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Manitoba First Nations ask Queen for apology

Last Updated: Thursday, February 21, 2008 | 5:51 PM CT
[CBC News](#)

The head of 30 northern aboriginal communities in Manitoba wants Queen Elizabeth to apologize to the former students of residential schools in Canada.

Sydney Garrioch, grand chief of the Manitoba Keewatinook Ininew Okimowin, which represents northern Manitoba chiefs, sent a letter to Buckingham Palace Thursday morning, urging the Queen to "issue an apology on behalf of your government in Canada and let us close this terrible chapter in Canadian history.

"I would humbly implore you as our Head of State and Queen of the British Commonwealth to ensure our cries of the former residential school students are heard," the letter read.

Garrioch said he's tired of waiting for an apology from Canada's federal

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government, so he's taking his request further up the chain of command.

"The Queen is our last resort. We have a special relationship with the Queen — that's what triggered the letter," he told CBC News on Thursday.

"[We're] speaking out and asking for an official formal apology for the wrongdoings in regards to the survivors in the residential school system that were kind of abused — sexually, physically — and other impacts, that they lost their culture, their language and their families, and [were] disconnected from their community."

In 1998, the Canadian government issued a "statement of reconciliation," which recognized and apologized to people who experienced physical and sexual abuse at residential schools, part of an action plan created in response to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

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But Garrioch said that statement did not go far enough.

"We are patient enough people," he said. "It's been a century. We are still very hopeful it will happen."

Federal apology in the works: Strahl

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A Winnipeg man has been arrested after someone shot at a dumpster diver with a paintgun.

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[Rowbotham case to return to court in March](#)

Lawyers representing the Crown and several media outlets have set a court date in March to discuss an application to keep search warrants sealed in the investigation of the death of Bev Rowbotham.

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country's aboriginal people, but it hasn't offered them any compensation.

The Canadian government is providing nearly \$2 billion in compensation to former residential students, and the government's last speech from the throne indicated Prime Minister Stephen Harper would "make a statement of apology to close this sad chapter in our history" when it launched a planned truth and reconciliation commission.

"It's coming along. I don't have an exact date for it, but obviously we want to do it as quickly as we can," said Chuck Strahl, Canada's Minister of Indian Affairs.

"The truth and reconciliation commission, putting that together is part of the process — but it has to be done right, it can't be haphazard or slapdash, it has to be done with some dignity and respect."

Meanwhile, the Governor General's office confirmed it has received a copy of Garrioch's letter, but referred all calls to Buckingham Palace.

The Queen's press secretary said she would try to determine the status of the letter and might have an official response on the matter on Friday.



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A charred body has been found inside a torched office of the U.S. Embassy in Serbia's capital Belgrade, embassy officials said, just hours after hundreds of rioters attacked the compound.

[Pakistan opposition parties form coalition government](#)

The two main opposition parties in Pakistan are joining forces to form a new government after their electoral victory over the party allied with President Pervez Musharraf.

[U.S. landed rendition flights on British territory: British minister](#)

A British minister said Thursday that the U.S. has landed terrorism suspects on British territory in a controversial process known as "extraordinary rendition," but says detainees never left the planes.

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper has unveiled a new motion with a hard end date of 2011 for Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, a move aimed at bridging the gap between the Tories and Liberals.

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Many of the people who've undergone obesity surgery have discovered a positive side-effect to having the stomach-sizing operation: a significant improvement in their diabetes.

[Chronic pain a big issue for seniors: StatsCan](#)

Chronic pain is a major problem for seniors, dramatically affecting their quality of life, a new Statistics Canada study finds.

[Strokes triple among middle-aged women in U.S.: study](#)

Strokes have tripled in recent years among middle-aged women in the U.S., an alarming trend doctors blame on the obesity epidemic.

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[Latest CBC Literary Award winners unveiled](#)

New and emerging writers from Quebec, Alberta and Ontario are among the latest winners of the CBC Literary Awards.

[Chinese-Canadian star apologizes for sex photo scandal](#)

A Chinese celebrity sex scandal came to a head on Thursday, with Canadian-born actor and singer Edison Chen apologizing for widely-circulated photos showing him and several women apparently engaged in sex acts.

[Past winners to battle for 'best of Booker' honour](#)

A battle of the Booker winners is brewing this year, with organizers announcing a "best of" honour to celebrate the award's 40th anniversary.

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[Microsoft to share some of its secrets](#)

Microsoft Corp., the world-leading software company known for carefully keeping its secrets to itself, said Thursday it will make some of its patented material publicly available.

[Personal data on 28,000 schoolchildren stolen](#)

A laptop computer holding a database with personal information on thousands of Newfoundland schoolchildren has been stolen.

[RIM sees strong gain in BlackBerry subscribers](#)

The maker of the popular BlackBerry wireless devices said Thursday that the fourth quarter proved to be unexpectedly strong and subscriber additions are expected to come in higher than previously forecast.

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[Royal Bank goes for Phillips Hager & North in a big way](#)

Royal Bank of Canada has signed a share-swap deal worth well over \$1 billion to buy Vancouver money manager Phillips Hager & North Investment Management.

[Ottawa panel to re-examine prospect of national securities regulator](#)

The federal government is making another attempt to kickstart the creation of a national securities regulator with the appointment Thursday of an expert panel.

[That stings: Billy Bee Honey falls into U.S. hands](#)

Toronto's Billy Bee Honey Products has been bought by McCormick & Co., a Maryland-based spice and seasonings giant, for \$75 million US.

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[Health Canada still reviewing bottles with bisphenol A](#)

Health Canada says letters to retailers dismissing concerns over the safety of polycarbonate bottles containing the chemical bisphenol A were "sent in error" and did not include the most recent scientific information.

[Quebec retailers want pop can deposits scrapped](#)

Grocery retailers in Quebec are asking the province to scrap the deposit return system for pop cans in an effort to remove the return vending machines from their stores.

[Moncton's water fluoridation expected to resume soon](#)

A shortage of fluoride has forced many communities in North America to stop adding the cavity-fighting substance to their water, but the supply should be improved by spring, says an American distributor.

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[Alberta's Kleibrink clinches 1st at Hearts](#)

Alberta skip Shannon Kleibrink secured the top spot at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Regina Thursday with an extra end 8-7 victory over P.E.I.'s Suzanne Gaudet.

[Raptors swap Juan Dixon for Primoz Brezec](#)

Juan Dixon of the Toronto Raptors was traded Thursday to the Detroit Pistons for centre Primoz Brezec and cash considerations.

[Blue Jays to play 24 games on CBC](#)

CBC unveiled its Toronto Blue Jays broadcast schedule for the 2008 season on Thursday.

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