



Dené National / Assembly of First Nations Office (NWT)

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Dené Nation provides support to communities for Indian Day Schools Survivors Claims; Calls on Federal Government for additional resources

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Yellowknife, Northwest Territories – February 12, 2020] – Last week, Dené Nation leadership including Dené National Chief Norman Yakeleya met with band managers to address the urgent need across the north for training on the claims process for the Indian Day Schools compensation.

There were 29 Indian Day Schools operating in the Northwest Territories with the last closing in 1969. Many students who attended these schools experienced trauma, and in some cases, severe abuse at the hands of individuals entrusted with their care. Despite this historic settlement, communities are still limited in their capacity to access the funding due to a lack of resources. The Class Action settlement and subsequent compensation is only the start to the healing of this highly sensitive and traumatic past for many Dené Nation members which was expressed during the meeting with band managers. Gowlings, the firm responsible for the class action settlement, was also on hand to provide information to participants.

“The process of healing will be long but compensation for former students and their families for these past harms is the first step in the right direction. Last week, we heard directly from the band managers they need help! Many communities are not equipped and are left empty handed to provide support to survivors and their families through the claims process which includes estate claims, financial literacy as well as trauma counselling and traditional medicines,” said Dené National Chief Norman Yakeleya. “This is being felt across the country and we are hearing similar concerns from Atlantic Indigenous leadership and support their efforts. There is an urgent need for more resources to assist survivors and families with the unprecedented number of claims. The Dené Nation will continue to provide support where possible to communities, band managers, survivors and their families but I urge key partners including the GNWT and federal government to continue to support this process to begin restitution for these past harms.”

About the Indian Day School Claims Process

Former students will have until the deadline of July 13, 2022 to file a claim. The Indian Day Schools settlement offers former students a range of compensation between \$10,000 and \$200,000. A \$200 million legacy fund will also be established for wellness and healing initiatives. All claims should be filed with the Claims Administrator.

Class Action (Gowlings): www.indiandayschools.com | toll-free number: 1-844-539-3815 toll-free or on Facebook @McLeanClassAction

Claims Administrator (Deloitte): www.indiandayschoolsclaims.com | toll-free number: 1-888-221-2898
indiandayschools@deloitte.ca. For additional support or inquiries on the Indian Day School compensation, please contact Ms. Kelsey Louison, Dené National Office at 867-874-4081.

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