

ÎLE-À-LA-CROSSE SCHOOL CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

NOTICE OF 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.

tahayamihâyân ôma wihtamâkewin esi paskwâwi nehiyawewin, mahti mâkona [ôta](#), ahpô masin ahike isi info@ILEXSettlement.ca ahpô sewîpita 1-833-700-7458.

Kîspin kinohtî ayamihtân ôma kâ Nêhiyawisinahikâtîk, mâmahtâwâpacihcikanihk, mâkonâ awa l' ci batôñ [ôta](#) ahpô cî itisaha anima email ôta info@ILEXsettlement.ca ahpô cî fônahikî ôta 1-833-700-7458.

Dene detl'is ʔa bek'eyanełtı horıłıʔh dé, bek'ıłıñ [ʔeja](#), huto ʔeja ts'ən email hawıłé info@ILEXSettlement.ca nanıłé ʔeja ts'ən dułtsı 1-833-700-7458.

Final settlements in the class action lawsuit on behalf of former students of the Île-à-la-Crosse School and their families have been approved.

A judge certified the class action and approved the Settlement Agreements with Canada and Saskatchewan on April 29, 2026. The settlements involve compensation from the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan for Survivors, as well as other benefits. The Settlement Agreements are now binding on all Survivor Class and Family Class Members, unless they opt out by August 30, 2026. These settlements include:

- “Experience Payments”, which are compensation to eligible Survivors (or their estates or heirs) for cultural harms;
- “Abuse Compensation”, which is compensation to eligible Survivors (or their estates or heirs) for serious physical abuse and/or sexual abuse endured at the School; and
- the “Legacy Fund”, which will provide funding to support heritage, language, healing and commemoration initiatives for Survivors, their families, and communities.

To learn more, read this notice or visit this website: www.ILEXSettlement.ca. You can also call or email the class action lawyers (who are called “Class Counsel”) 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 read it online [here](#) or email info@ILEXSettlement.ca or call 1-833-700-7458 for a paper 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. Suing as individuals may be difficult due to costs, exposure to 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 representative plaintiffs.

2. WHAT IS 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 Indigenous children. The students were primarily Métis, as well as First Nations children from Northern Saskatchewan.

This 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 were combined.

The representative plaintiffs in this lawsuit are six Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors. They argued that the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan contributed to the funding, oversight, management, and control of the Île-à-la-Crosse School. They argued 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. Instead, the parties agreed to settle the claims made against Canada and Saskatchewan.

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

This action has been certified as a class action to facilitate the settlements that have been reached with Canada and Saskatchewan.

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 both students who stayed in residence and 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 claims against Canada and/or Saskatchewan for 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. None of those organizations/entities were part of this lawsuit, and the Settlement Agreements don't apply to them.

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 opened in 1975-76 without the involvement of the Catholic Church and hasn't ever had a residence.

This lawsuit also doesn't include any claims against the Catholic Church or against individuals who may have caused harm to Survivors. Each Survivor who has such a claim can still bring that lawsuit, themselves.

4. WHAT'S IN THE 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 four or fewer 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 partial year was.

For Survivors who were alive on December 9, 2003, but have died since then, their estate or heirs can make a claim for the Survivor's application. If the claim is approved, the compensation will be paid to the Survivor's estate executor(s) or administrator(s) if the Survivor died with a will. If the Survivor died without a will, and there was never an estate administrator appointed, then

Survivor's living heirs, such as their spouse, or their children if they didn't have a spouse when they died, can make the claim for the Survivor's compensation.

The heirs who are eligible to submit an application for Experience Payments are a deceased Survivor's:

- spouse;
- common-law spouse if there was no spouse by marriage;
- children if they didn't have a spouse or common-law spouse when they died;
- siblings if there are no living children; or
- grandchildren if there if there are no living siblings.

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 be paid into 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. The Legacy Fund will be governed and administered by Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors, through a not-for-profit corporation, with a fair, transparent process for funding Legacy Projects. Canada will have one board member involved in the corporation.

Canada will also pay up to \$5 million for the costs of providing notice of the settlement to the Class, and for settlement administration (this includes things like processing the applications for compensation, answering people's questions, calculating how compensation will be paid, and sending out the money)

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

5. WHAT'S IN THE SETTLEMENT WITH SASKATCHEWAN?

The settlement money from Saskatchewan is intended to resolve the following "four pillars" of the Survivor's claims, being: common experience; individual abuse; legacy healing, wellness, education, language, culture and commemoration; and legal fees and settlement administration costs. In accordance with the Plaintiffs' determination of the best interests of the Survivors, the settlement money will be split up as follows:

- first, \$8.5 million will be paid to Class Counsel for their legal fees;
- then, to pay the costs of providing notice about the settlement and the costs of the administration of the settlement;

- next, compensation will be paid to students who experienced serious physical abuse or sexual abuse at the Île-à-la-Crosse School;
- finally, if there is any money left after the abuse claims are paid, there will be a top up to the Experience Payments only for residential students/Survivors who stayed overnight in the residence.

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The Abuse Compensation for serious physical abuse or sexual abuse 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. Any Abuse Compensation will be paid on top of an Experience Payment.

For Survivors who died after December 9, 2003, the Survivor's estate or heirs can make a claim on behalf of the deceased Survivor. Grandchildren of Survivors aren't eligible to apply for Abuse Compensation.

