



Legacy of Hope Foundation Fondation autochtone de l'espoir

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PRESS RELEASE - Newfoundland and Labrador Survivors Receive Government Apology

November 24, 2017 (Ottawa, ON) –The Legacy of Hope Foundation (LHF) was heartened to hear that Prime Minister Trudeau made a formal apology to Survivors of the Residential Schools in Newfoundland and Labrador today, almost 10 years after the former students' schools in the province were left out of a compensation package and the national Apology was issued by then Prime Minister Stephen Harper in June 2008.

In the past the Moravian Mission and the International Grenfell Association established schools with dormitory residences for Indigenous children, for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The last school closed in 1980. Many Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Metis) children experienced all forms of abuse (sexual, physical, mental, spiritual, cultural) while attending the schools and they, along with their families and communities, still live with the consequences of their experiences.

On June 11, 2008, on behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians, then-Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a formal Apology to students of Residential Schools, however, the Apology did not include the students from the provincially run Residential Schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. Over 1000 Survivors from Newfoundland and Labrador came together in a class-action suit against the Government for the harms they endured because they were left out of prior Government settlements. On September 28, 2016, the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador approved a negotiated Settlement that would see compensation go to those who could legally demonstrate that they suffered abuse while they attended the Residential Schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Settlement Package also includes provisions for healing and commemoration activities identified by former students.

This new Apology will also respond to the Call to Action #29 outlined in the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which calls upon the Federal Government 'to work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The Apology to Survivors of the five schools the Lockwood School in Cartwright, the Makkovik Boarding School, the Nain Boarding School, the St. Anthony Orphanage and Boarding School and the Yale School in Northwest River, acknowledged that the Government of Canada takes responsibility for what happened to the Survivors of these institutions, although the schools were in existence before Newfoundland and Labrador joined Canada in 1949.

The LHF Executive Director and In-house Legal Counsel, Teresa Edwards said, "This Apology joins the Apology made to Survivors of Residential Schools in 2008, as part of the necessary acknowledgements that the Federal Government had to make in order to continue to improve the relationship between the Crown and Indigenous Peoples across Canada. Although they can never repair the harms done, it is essential that the Government honour all Survivors and continue to tell the truth about the real history in Canada. It is only in acknowledging and honouring that we can begin to work toward Reconciliation."

The LHF is an Indigenous-led charitable Foundation that has the mandate is to educate Canadians by raising awareness and understanding of the impacts of Residential Schools on Indigenous Survivors and their families and communities through the ongoing development and implementation of Curricula and Educational Resources that depicts the true history in Canada; to loan out the 7 Exhibitions about the history Indigenous Peoples and the injustices that occurred to businesses, governments, schools, galleries etc. and to support the ongoing healing process of Residential School Survivors and their families all towards building just and respectful relationships and Reconciliation among Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples in Canada today.

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