

ÎLE-À-LA-CROSSE SCHOOL CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR CERTIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT APPROVAL

If you or one of your family members attended the Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding/Mission School, please read this information carefully because it affects your legal rights.

Pour lire cet avis en français, veuillez cliquer [ici](#) en ligne ou vous pouvez envoyer un courriel à info@ILEXSettlement.ca ou appeler 1-833-700-7458.

Chi-amistawyin ooma weestamakaywin ishi en Michif, madoon makouna [oota](#) daw li computer keema kaw-kee-ichaha mashinahikan ishi info@ILEXSettlement.ca keema shaywaypichikay 1-833-700-7458.

kahayamihtâyan ôma wihtamâkewin nehiyawewinihk, mahti mâkona [ôta](#) mahtâwinohk ahpô kâkîhitisahamowâw mahtâwinohk info@ILEXSettlement.ca ahpô sewîpita 1-833-700-7458.

Ku Denesųłıne yatı ʔa bek'eyawustı nıdhen de ʔeją [Bek'jııı](#) tsatsane benı hııı k'e huto email info@ILEXSettlement.ca huto ʔeją ts'ęn dıłtsı 1-833-700-7458.

This is a proposed class action lawsuit on behalf of former students of the Île-à-la-Crosse School and their families. This lawsuit alleges that the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan are legally responsible for harms that students and their family members experienced because of attending the Île-à-la-Crosse School.

There are now settlement agreements in the lawsuit, with both Canada and Saskatchewan. These settlements include:

- paying compensation to eligible Survivors (or their estates or heirs) for cultural harms and abuses;
- paying compensation to eligible Survivors (or their estates or heirs) for serious physical and sexual abuse endured at the School; and
- providing funding to support healing and commemoration initiatives for Survivors, their families, and communities.

Both settlements are just proposals unless a judge approves them. On **March 30-31, 2026**, the Court of King's Bench of Saskatchewan will hold a hearing in Saskatoon where a judge will consider whether to approve one or both settlements.

To learn more, read this notice or visit this website: <http://ilexsettlement.ca/>. You can also call or email the class action lawyers using the contact information on the last page of this notice.

There's also a shorter version of this notice that's quicker to read. You can see it online [here](#) or you can email info@ILEXSettlement.ca or call 1-833-700-7458 to get a copy.

WHAT THIS NOTICE CONTAINS

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1. WHAT'S A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT?

A class action is a type of lawsuit where a small group of people sues on behalf of a larger group of people who have similar legal claims, instead of each person suing on their own. Class actions can be a way to make it easier for a group of people to get compensation for harms or abuses committed against them all together, because suing on their own would be difficult due to expense, trauma, or other obstacles.

The larger group of people is called the "Class". If you fit into the description of the Class, you're automatically included in a class action lawsuit unless you decide to "opt out" (which means to exclude yourself).

The smaller group of people, who represent the Class's legal interests, are called the plaintiffs.

2. WHAT'S THIS LAWSUIT ABOUT?

The Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding School (also sometimes called the Île-à-la-Crosse Mission School, the Île-à-la-Crosse residential school, or just the "Île-à-la-Crosse School") operated from around 1860 to 1975-76. It was one of the first boarding schools in Canada established for the education of Indigenous children. The students were primarily Métis, as well as First Nations children from Northern Saskatchewan.

This proposed class action lawsuit is called *Gardiner v The Attorney General of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan* (Court File Number KBG 936 of 2025). There was another proposed class action lawsuit about the Île-à-la-Crosse School (*Aubichon v The Attorney General of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan*), but the two actions have now been combined and there's only one lawsuit moving forward.

The plaintiffs in this lawsuit are six Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors. They argue that the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan contributed to the funding, oversight, management, and control of the Île-à-la-Crosse School. They argue that Canada and Saskatchewan breached their duties to care for the students who attended the School, and failed to protect them from harm, and so the Governments should pay compensation to the Survivors. These allegations have not been proven in court.

Both Canada and Saskatchewan have acknowledged that Survivors of the Île-à-la-Crosse School suffered harms.

3. WHO'S INCLUDED IN THE LAWSUIT?

There are two groups, or "Classes", of people involved in this lawsuit:

Survivor Class

Every person who was alive on December 9, 2003, and who attended as a student or for educational purposes at the Île-à-la-Crosse School during the class period, including their estates, heirs, executors, administrators, personal representatives and/or trustees. This includes day students/“day schoolers”.

Family Class

All persons who are a spouse, parent, child, grandchild, or sibling of a Survivor Class Member.

This lawsuit is limited to things that happened at, or because of, the Île-à-la-Crosse School and residence that was closed around 1975-76. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate and Grey Nuns (of the Catholic Church) were involved with the operation of this School and residence.

This lawsuit doesn't include anything that happened at the Rossignol School that is run by the Île-à-la-Crosse School Board. The Rossignol School started up in 1975-76 without the involvement of the Catholic Church and hasn't ever had a residence.

