



Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

(Kamloops Indian Band)



shíshálh

VANCOUVER: For Immediate Release

Momentum is building for the Day Scholars Class Proceeding. In addition to the original two Bands, three others have already opted into the action and several more have committed to joining. This despite the deadline to opt in being February 29, 2016.

Launched in 2012 by the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and shíshálh Indian Bands, the Day Scholars Class Action lawsuit seeks compensation on behalf of all Aboriginal Canadians who attended an Indian Residential School, but who did not sleep there. The case also seeks declarations regarding Canada's role in the failure to protect Aboriginal language and culture, and looks for compensation for the children of survivors, and the bands to which survivors belong.

Canada has, for several years now, recognized that the Indian Residential Schools had a profound impact not just on those who resided at the schools, but also on their communities and families. But for all its recognition of a 'cultural genocide' Canada has refused to provide compensation for those who did not sleep at the schools. This lawsuit aims to rebalance that difference.

In addition to seeking compensation for individuals who attended the Indian Residential Schools, an important part of the lawsuit is including Indian Bands that were affected by the presence of an Indian Residential School on or near their lands. Individual Bands can decide whether or not they wish to opt-in, or be a part of the lawsuit. Only those Bands that opt in will be eligible for compensation if any is awarded by the Courts.

Chief Shane Gottfriedson This much interest this soon after Certification of the lawsuit shows how important this action is for Aboriginal people across Canada. By standing together we can show the Canadian Government that it can no longer ignore the plight of those who lost their language and culture at the Government's hands. This is not just an isolated story of a few children in British Columbia, it is a national issue."

Hereditary Chief Garry Feschuk “We thank the bands that have joined already and encourage those remaining to come on board to show strength, unity and a commitment to moving forward. It is time to address the remaining legacy of the Residential Schools and their effects not just on residents, but on entire communities. Together we can speak to the Government with one voice, representing Aboriginal people from coast to coast to coast.”

Bands have until February 29, 2016 to decide if they wish to opt-in. Individual survivors, Aboriginals who attended the Indian Residential Schools, but did not spend the night there, can opt out of the lawsuit if they wish before November 30, 2015.

For more information please call:

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