



Aboriginal Healing Foundation

75 Albert Street, Suite 801
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E7
Telephone: (613) 237-4441
Toll-free: (888) 725-8886
Facsimile: (613) 237-4442

Fondation autochtone de guérison

75, rue Albert, pièce 801
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 5E7
Téléphone: (613) 237-4441
Sans frais: (888) 725-8886
Bélinographe: (613) 237-4442

programs@ahf.ca
<http://www.ahf.ca>

*Our mission is to encourage
and support Aboriginal people in
building and reinforcing sustainable
healing processes that address the
legacy of physical and sexual abuse
in the residential schools, including
intergenerational impacts.*

*Notre mission est d'encourager
et d'appuyer les autochtones afin de
bâtir et de renforcer les processus
de guérison souhaitables qui
s'attaquent aux séquelles
des abus physiques et sexuels
dans le système de pensionnats,
ou compris aux séauelles*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITS \$125 MILLION TO ABORIGINAL HEALING FOUNDATION IN TODAY'S RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL COMPENSATION PACKAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

(OTTAWA, Ontario–November 23, 2005) The Aboriginal Healing Foundation's Board of Directors today acknowledged the Government of Canada's 5-year commitment of \$125 million to sustaining the critical work of healing the legacy of abuse suffered in Canada's Indian Residential School System.

Aboriginal Healing Foundation President Georges Erasmus said that “today’s commitment is an important step toward the goal of addressing fully and meaningfully the effects of historic trauma suffered by Aboriginal children in the residential schools.”

The Government's compensation deal is subject to the approval of the provincial courts. It is expected that this additional funding, if approved, would be available to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation in 2007.

As a result of this announcement, the Foundation’s Board of Directors will meet to decide upon a course of action. “As soon as our plan is in order, we will share it. We know many have been waiting for this opportunity for a long time. And so we ask for understanding and thank everyone for their patience,” Mr. Erasmus added.

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation funds community-based healing initiatives which address the legacy of physical and sexual abuse at residential schools, including intergenerational impacts. The AHF has received over 1.3 billion dollars in funding requests and has committed \$378 million to 1,346 community-based grants.

According to a soon-to-be published AHF research report, \$600 million over the next 30 years would be required to address fully the effects of abuse in the residential school system.

Details concerning the AHF’s plans will be posted at www.ahf.ca.

Healing is central to Aboriginal people's ability to address other social issues of pressing concern; reconciliation is critical to our collective ability to move to a better relationship.

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For more information, please contact Communications:
(613) 237-4441, toll-free 1-888-725-8886 (Extension 237).