

Federal Court



Cour fédérale

Date: 20210924

Docket: T-1542-12

Citation: 2021 FC 988

Vancouver, British Columbia, September 24, 2021

PRESENT: The Honourable Madam Justice McDonald

BETWEEN:

**CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON, ON HIS
OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF ALL
THE MEMBERS OF THE TK'EMLÚPS TE
SECWÉPEMC INDIAN BAND AND THE
TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC INDIAN
BAND, CHIEF GARRY FESCHUK, ON HIS
OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF ALL
MEMBERS OF THE SECHELT INDIAN
BAND AND THE SECHELT INDIAN BAND,
VIOLET CATHERINE GOTTFRIEDSON,
DOREEN LOUISE SEYMOUR, CHARLOTTE
ANNE VICTORINE GILBERT, VICTOR
FRASER, DIENA MARIE JULES, AMANDA
DEANNE BIG SORREL HORSE, DARLENE
MATILDA BULPIT, FREDERICK JOHNSON,
ABIGAIL MARGARET AUGUST, SHELLY
NADINE HOEHNE,
DAPHNE PAUL,
AARON JOE AND RITA POULSEN**

Plaintiffs

and

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF
CANADA**

Defendant

ORDER IN T-1542-12

THIS COURT ORDERS that:

1. The Settlement Agreement dated June 4, 2021 and attached as Schedule “A” is fair and reasonable and in the best interests of the Survivor and Descendant Classes, and is hereby approved pursuant to Rule 334.29(1) of the *Federal Courts Rules*, SOR/98-106, and shall be implemented in accordance with its terms;
2. The Settlement Agreement, is binding on all Canada and all Survivor Class Members and Descendant Class Members, including those persons who are minors or are mentally incapable, and any claims brought on behalf of the estates of Survivor and Descendant Class Members;
3. The Survivor Class and Descendant Class Claims set out in the First Re-Amended Statement of Claim, filed June 26, 2015, are dismissed and the following releases and related Orders are made and shall be interpreted as ensuring the conclusion of all Survivor and Descendant Class claims, in accordance with sections 42.01 and 43.01 of the Settlement Agreement as follows:
 - a. each Survivor Class Member or, if deceased, their estate (hereinafter “Survivor Releasor”), has fully, finally and forever released Canada, her servants, agents, officers and employees, from any and all actions, causes of action, common law, Quebec civil law and statutory liabilities, contracts, claims, and demands of every nature or kind available, asserted for the Survivor Class in the First Re-Amended Statement of Claim filed June 26, 2015, in the Action or that could have been

asserted by any of the Survivor Releasors as individuals in any civil action, whether known or unknown, including for damages, contribution, indemnity, costs, expenses, and interest which any such Survivor Releasor ever had, now has, or may hereafter have due to their attendance as a Day Scholar at any Indian Residential School at any time;

- b. each Descendant Class Member or, if deceased, their estate (hereinafter “Descendant Releasor”), has fully, finally and forever released Canada, her servants, agents, officers and employees, from any and all actions, causes of action, common law, Quebec civil law and statutory liabilities, contracts, claims, and demands of every nature or kind available, asserted for the Descendant Class in the First Re-Amended Statement of Claim filed June 26, 2015, in the Action or that could have been asserted by any of the Descendant Releasors as individuals in any civil action, whether known or unknown, including for damages, contribution, indemnity, costs, expenses, and interest which any such Descendant Releasor ever had, now has, or may hereafter have due to their respective parents’ attendance as a Day Scholar at any Indian Residential School at any time;
- c. all causes of actions/claims asserted by, and requests for pecuniary, declaratory or other relief with respect to the Survivor Class Members and Descendant Class Members in the First Re-Amended Statement of Claim filed June 26, 2015, are dismissed on consent of the Parties without determination on their merits, and will not be adjudicated as part of the determination of the Band Class claims;

