

Are you a woman who is a survivor of an Indian Residential School, or a family member of a survivor of an Indian Residential School?

If so, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement provides the following programs:

For Survivors

- 1 Common Experience Payment, and
- 2 Independent Assessment Process.

For Survivors and their Family Members

- 3 Commemoration funding,
- 4 Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and
- 5 Healing Funding and Programs.

Indian Day Schools are not included in the settlement.



Planning for your safety if you receive CEP or IAP funds the following may assist you with safety planning

Financial:

- More than one signee on account so that the person requesting money needs to go thru more than one person to try to access funds
- Seek advice from trusted financial institutions
- Belong to part of a group that gives yay/nay in regards to spending money (up to a certain amount) so that the money is controlled in a positive manner
- Have money kept in separate accounts so that it isn't easily accessible, one for daily/weekly use and the other for longer term use (so can't be transferred by debit card, etc)
- Never take a large amount of money out at a time

Physical:

- Always be in public places
- Make sure that house/apt is secure
- If you have to be out at night make sure that you are with someone or in well lit public areas
- Always have someone know where you are and what time you are expecting to be back home

Emotional:

- Is not blood money, don't feel guilty about accepting this money from the government, they are just acknowledging their wrongs in regards to Residential Schools
- May cause you to remember what you went through as a child while you were in Residential school, make sure that you have the resources to help you to deal with this
- Have a person/organization to be your support when you feel overwhelmed by the money and the people that may come to you at this time



Battered Women's Support Services
Business 604-687-1867 Intake and
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www.bwss.org

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Indian Residential Schools

Empowering
women,
strengthening
communities

Options for Aboriginal Women Survivors



For Survivors

1 The Common Experience Payment • CEP

The CEP is a payment for attending residential schools. Survivors will receive \$10,000 for the first year of their attendance and \$3,000 for every year after that. In order to apply for a CEP, survivors must fill out a form that can be found at:

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/rqpi/index-eng.asp> or at your nearest Service Canada office.

You do not need a lawyer to receive this money and should not be charged any legal fees on this payment.

2 The Independent Assessment Process • IAP

Any survivors that experienced sexual abuse or severe physical abuse at a residential school can submit a claim under the IAP. This is an out-of-court process that provides compensation for proven abuse. It is recommended that survivors hire a lawyer for the IAP because the process has a legal component.

An IAP claim begins with a 20-page form in which the survivor must provide details of the abuse and how the abuse has impacted their life. If you have hired a lawyer, they will collect documents on your behalf and, with your permission, they may be able to resolve the claim through negotiations. The process may end with a hearing in which an adjudicator listens to the survivor's story and awards compensation for proven abuse.

For Survivors and their Family Members

3 Commemoration

Survivors and their families can access funding for their own projects commemorating their experiences at residential school. These projects can honour, educate, remember, memorialize or pay tribute to survivors, their families and communities. The TRC will be accepting proposals from survivors or their family members for these commemoration initiatives.

5 Healing

Indian Residential School systems impacted generations of aboriginal communities across Canada. Today, many survivors carry the pain and trauma of physical and sexual abuse they suffered as children. Some have never spoken of their experiences. Reliving traumatic childhood memories is an extremely difficult process and payments based upon this trauma can have negative impacts on the lives of survivors and their families. Aboriginal women's experiences are unique and women survivors may have complex feelings toward parenting including not feeling connected or bonded with their children. Aboriginal women may also be at higher risk of violence and sexual abuse.

The intergenerational impact of the Indian Residential School system can mean that children of residential school survivors are dealing with issues similar to those of the survivor. The impact can be passed down from parent to child.

4 The Truth and Reconciliation Commission • TRC

The TRC was established on June 1, 2008. The TRC will oversee a process to provide former students and anyone who has been affected by residential schools with an opportunity to share individual experiences in a safe place.

The TRC will create historical record of what happened at residential schools so that Canadians can hear the stories of survivors and become aware of this hidden episode in Canadian history.

For more information about the TRC, please visit: <http://www.trc-cvr.ca/indexen.html> or call **1-866-879-4913**

It is of the utmost importance that survivors beginning claims for compensation are supported, healthy and safe.

Health Canada has established an Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program available to survivors who have applied for a CEP or an IAP claim. This program can provide survivors with access to professional counselling, emotional support, cultural support and the costs of transportation to access their healing. This program is also available to family members of survivors that are participating in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commemoration activities.

A survivor in British Columbia can access this program by calling: 1-877-477-0775.



**BATTERED WOMEN'S
SUPPORT SERVICES**