

January 11, 2008

Inuit included
The Ottawa Citizen

Re: We are family, Jan. 8.

A recent Ottawa Citizen editorial stated that the Inuit were exempt from Canada's residential school system. This is incorrect.

Inuit children were indeed part of the Indian Residential School System, which comprised not only boarding schools, but federal hostels including the tent camp at Coppermine. Thirteen Nunavut residential schools are covered in the Indian residential school settlement agreement.

Many Inuit children attended a residential school in the south. In other words, Inuit children were, like First Nations and Métis children, forcibly removed from their families and put into institutions across Canada designed to assimilate them into Canadian society.

Sincerely,

Mike DeGagné,
Executive Director,
The Aboriginal Healing Foundation.