

## Official Court Notice



# The Indian residential schools settlement has been approved. The healing continues.

The Indian residential schools settlement has been approved by the Courts. Now, former students and their families must decide whether to stay in the settlement or remove themselves (opt out). This notice describes the settlement benefits and how to get them for those who stay in, and it explains what it means to opt out and how to opt out.

The settlement provides:

1) At least \$1.9 billion for “common experience” payments to former students who lived at one of the schools. Payments will be \$10,000 for the first school year (or part of a school year) plus \$3,000 for each school year (or part of a school year) after that.

2) A process to allow those who suffered sexual or serious physical abuses, or other abuses that caused serious psychological effects, to get between \$5,000 and \$275,000 each—or more money if they can show a loss of income.

3) Money for programmes for former students and their families for healing, truth, reconciliation, and commemoration of the residential schools and the abuses suffered: \$125 million for healing; \$60 million to research, document, and preserve the experiences of the survivors; and \$20 million for national and community commemorative projects.

You won't have to show you were abused to get a common experience payment, and you can get one even if you had an abuse lawsuit, and even if you won, settled, or lost.

Eligible former students who stay in the settlement can get

a payment from it. Family members who were not students will not get payments. However, former students—and family members—who stay in the settlement will never again be able to sue the Government of Canada, the Churches who joined in the settlement, or any other defendant in the class actions, over residential schools.

If you want to stay in the settlement and receive a payment from it, call 1-866-879-4913, or go to the website, and request that a claim form be sent to you as soon as it is ready.

If you opt out from the settlement you will not get any payment from it. However, former students or family members who opt out will keep any right they may have to sue over residential schools.

To opt out, you must complete, sign, and mail an Opt Out Form postmarked by **August 20, 2007**. You can get the form at the website below, or by calling 1-866-879-4913.

You don't have to hire a lawyer to opt out, but you may want to consult one before you do. If you stay in the settlement, you don't have to hire and pay a lawyer to get a common

experience payment. Of course, you may hire your own lawyer and pay that lawyer to represent you with an abuse claim.

Call 1-866-879-4913 with questions, or go to [www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca](http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca) to read a detailed notice or the settlement agreement. You may also write with questions to Residential Schools Settlement, Suite 3-505, 133 Weber St. North, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 3G9.

### Your Options Now

#### **Request a Claim Form**

If you are a former student and you want a payment from the settlement, and you never want to sue the Government of Canada or the Churches on your own, do not opt out; instead, call now to register and a claim form will be mailed to you after August 20, 2007. When it arrives, fill it out and return it.

#### **Remove Yourself (Opt Out)**

If you don't want a payment, or you think you can get more money than the settlement provides by suing the Government or the Churches on your own, then you must opt out by submitting an Opt Out Form postmarked by **August 20, 2007**.

**Do Nothing:** get no payment, give up rights to sue.

**1-866-879-4913**

**[www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca](http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca)**