- d. Canada may rely on the above-noted releases as a defence to any lawsuit that purports to seek compensation from Canada for the claims of the Survivor Class and Descendant Class as set out in the First Re-Amended Statement of Claim;
- e. for additional certainty, however, the above releases and this Approval Order will not be interpreted as if they release, bar or remove any causes of action or claims that Band Class Members may have in law as distinct legal entities or as entities with standing and authority to advance legal claims for the violation of collective rights of their respective Aboriginal peoples, including to the extent such causes of action, claims and/or breaches of rights or duties owed to the Band Class are alleged in the First Re-Amended Statement of Claim filed June 26, 2015, even if those causes of action, claims and/or breaches of rights or duties are based on alleged conduct towards Survivor Class Members or Descendant Class Members set out elsewhere in either of those documents;
- f. each Survivor Releasor and Descendant Releasor is deemed to agree that, if they make any claim or demand or take any action or proceeding against another person, persons, or entity in which any claim could arise against Canada for damages or contribution or indemnity and/or other relief over, whether by statute, common law, or Quebec civil law, in relation to allegations and matters set out in the Action, including any claim against provinces or territories or other legal entities or groups, including but not limited to religious or other institutions that were in any way involved with Indian Residential Schools, the Survivor Releasor or Descendant Releasor will expressly limit their claim so as to exclude any portion of Canada's responsibility;

8. The Claims Administrator shall facilitate the claims administration process, and report to the Court and the Parties in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.
9. No person may bring any action or take any proceeding against the Claims Administrator or any of its employees, agents, partners, associates, representatives, successors or assigns for any matter in any way relating to the Settlement Agreement, the implementation of this Order or the administration of the Settlement Agreement and this Order, except with leave of this Court.
10. Prior to the Implementation Date, the Parties will move for approval of the form and content of the Claim Form and Estate Claim Form.
11. Prior to the Implementation Date, the Parties will identify and propose an Independent Reviewer or Independent Reviewers for Court appointment.
12. Class Counsel shall report to the Court on the administration of the Settlement Agreement. The first report will be due six (6) months after the Implementation Date and no less frequently than every six (6) months thereafter, subject to the Court requiring earlier reports, and subject to Class Counsel's overriding obligation to report as soon as reasonable on any matter which has materially impacted the implementation of the terms of the Settlement Agreement.
13. The Certification Order of Justice Harrington, dated June 18, 2015, will be amended as requested.

14. The Plaintiffs are granted leave to amend the First Re-Amended Statement of Claim in the form attached hereto.

15. There will be no costs of this motion.

“Ann Marie McDonald”

Judge

SCHEDULE G

ORDER

THIS COURT ORDERS that:

1. The above captioned proceeding is certified as a class proceeding with the following conditions:

a. The Class shall be defined as:

The Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Indian Band and the Sechelt Indian Band and any other Indian Band(s) which:

- (i) has or had some members who are or were members who were Survivors, or in whose community a Residential School is located; and
- (ii) is specifically added to this claim with one or more specifically Identified Residential Schools.

b. The Class's Representative Plaintiffs shall be:

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Indian Band; and
Sechelt Indian Band.

c. The nature of the claims of the Class are:

Breaches of fiduciary and constitutionally mandated duties, breach of Aboriginal Rights, breaches of International Conventions and/or Covenants, and breaches of international law committed by or on behalf of Canada for which Canada is liable.

- d. The relief claimed by the Class is as follows:
- i. a Declaration that the Sechelt Indian Band and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Indian Band, and all members of the Class, have Aboriginal Rights to speak their traditional languages, to engage in their traditional customs and religious practices;
 - ii. a Declaration that Canada owed and was in breach of the fiduciary, constitutionally-mandated, statutory and common law duties, as well as breaches of International Conventions and Covenants, and breaches of international law, to the Class members in relation to the purpose, establishment, funding, operation, supervision, control, maintenance, obligatory attendance of Survivors at, and support of, the SIRS and the KIRS and other Identified Residential Schools;
 - iii. a Declaration that the Residential Schools Policy and the KIRS, the SIRS and Identified Residential Schools caused Cultural, Linguistic and Social Damage and irreparable harm to the Class;
 - iv. a Declaration that Canada was or is in breach of the Class members' linguistic and cultural rights (Aboriginal Rights or otherwise), as well as breaches of International Conventions and Covenants, and breaches of international law, as a consequence of its establishment, funding, operation, supervision, control and maintenance, and obligatory attendance of Survivors at and support of the Residential Schools Policy, and the Identified Residential Schools;

