



 [Make Calgary Herald my start page](#)

Today's Herald



[Obama wins South Carolina](#)

Senator Barack Obama scored a decisive win Saturday night over Senator Hillary Clinton...

- [\[more \]](#)
- [Funerals held for Carleton University students killed in crash](#)
- [One dead, three hospitalized following St. John's fire](#)
- [Indonesia's former president Suharto dead](#)
- [More News Stories](#)

Calgary police prepare for scams targetting federal settlement recipients

Sherri Zickefoose, Calgary Herald

Published: Friday, January 25, 2008

Calgary police officers are receiving sensitivity training to help them brace for inevitable scams targetting residential school survivors flush with federal settlement payments. A police service DVD was revealed during Tuesday night's meeting of the Calgary Police Commission.

Residents on Alberta reserves and throughout the country are preparing to guard against fraud, scams and increased drug trafficking that they fear will accompany the lump-sum residential school payments of up to \$38,000, which began being issued last fall.

Calgary police have to be prepared to deal with it, police Chief Rick Hanson said.

 [Email to a friend](#)  [Printer friendly](#)

Font:

- *
- *
- *
- *



"This will be going out to all members. There's no doubt we will be approached about this in the near future," said Hanson.

It's estimated that more than \$50 million will flow into some Alberta reserves. Residential school survivors have been targeted by salespeople - such as out-of-province car dealers offering vehicles - even before the cash has reached recipients' hands.

"There are going to be people whose offers will be too good to resist," said Piikani Nation Chief Reg Crow Shoe.

With the extra cash comes fears of an increase in the number of muggings, frauds and drug dealers targeting reserves. A rise in elder abuse and family discord are also concerns.

The RCMP is giving seminars at reserves around Alberta, and financial institutions, such as Scotiabank, are helping survivors with basic investment and banking information. The Blood Tribe has set up a special support group to help survivors receiving federal cash. The group will continue until after the last payments are received.

About \$50 million in common experience payments is expected to flow to members of the Blood Tribe under the residential schools agreement. Each eligible survivor is entitled to a \$10,000 payment to compensate for the first year they spent at residential school, and \$3,000 for each year thereafter, up to 12 years.

An initial payment of about \$8,000 was made to survivors last year, meaning former students will this year receive up to \$38,000. It's the biggest payout to individual aboriginals in Canadian history.

The money is part of a \$5-billion settlement, mostly for middle-aged and elderly aboriginal people who attended Indian residential schools under the guise of assimilation. The century-old practice was scrapped after widespread stories of abuse and mistreatment emerged. About 80,000 aboriginal people in Canada are eligible for the payments.

szickefoose@theherald.canwest.com

© Calgary Herald 2008

Ads by Google