4. WHAT'S IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT WITH CANADA?

Canada has agreed to pay \$27.335 million for “Experience Payments”, to reflect that Survivors all experienced harmful effects from attending the School. Each Survivor will get an Experience Payment of either:

- up to \$10,000 for a Survivor who attended the School for less than five school years; or
- up to \$15,000 for a Survivor who attended the School for five or more school years.

This includes partial school years, no matter how short the part was.

For Survivors who were alive on December 9, 2003, but have died since then, the compensation will go to their estate (to be distributed by their estate executor(s), administrator(s), *etc.*). If the Survivor died without a will, and there was never an estate administrator appointed, then the compensation will go to the Survivor's living heirs, such as their spouse, or their children if they didn't have a spouse when they died, if the heirs can prove the claim.

If \$27.335 million isn't enough to pay out all the Experience Payments, each Experience Payment will be reduced proportionately, meaning that everybody's compensation will be reduced by the same percentage. An expert has estimated that there were approximately 2,060 Survivors alive on December 9, 2003, so it's unlikely that there will be any reduction in Experience Payments.

If there's money left over after all the Experience Payments have been paid out, the rest of the \$27.335 million will go to the Legacy Fund.

The Legacy Fund is a pool of money that will be used to fund “Legacy Projects” for the benefit of Survivors, their families and communities. Legacy Projects are projects that will promote healing, wellness, reconciliation, education, commemoration, and/or Indigenous language (Michif, as well as Cree and Dene) preservation.

Canada will pay \$10 million into the Legacy Fund, plus any of the money left over from the Experience Payments fund. The Legacy Fund will be governed and administered by Survivors, through a not-for-profit corporation, with a fair, transparent process for funding Legacy Projects.

The settlement with Canada also includes:

- up to \$5 million for the costs of settlement administration (this includes things like processing the claim applications, answering people's questions, calculating compensation, and sending out the money)

- and \$5 million for funding any ongoing litigation work against Saskatchewan (depending on if the settlement with Saskatchewan is approved by the judge and the lawsuit comes to an end).

You can read a full copy of the Settlement Agreement with Canada online [here](#) or you can email info@ILEXSettlement.ca or call 1-833-700-7458 to get a copy.

5. WHAT'S IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT WITH SASKATCHEWAN?

Saskatchewan has agreed to pay \$40.2 million to settle the lawsuit against it. The settlement money from Saskatchewan is intended to resolve the following “four pillars” of the Class Members’ claims: common experience; individual abuse; legacy healing, wellness, education, language, culture and commemoration; and legal fees and settlement administration costs. The plaintiffs propose that the \$40.2 million will be split up as follows::

- first, to pay compensation to students who experienced serious physical abuse or sexual abuse at the Île-à-la-Crosse School;
- second, to top up Experience Payments only for residential students/Survivors who stayed overnight in the residence; and
- to pay legal fees and settlement administration costs.

The compensation for serious physical abuse or sexual abuse claims will be paid out at four different levels, ranging from \$50,000 to \$235,000, depending on how severe the abuse was, and how severe its effects have been. Just like the settlement with Canada, compensation for Survivors who died after December 9, 2003, will go to the Survivor’s estate or heirs, if they can prove a claim.

The amount of the Experience Payment top-up will depend on how much is paid out in serious physical abuse or sexual abuse claims. The top-up payment will only be for residential students (or their estates or heirs) to reflect the additional harms they endured at the Île-à-la-Crosse School residence, and will be paid proportionately based on the number of years each student attended the School.

It’s estimated that \$1 million of the settlement fund will be needed for the costs of administering this settlement, on top of the administration of the settlement with Canada. If the settlement with Saskatchewan is approved but the settlement with Canada isn’t approved, the administration costs will be higher.

You can read a full copy of the Settlement Agreement with Saskatchewan online [here](#) or you can email info@ILEXSettlement.ca or call 1-833-700-7458 to get a copy.

6. HOW WOULD I GET COMPENSATION IF ONE OR BOTH OF THE SETTLEMENTS ARE APPROVED?

It’s important to remember that the judge must approve one or both of the settlements before any of the compensation described in this notice is available. No claims process has started yet.

It’s also important to remember that the settlements are separate and independent of each other. The judge could approve neither, one, or both.

If the judge approves one or both settlements, the people who can get compensation (Survivors, their estate representatives, or their heirs) will submit a claim form. There will be a deadline to claim for an Experience Payment, and a deadline to claim for abuse compensation.

The claim form isn't ready yet, but it will be as simple and straightforward as possible. The lawyers for both sides and the Claims Administrator (the company that's going to be reviewing the applications) all recognize the serious nature of the harm that students endured at the Île-à-la-Crosse School. If one or both settlements are approved by the judge, they will be implemented in a way that respects Survivors' trauma and minimizes the hardship of submitting a claim. There will be legal and mental health supports available throughout the claims process.

