



Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc



shíshálh

Forty two First Nations Across Canada Are Opting In to the Day Scholar Class Action

As of February 26, 2016, forty two First Nations across Canada have opted in to the Tk'emlúps Te Secwepemc and Sechelt First Nations Day Scholar class action. Interested Bands have until February 29, 2016 to opt in to the law suit.

First Nations across Canada share the devastating losses of their sacred languages and cultures as a result of the government of Canada's Residential School Policy. The Bands who have opted in to the Day Scholar class action are committed to obtaining justice on behalf of their members who attended a federally operated Indian Residential School during the day but did not live at the School.

The Federal Court certified three different classes in this class action. The Survivor Class includes all individuals who attended, but did not reside at an Indian Residential School. The Descendant class is made up of the children (biological, legally, or traditionally adopted) of Survivors. The Band Class is comprised of any Band that had a Residential School on or close to Band lands, or had members attending a Residential School as Day Scholars. While the Survivor and Descendant classes address individual losses that flow from the loss of language and culture, the Band Class is focused on the restoration of community wellness.

Canada has recognized that the Indian Residential Schools had severe and lasting negative effects on former students, but has failed to recognize that the Day Scholars were impacted by the Residential School Policy.

The First Nations who have opted in to the Day Scholar class action share the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc and Sechelt First Nations commitment to seek justice for their members. Only the

Bands that opted in are eligible for compensation that may flow to the Band class as a result of any possible settlement.

Chief Calvin Craigan Sechelt First Nation stated “Nation building is strongly expressed from the kind caring nations who have decided to opt in with us. We are grateful for their support and we look forward to working with them for the betterment of all our nations. At this time we encourage other nations to join our justice journey. The deadline is February 29, 2016.”

Chief Fred Seymour Tk’emlúps te Secwepemc stated: “With the leap year upon us we are very thankful for the First Nations who have committed to standing with us. We will continue to strive to heal our people at any cost. Let us stay united, strong and stand together for justice for our nations.”

Bands have until February 29, 2016 to opt-in. Individual survivors, and their descendants as of November 30, 2015 are now a part of this class action.

For more information contact:

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“Healing one heart, one mind and one spirit at a time”