



COLD LAKE FIRST NATIONS

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Via Email: Robert.winogron@gowlingwlg.com

Robert Winogron
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Suite 2600, 160 Elgin Street
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Dear Sir:

Re: Class Action Indian Day School Settlement

On behalf of the Council and members of Cold Lake First Nations, we write this letter to confirm our full support of the *McLean* class action settlement and the benefits that it offers our day school survivors.

The lead plaintiffs finally brought this dark chapter of our history to light. There were times when it seemed like these harms would never be recognized, at least not in our lifetime.

The harms experienced by our members as children have stayed with them as adults. They have had to live with these harms, without any recognition of their suffering, for much of their lives. Their suffering has affected their families for generations. Day schools also affected our people's ability to retain their language and culture, as Canada tried to eliminate both through "everyday education".

The IDS settlement recognizes the harms to language and culture, in addition to the harms to our survivors, and includes compensation for both. Our survivors voiced support for a process that would be easy for them to navigate and that would not cause more pain and suffering. It is important that Canada recognizes and repairs the harm it has caused without forcing us to go through it all over again. The IDS settlement ensures this kind of redress.

The Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have come to our community to hear our survivors speak about their stories and the intergenerational trauma the day schools have caused. We know that we are not alone – that there are thousands of other survivors who have been harmed by Canada. We stand with them in support of this action to bring a small degree of justice for our survivors in their lifetime. We urge the

Court to approve the IDS settlement agreement as soon as possible. Unfortunately, over the past month we lost four (4) Nation members who did not live long enough to see the IDS settlement.

We thank you for your consideration in this regard and look forward to the approval of the IDS settlement.

Sincerely,

COLD LAKE FIRST NATIONS



Chief Bernice Martial

cc. Members of Council
Community Members