

Blackfoot will honour Regina lawyer who helped residential school victims

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MORLEY, Alta. - Regina lawyer Tony Merchant will be honoured at a Blackfoot war bonnet ceremony for his "battles" on behalf of First Nations people, including residential school victims.

Addison Crow, an elder of the Running Crane band, says Merchant kept fighting for aboriginals even when "no one else would listen." Merchant is a member of the national committee supervising the \$5 billion residential school settlement for aboriginals.

His law firm also represented former students and stands to make at least \$25 million and up to \$40 million for its work handling the claims.

A release says the war bonnet ceremony is very rare and will be held on a reserve west of Calgary at the beginning of the Bears Paw First Nation pow wow.

As part of the ceremony on Friday, Merchant will be given an Indian name and will also become a brother of the Blackfoot Confederation.