



Crown-Indigenous Relations  
and Northern Affairs Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones  
et Affaires du Nord Canada

# Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Funding

## Special Interlocutor Presentation



Canada



## Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund

- Community-led, Survivor-centric and culturally appropriate initiatives seeking to locate, document, and memorialize burial sites associated with former Indian residential schools, and honour families' wishes to bring children's remains home.

- Inclusive and open to all Indigenous communities, organizations and associations, and not limited to communities or organizations who are identified as the lead community of a particular former residential school location.





# Types of Initiatives

# Funding Streams

 **Community-based**

 **Indigenous Representative Organization**

 **Lead Investigation**

**Stream 1**  
**Local research, engagement and knowledge gathering**

- Community engagement
- Interviews with Survivors and their families
- Archival research
- Advisory committee
- Cultural support

**Stream 2**  
**Memorialization & Commemoration**

- Commemorative event
- Ceremonies
- Memorial structure, healing garden, etc.
- Video documentation
- Commemorative booklet

**Stream 3**  
**Fieldwork Investigations**

- Preparing area for investigation
- Field surveys and mapping
- Archaeological investigation
- Site security
- On-site ceremonies





# Phased & Collaborative Approaches

## Phase 1: Immediate Action & Collaboration

- Initiate engagement with Survivors, families, Elders, leadership of all affected communities.
- Gather oral histories/information from Survivors, families, others to help locate burials
- Leverage existing records/Survivor testimonies (e.g., TRC) first
- Establish site-specific processes to enable inclusive decision-making

## Phase 2: IRS Investigation Activities

- Burial investigation – supporting research, securing technical expertise
- Initiate non-invasive fieldwork/analysis to confirm sites and their extent/complexity
- Initiate discussions to inform death investigation process – e.g., Office of Chief Coroner/Forensic Pathology Service

## Phase 3: Future Work/Funding

- Enhanced fieldwork/analysis – e.g., more invasive site disturbance/disinterment where/if requested
- Launch death investigations and forensic examination relating to recovered burials
- Support repatriation where/if requested
- Commemoration and Memorialization





# Funding Update

## Quick Stats

- 72 fieldwork lead initiatives addressing IRSSA & NLRSSA schools
- 86 community-based initiatives
- 12 Indigenous Representative Organizations initiatives



Province & Territory	# of Eligible Schools*	% of Eligible Schools	Approved Proposal Amount (\$)	Funding Agreements in Place	% of Approved Funding
 Yukon	6	4%	\$2,409,912	2	1%
 Nunavut	14	10%	\$608,096	1	0.002%
 Northwest Territories	14	10%	\$6,277,817	6	3%
 Alberta	25	17%	\$36,001,282	26	16%
 British Columbia	18	13%	\$45,176,452	25	20%
 Saskatchewan	20	14%	\$30,919,563	20	14%
 Manitoba	15	10%	\$28,783,787	27	13%
 Québec	12	8%	\$3,607,133	6	2%
 Atlantic	6	4%	\$1,672,801	3	1%
 Ontario	18	12%	\$60,832,245	29	27%



# Initiatives in the North



## Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)

- Working on research, commemoration related to all NWT residential schools
- Capacity building across communities
- Video documenting archival work, interviews and community engagement sessions



## Yukon Working Group

- Coordinating across all 14 First Nations of Yukon
- Researching, investigating and commemorating all six (6) former Yukon residential schools.
- Collaborating w/ all impacted communities in and outside Yukon



## Deninu K'ue First Nation

GGLO

- Conducting a fieldwork investigation of the former Fort Resolution (St. Joseph's) Residential School.
- Organizing ceremonial gatherings for survivors and families
- Developing cultural and data ownership protocols



## Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

- Researching/knowledge gathering for Inuit impacted by 14 former residential schools in Nunavut
- Coordinating w/ Inuit in Nunavut to determine further scope of the initiative



**Slide 6**

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To be filled in when Erik gets back

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## Indian Residential Schools Documents Advisory Committee

- The IRS Documents Advisory Committee:
  - will be lead by independent Chairperson Cadmus Delorme, from Cowessess First Nation and is comprised of federal, Survivor, Indigenous community and expert representatives;
  - will provide guidance on the process to identify IRS and IRSSA documents;
  - provide recommendations on broad approaches to different types of documents and,
  - provide recommendations to inform options for further sharing of documents with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

- An initial scoping exercise of 13 departments has identified approximately 23 million documents potentially relevant documents. Most of these documents are duplicates or are copies of documents already shared with the TRC or NCTR.

- The Committee's next steps include a second scoping exercise for additional federal departments and analysis of challenges of potential barriers to sharing additional documents.







## National Advisory Committee (NAC)

- The National Advisory Committee on Missing Children and Unmarked Burials was established as a source of independent and trusted technical advice for communities in their efforts to locate, identify, honour, and memorialize children who died while in the care of residential schools.
- The NAC is guided by a Circle of Survivors that supports the Committee through the selection of members, establishing priorities for community engagements, providing advice on working with Survivors and ensuring the work of the Committee is mindful of the experience and needs of Survivors, and the laws and protocols of Indigenous Peoples.
- The National Advisory Committee is co-administered by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and CIRNAC, and is chaired by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation





# Next

- Canada to connect with communities, organizations and Survivors to share information on the resources available to support initiatives related to residential schools.

# Steps

- Canada to engage and support communities, organizations and survivors on how they would like to initiate engagement and collaboration with Survivors, families, Elders, and leadership of all affected communities.





# Thank you for your time

## ▪ Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund contacts

- Catherine Cook, Senior Program Manager, Programs Team, Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund: [catharine.cook@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:catharine.cook@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)
- General Inquiry Email (monitored daily): [enfants\\_disparus-missing\\_children@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:enfants_disparus-missing_children@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

## National Advisory Committee (NAC):

- Official Website: <https://nac-cnn.ca>

