

**Re: Update on the Band Reparations Class Action – trial starts Monday
September 12, 2022 in Vancouver, B.C.**

Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with representative plaintiffs shíshálh Nation and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc in our fight for compensation for the collective harm suffered by our nations as a result of the residential school system, including in particular the loss of and damage to our languages and cultures. In total, 326 First Nations across Canada, including your First Nation, have joined the Band Reparations lawsuit as class members.

The trial starts on September 12, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the Federal Court in Vancouver, BC, and is expected to last six to eight weeks. The trial will be broadcast live online on the Zoom platform. Those wishing to watch will need to register with the Federal Court here: https://cas-satj.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p-zrAg2WSfgtFS-ZBPWK-g

At the trial in September, the court will decide whether Canada is legally responsible for the collective harms suffered by bands as a result of residential schools, including in particular loss of language and culture.

If the court decides that Canada is legally responsible, there will be a process later to determine how much in damages is owed to each band – it is possible that individual bands will need to participate at this stage in the lawsuit by submitting evidence of the extent of harms caused to their community because of residential schools.

If successful this lawsuit will provide the resources needed to allow us as First Nations to take charge of language and cultural revitalization.

The representative plaintiffs are expecting to call the following individuals as witnesses:

- Phil Fontaine, former National Chief of the AFN
- Matthew Coon Come, former National Chief of the AFN
- Shane Gottfriedson, former Chief of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc
- Garry Feschuk, former Chief of shíshálh Nation
- Dr. Marianne Ignace, an expert in Indigenous languages, language loss, and the Secwépemc language
- Dr. Onowa Mclvor, an expert in Indigenous language loss and language revitalization
- Dr. Dwight Gardiner, an expert in linguistics and Salish languages, in particular the shíshálh language
- Dr. John Milloy, an expert in the history of Indian Residential Schools, and author of the book "A National Crime"
- Dr. Andrew Woolford, an expert sociologist on the topics of Indian Residential Schools and genocide
- Elders, including Elders from shíshálh Nation and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

We encourage all class members to speak out in support of the lawsuit. With over half of the First Nations in Canada now being part of our court case, it's time for Canada to recognize the collective damages to our Nations caused by Canada's efforts for over 100 years to destroy our Nations' languages and cultures.

Canada has already recognized in public statements that it caused this damage; now it needs to stop denying it in the courts. Reconciliation demands that action be taken to restore what was lost.

For more information, please contact class counsel at bandclass@waddellphillips.ca.

Sincerely,

<hr/> <p>Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Representative Plaintiff</p>	<hr/> <p>Hiwus Warren Paull Shíshálh Nation Representative Plaintiff</p>
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