



Aboriginal Healing Foundation

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Fondation autochtone de guérison

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*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,
y compris aux séquelles
intergénérationnelles.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation Welcomes Government's Announcement of Additional Funding

(OTTAWA, Ontario – February 23, 2005) The Aboriginal Healing Foundation today welcomed the Government of Canada's announcement of 40 million dollars for healing initiatives related to residential schools.

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation has provided 1,346 grants to community-based healing projects which address the intergenerational legacy of physical and sexual abuse suffered by Aboriginal children in Canada's Indian Residential School System.

"Because we have already committed our original \$350 million fund, plus the interest generated, to communities," AHF Executive Director, Mike DeGagné, said, "this additional funding is of critical importance. Although we will be unable to call for new funding proposals or extend each of the 285 existing projects at this time – a painful but unavoidable reality – we are hopeful that this announcement signals the Government's commitment to longer-term support of healing and reconciliation."

The additional funds will allow the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to extend some projects. Unfortunately, \$40 million is not enough to support all of the worthwhile and courageous work currently supported by the Foundation. "Renewing all 285 active projects would require \$114 million," Mr. DeGagné added.

"We commend the Government for this much-needed allocation of resources. And our message continues to be that the work of healing the legacy of a century and-a-half of residential schooling abuses will require long-term commitment and resources."

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation is committed to allocating these additional funds as quickly and effectively as possible. Currently-active projects funded by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation will be notified of their status. The AHF has committed to announcing funded project extensions within one month.

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For more information, please contact the Aboriginal Healing Foundation
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