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Canada

Home News Canada Feds reject 20 per cent of residential school claims; More than \$1.3B paid to 63,212 survivors



Feds reject 20 per cent of residential school claims; More than \$1.3B paid to 63,212 survivors

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One in five people who have applied for compensation for living in residential schools have been turned down, federal figures show.

The Winnipeg Free Press, in a report out of Ottawa, says that as of April 21, more than \$1.3 billion had been paid in compensation to 63,212 residential school survivors under the Common Experience Payment.

But 17,226 claims were rejected entirely, accounting for 21.4 per cent of the number of claims processed since the program began in September 2007.

"We never really expected it to be that high," said Ted Quewezance, executive director of the National Residential School Survivors Society.

Former residential school students can file a claim for \$10,000 minimum if they spent at least one year living in a residential school plus a further \$3,000 for every additional year.

Valerie Hache, spokesperson for the Indian Residential Schools Resolution department within Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, said payments are declined for several reasons.

The first, she said, is if the applicant was a day student rather than a resident of the school. Applications are also denied if the school is not on the list of recognized institutions, or if there is no record of the applicant's attendance.

Residential schools were run until the 1970s, mainly by the churches on behalf of the federal government.

Thousands of students have filed claims that they were sexually and physically abused while living in the schools, while others have legal claims for their loss of language and culture.

So far, 91,944 claims have been received. There are 11,506 applications still being processed.

Quewezance, himself a survivor of a residential school, said there are a large number of applicants who have received a compensation cheque for less money than they had applied.



Statistics are unavailable on how many people are not getting their entire claim.

Missing records

He said the main issue he has encountered for partial or denied claims is the missing records.

"It's frustrating for the people who have been turned down," said Quewezance.

Winnipeg MP and Liberal aboriginal affairs critic Anita Neville said she has been told there are a number of former students making applications knowing they aren't eligible.

Neville said those people are applying to establish their claim in the hopes the eligibility criteria will change in the future. She said they may also hope to use the information in another process, such as a legal case against the government.

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 Calendar

Today

3rd Annual Conference for CARP North Bay

Cake Decorating-Course 1

Commanda Spring Fling

Expressions! West Nipissing Art Gallery Exhibition

FREE Community Clothing Exchange from 10am-2pm!

Gum Paste & Fondant

La Galerie d'arts de Nipissing Ouest 'Expressions!' Exposition

North Bay Youth Centre

Spaghetti Dinner at 5pm

Summer Company!!!! Hey Students.... Want To Be Your Own Boss this Summer?

Apr. 29, 2008

North Bay SCRABBLE Club regular game night

May. 1, 2008

Volunteer Fair 2008


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