- v. a Declaration that Canada is liable to the Class members for the damages caused by its breach of fiduciary and constitutionally mandated duties and Aboriginal Rights, as well as breaches of International Conventions and Covenants, and breaches of international law, in relation to the purpose, establishment, funding, operation, supervision, control and maintenance, and obligatory attendance of Survivors at and support of the Identified Residential Schools;
 - vi. non-pecuniary and pecuniary damages and special damages for breach of fiduciary and constitutionally mandated duties and Aboriginal Rights, as well as breaches of International Conventions and Covenants, and breaches of international law, including amounts to cover the ongoing cost of care and development of wellness plans for members of the bands in the Class, as well as the costs of restoring, protecting and preserving the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Class for which Canada is liable;
 - vii. The construction and maintenance of healing and education centres in the Class communities and such further and other centres or operations as may mitigate the losses suffered and that this Honourable Court may find to be appropriate and just;
 - viii. exemplary and punitive damages for which Canada is liable; and
 - ix. pre-judgment and post-judgment interest and costs.
- e. The common questions of law or fact are:

- a. Through the purpose, operation or management of any of the Residential Schools during the Class Period, did the Defendant breach a fiduciary duty owed to the Class not to destroy their language and culture?
- b. Through the purpose, operation or management of any of the Residential Schools during the Class Period, did the Defendant breach the cultural and/or linguistic rights, be they Aboriginal Rights or otherwise, of the Class?
- c. If the answer to any of (a)-(b) above is yes, can the Court make an aggregate assessment of the damages suffered by the Class as part of the common issues trial?
- d. If the answer to any of (a)-(b) above is yes, was the Defendant guilty of conduct that justifies an award of punitive damages; and
- e. If the answer to (d) above is yes, what amount of punitive damages ought to be awarded?
- f. The following definitions apply to this Order:
 - a. “Aboriginal(s)”, “Aboriginal Person(s)” or “Aboriginal Child(ren)” means a person or persons whose rights are recognized and affirmed by the *Constitution Act, 1982*, s. 35;
 - b. “Aboriginal Right(s)” means any or all of the Aboriginal and treaty rights recognized and affirmed by the *Constitution Act, 1982*, s. 35;

- c. “Agreement” means the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement dated May 10, 2006, entered into by Canada to settle claims relating to Residential Schools as approved in the orders granted in various jurisdictions across Canada;
- d. “Canada” means the Defendant, Her Majesty the Queen;
- e. “Class Period” means 1920 to 1997;
- f. “Cultural, Linguistic and Social Damage” means the damage or harm caused by the creation and implementation of Residential Schools and Residential Schools Policy to the educational, governmental, economic, cultural, linguistic, spiritual and social customs, practices and way of life, traditional governance structures, as well as to the community and individual security and wellbeing, of Aboriginal Persons;
- g. “Identified Residential School(s)” means the KIRS or the SIRS or any other Residential School specifically identified as a member of the Band Class;
- h. “KIRS” means the Kamloops Indian Residential School;
- i. “Residential Schools” means all Indian Residential Schools recognized under the Agreement and listed in Schedule “A” appended to this Order which Schedule may be amended from time to time by Order of this Court;
- j. “Residential Schools Policy” means the policy of Canada with respect to the implementation of Indian Residential Schools;

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- k. “Survivors” means all Aboriginal persons who attended as a student or for educational purposes for any period at a Residential School, during the Class Period, excluding, for any individual Survivor, such periods of time for which that Survivor received compensation by way of the Common Experience Payment under the Agreement. For greater clarity, Survivors are all those who were members of the formerly certified Survivor Class in this proceeding, whose claims were settled on terms set out in the Settlement Agreement signed on [DATE], and approved by the Federal Court on [DATE]; and
- l. “SIRS” means the Sechelt Indian Residential School.
- g. Members of the Class are the representative plaintiff Indian Bands as well as those Indian Bands that opted in by the opt-in deadline previously set by this Court.
- h. Either party may apply to this Court to amend the list of Residential Schools set out in Schedule “A” hereto, for the purpose of this proceeding.

Judge