: the police.

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs is holding a series of sessions in Dartmouth to help former residential school students heal from their experiences in the now-closed Shubenacadie Indian Residential School.

The residential school survivors are facing everything that happened to them, including the role the police played in collecting and taking them to the residential school.

Rita Martin was seven years old when she was taken from her family in New Brunswick and placed in the school near Truro.

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[Poorly trained pilots should be grounded, says Cormorant victim's dad](#)

The father of one of the men killed when a Cormorant helicopter plunged into the ocean off of Canso, Nova Scotia, 18 months ago said Tuesday that he wants the Department of National

She doesn't remember how she got to the school or much else about her experiences over the next five years.

"I'm just going through my healing process, trying to deal with what happened to me," Martin said Tuesday. "The lack of memory is really hard for me and I know the pain will be even worse when everything comes out."

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Between 1930 and 1967, thousands of native children were taken from their families and placed in the Shubenacadie school, where many lost their language and culture. The children were also physically and sexually abused.

Former officer Jim Potts said it's important for the police to rebuild trust with aboriginal communities and understand the history of residential schools.

Potts, who is native, recalled the story of one officer who arrived at a detachment in northern Saskatchewan.

"He said: 'I went into homes and helped pull young kids out from underneath the beds and took them and put them in that cage and took them to school.' And I reflect now and say, holy smoke. But the thinking of

Defence to keep poorly trained pilots away from the controls.

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Aboriginal people forced into a Nova Scotia residential school when they were young children are facing a potent symbol of what happened to them this week: the police.

[N.S. government ads target problem gamblers](#)

The Nova Scotia government is spending \$425,000 on a television and print advertising campaign aimed at convincing gambling addicts to get help for their problem.

[Halifax high school basketball team to honour N.B. players](#)

A Halifax high school basketball team will take to the court Wednesday wearing shirts to honour the seven members of a New Brunswick basketball team who were killed in a crash early Saturday.

[N.S. aboriginal population figures double since 1996: StatsCan](#)

Nova Scotia's aboriginal population figures nearly doubled in just 10 years, the latest census numbers from Statistics Canada released Tuesday show.

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the day was you're doing the right thing for these children," Potts said.

## Repairing relations

Martin knows it's tough to relive the past.

But like Potts, she said it's important to work with the police on the many issues facing aboriginal communities.

"Even though there's been damage done by former police officers, we have to learn to not dwell on that and learn to work with the present police officers because there are some good ones," Martin said.

Doug Reti, the director general of national aboriginal policing services for the RCMP, said there is a lot of work to do in repairing relations with the aboriginal community and educating police officers about what happened in the past.

"In order to ensure that it doesn't happen again, you need to understand what took place. So it's really critical that our members understand the residential school legacy so they understand when they go in a community and see a certain level of dysfunction and a community struggling in a number of ways, they're able to make sense of that for themselves," Reti said.

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### [Kenya braces for mass opposition protests](#)

Police fired tear gas and live ammunition against opposition protesters in several Kenyan cities on Wednesday at the start of three planned days of nationwide protests over last month's disputed elections.

### [Romney takes his first win in Michigan primary](#)

Republican Mitt Romney landed his first major primary victory in Michigan on Tuesday while Hillary Rodham Clinton took the Democrat title in a contest where she was the only major candidate entered.

### [Bush's Mideast tour ends with Mubarak backing peace plan](#)

U.S. President George W. Bush secured some welcome support for his Mideast peace plan from a key Arab ally during his visit Wednesday with Egyptian President Hosni

## [Canada »](#)

### [Nuclear safety watchdog head fired for 'lack of leadership': minister](#)

Federal Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn said Wednesday that he fired the head of the nuclear safety watchdog for her "lack of leadership" and "failure to manage the work."

### [Funeral for Bathurst teens expected to draw thousands](#)

Mourners will gather at a Bathurst, N.B., hockey arena Wednesday for what will be an emotional mass funeral service for seven teenage basketball players killed in a weekend crash.

### [15-seat vans have bloody history: Edmunston](#)

The type of van involved in an accident that killed seven high school athletes has been involved in many other fatalities, a consumer advocate says.

## [Health »](#)

### [Treatment of Vietnamese boy with tumour begins in Boston](#)

A Vietnamese boy with a disfiguring facial tumour began the first phase of his treatment at Children's Hospital Boston on Wednesday.

### [Osteoporosis drugs may cause destructive bone condition: study](#)

Women who take a certain class of osteoporosis drugs may be at higher risk of a painful and disfiguring bone condition, Canadian researchers warn.

### [Toy, food and drug product safety consultations begin](#)

Public consultations have begun on tougher product safety laws the federal government plans to introduce after several high-profile recalls of toys, food and drugs.

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## [Arts & Entertainment»](#)

### [Atonement dominates nominees for British film honours](#)

Wartime drama Atonement led an acclaimed field of competitors announced on Wednesday for the U.K's top film honour, the British Academy's annual film awards.

### [Actor Brad Renfro found dead](#)

Brad Renfro, the street-smart Tennessee schoolboy plucked from obscurity in 1993 to play the title role in The Client, was found dead at his Los Angeles area home Tuesday.

### [Arcand film among 9 in running for foreign film Oscar](#)

Denys Arcand's latest film, Days of Darkness, has moved a step closer to an Oscar nomination after being chosen as one of nine foreign films left in the running for the best foreign-language film Academy Award.

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## [Technology & Science »](#) [Money »](#)

### [IBM, Apple team to bring e-mail software to iPhone](#)

E-mail software from IBM Corp. will be available on Apple Inc. iPhones and iPod Touch devices under a new partnership that brings together two big rivals of Microsoft Corp.

### [Intel shares dive as sales disappoint](#)

Intel Corp., the world's largest maker of computer chips, posted a 51 per cent jump in its fourth-quarter profit Tuesday, but sales fell slightly below expectations, and the company's shares dropped sharply in after-hours trading.

### [Huge fracture in Beaufort Sea ice pack worries scientists](#)

A massive fracture discovered this winter in the Beaufort Sea ice pack could be a sign of things to come as climate change continues to warm the Arctic, according to a leading climate researcher.

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### [Asian stock markets reel, Europe cuts losses](#)

Bleeding on North American stock markets extended to Asia Wednesday on fears of a U.S. economic slowdown.

### [U.S. inflation last year hit 17-year high](#)

Inflation in the United States hit a 17-year high last year, pushed up by rising costs for energy and food, the U.S. government said Wednesday.

### [CRTC imposes cross-media ownership restrictions](#)

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Public consultations have begun on tougher product safety laws the federal government plans to introduce after several high-profile recalls of toys, food and drugs.

### [U.S. FDA clears meat, milk from cloned animals](#)

A final risk assessment released Tuesday by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has found that meat and milk from cloned animals are safe to consume.

### [15-seat vans have bloody history: Edmunston](#)

The type of van involved in an accident that killed seven high school athletes has been involved in many other fatalities, a consumer advocate says.

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### [Frustrated Maple Leafs fend off Hurricanes](#)

Ian White had a goal and an assist as the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the Carolina Hurricanes 5-4 on Tuesday night.

### [Eskimos re-sign Jason Maas: report](#)

The Edmonton Eskimos will announce that they have re-signed veteran CFL quarterback Jason Maas at a news conference later on Wednesday, according to the Canadian Press.

### [Hamilton, Pistons rip Raptors](#)

Richard Hamilton scored a season-high 39 points as the Detroit Pistons whipped the visiting Toronto Raptors 103-89 on Tuesday night.

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