For more information about how the claims process will work, you can read the Settlement Agreements online [here](#).

7. WILL I HAVE TO PAY LEGAL FEES?

Survivor Class Members and Family Class Members won't have to pay any legal fees out-of-pocket. The claims process is designed so that you don't need a lawyer to participate.

The plaintiffs' lawyers have been working for reduced fees, or no fees, for the years since the lawsuit was started, based on an agreement that they would receive a "contingency fee", meaning a percentage of any financial success in the lawsuit for the Survivors. This is how most class action lawsuits work in Canada.

If the settlements are approved, the plaintiffs' lawyers will also ask the judge to approve their legal fees request:

- \$8.5 million, plus tax, to be paid by Canada separately from the Canada settlement money; and
- \$8.5 million, all-inclusive, to be paid by Saskatchewan from the Saskatchewan settlement money.

Any legal fees for the plaintiffs' lawyers that come from Canada won't come out of the Experience Payments or Legacy Fund. There will be no deductions at all from the Experience Payments or Legacy Fund. The lawyers negotiated legal fees separately, after the Settlement Agreement was already finalized, and Canada will pay whatever legal fees are approved by the judge directly to the plaintiffs' lawyers.

The settlement with Saskatchewan is different: it's "all-inclusive", meaning that any legal fees approved by the judge that come from Saskatchewan will come out of the \$40.2 million settlement fund. There will be no deductions from the individual abuse claim compensation or Experience Payment top-ups (meaning, if you're awarded \$50,000, you'll get \$50,000), but the money for the legal fees will come off the top of the settlement fund before the individual awards are paid out.

The plaintiffs' lawyers will also be asking the judge to approve honoraria awards in the amount of \$10,000, to be paid to each of the plaintiffs and to some members of the Île-à-la-Crosse Steering Committee, in recognition of their years of hard work on this case. The money for the honoraria awards was also negotiated with Canada separately, and will be paid separately from the settlement money, if the judge approves them.

8. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

On **March 30 and 31, 2026**, there will be a hearing at the Court of King's Bench in Saskatoon, where the judge will decide whether to approve one or both of the proposed settlements. The test for approving a settlement is whether it is fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the class. The judge might approve one settlement, both settlements, or neither settlement. The judge can't change the proposed settlements; she can only decide whether to approve or not.

If the judge approves a settlement with only one Government, it will end the lawsuit against that Government. If the judge approves both settlements, it will end the whole lawsuit.

The judge will also decide whether to approve the legal fees requested by the plaintiffs' lawyers, and the honoraria awards requested by the plaintiffs' lawyers (and whether they're fair and reasonable). The judge can change the amount of fees, so she might approve the request, reduce the request, or not approve the request at all. For the honoraria awards, she might approve the requests, reduce the requests, decide that only some of the people should receive honoraria awards, or not approve any requests at all.

9. WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS AND OPTIONS?

1. Do nothing

If you agree with the proposed settlements, the legal fees requested by the plaintiffs' lawyers, and the honoraria award requests, you don't have to do anything now. If the judge approves one or both settlements, you'll get more information about what happens next and how to apply for compensation.

If you don't want to be part of the lawsuit at all (in other words, you want to "opt out" and be excluded, so that you have the right to start your own individual lawsuit), there will be time to do that after the approval process. You don't need to do anything right now if you plan to opt out.

2. Object to one or both settlements or the legal fees request

If you don't agree with either the proposed settlement with Canada or with Saskatchewan, the amount of legal fees requested by the plaintiffs' lawyers, or the honoraria requests, and you don't want the judge to grant her approval, you can submit an objection to let her know that you object. The judge will read all the objections and consider them as part of her decision.

To submit an objection, you have to fill out an Objection Form and send it to the Claims Administrator by March 29, 2026. The Objection Form and instructions are online [here](#) or you can email info@ILEXSettlement.ca or call 1-833-700-7458 to get a copy.

3. Watch or participate in the hearing

If you want to watch the settlement approval hearing, you can watch in person at the courthouse at 520 Spadina Cres E, Saskatoon, on **March 30-31, 2026, starting at 10 a.m.** There will also be a link to watch online.

Survivors or Family Class members who want to speak directly to the judge about these settlements, the plaintiffs' lawyers' legal fees request, or the honoraria requests, can also come to court in person or online. You're free to share however you feel about the proposed settlements, the legal fees request, and/or the honoraria requests.

To get the link to watch or to speak online, check <http://ilexsettlement.ca/> or email info@ILEXSettlement.ca or call 1-833-700-7458 after March 24, 2026.

11. HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about the proposed settlements, visit <http://ilexsettlement.ca/> or email info@ILEXSettlement.ca or call 1-833-700-7458.

If you'd like to speak with a lawyer, the plaintiffs' lawyers can also give you more information. There's no cost for speaking with them about the class action or the proposed settlements.

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