The amount of any Experience Payment top-up will depend on how much is paid out in Abuse Compensation. 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 \$1-2 million of the settlement fund will be needed for the costs of administering the Saskatchewan Settlement, on top of the administration of the Canada Settlement.

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

6. HOW DO I SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION?

The process to obtain compensation has been designed to be as easy to access as possible, and to minimize the burden involved in applying for Experience Payments or Abuse Compensation as much as possible. In particular, the process will affirm that Survivors' stories are important evidence, and they will be believed (unless there is reasonable contradictory evidence).

To receive an Experience Payment and/or Abuse Compensation, the people who can get compensation (Survivors, their estate representatives, or their heirs) must submit an application.

The deadline to apply for an Experience Payment is June 1, 2027. The deadline to apply for Abuse Compensation is June 1, 2028. It is extremely important for you to make note of these deadlines.

Submitting an Application

A completed Claim Form, plus any supporting documentation, is a complete application.

Detailed instructions on how to submit an application for compensation are included within the Claim Form.

If you need assistance with your application, please contact the Claims Administrator or Class Counsel.

You can submit the Claim Form and your supporting documentation by email, fax, or postal mail. If you would prefer to apply on paper, email info@ILEXSettlement.ca or call 1-833-700-7458 for a paper copy of the Claim Form.

The online version of the Claim Form is not yet available. When it launches, it will be available at <https://ilexsettlement.ca/>. Check <https://ilexsettlement.ca/> for updates about when the Claim Form will be available.

Paper applications will have to be mailed or faxed to the Claims Administrator. Please note that applications completed online can be processed more quickly.

Estate Applications

In cases where the Survivor Class Member died on or after December 9, 2003, the estate or heirs of the Survivor Class Member can fill out Part C of the Claim Form to provide details about the estate or the heir's relationship to the Survivor Class Member.

If the Survivor died with a will, the application must be submitted by the Survivor's "Estate Representative" (either a validly appointed Executor and/or Administrator and/or Liquidator and/or Trustee).

If the Survivor died without a will, the application must be submitted by the highest ranking next of kin. This might be the only eligible heir (e.g. the Survivor's spouse when they died) or there might be several eligible heirs (e.g. the Survivor's spouse is also deceased but there are three living children), in which case they have to designate one of them to submit the application. For more details on who the correct heir is, you can look at the instructions on the Claim Form or call the Claims Administrator for help.

7. HOW ARE APPLICATIONS DECIDED?

Who Decides if an Application is Approved?

The Claims Administrator, and sometimes the "Assessor", are responsible for deciding whether an application is approved. The Claims Administrator and the Assessor are independent from Class Counsel, and from Canada and Saskatchewan. The Court has appointed Deloitte LLP to act as the Claims Administrator.

How Will Applications Be Assessed?

After an application (the Claim Form plus any supporting documents) is submitted, this is the process for assessing applications:

- 1) The Claims Administrator will review each application for completeness:
 - a. If the application is complete, the Claims Administrator will provide confirmation of receipt in writing.
 - b. If the application is missing information, the Claims Administrator will ask for the missing information to be submitted.
- 2) The Claims Administrator will do an initial screening to confirm that the application is about a Survivor Class Member.
 - a. If the application is not about a Survivor Class Member (e.g. the person died before December 9, 2003, or never attended the Île-à-la-Crosse School), the Claims Administrator will send a letter explaining why the application didn't pass initial screening.

- 3) After the initial screening stage, the Claims Administrator will decide if the application is approved for an Experience Payment under the settlement with Canada and, if so, how much.
- 4) If the application is also for Abuse Compensation, the Claims Administrator will decide if the application is approved for Abuse Compensation under the settlement with Saskatchewan and, if so, how much.
- 5) For Experience Payments:
 - a. The Claims Administrator will write an “Assessment Letter” explaining whether their application for an Experience Payment is approved, dismissed, or partially dismissed (meaning, an application for 5 or more school years was only approved for four or fewer school years).
 - b. If the application for an Experience Payment has been dismissed or partially dismissed, the Claims Administrator will send a letter offering an opportunity to supplement or improve the application.
 - c. If the Claims Administrator believes that an application should be dismissed in full, a third-party Assessor will review the application and make a final determination before the application is dismissed.
- 6) For Abuse Compensation:
 - a. If the Claims Administrator thinks that an application for Abuse Compensation should be dismissed or that the compensation should be at a lower level than stated on the Claim Form, the Claims Administrator will send the application to the Assessor.
 - b. The Assessor will review the application for Abuse Compensation, and may try to request more information or documents to assess the application.
 - c. The Assessor will make the final decisions about any applications for Abuse Compensation that the Claims Administrator did not want to pay in full.
- 7) Once an application is approved for payment, the Claims Administrator will provide payment using the payment details set out in the Claim Form.

8. WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY PAYMENT?

The Claims Administrator will make partial payments of both Experience Payment and Abuse Compensation applications that have been approved. The rest of the Experience Payment and/or Abuse Compensation owed will then be paid after all of the applications are decided.

If there isn't enough money to pay out all the Experience Payments or all the Abuse Compensation in full, each person's award will be reduced proportionately, meaning that everybody's compensation will be reduced by the same percentage.

If there is Saskatchewan settlement money left over after all Abuse Compensation has been awarded, the Claims Administrator will pay Experience Payment top-ups to people who were residential students at the Île-à-la-Crosse School.

The amount of the Experience Payment top-up will depend on how much is paid out in Abuse Compensation. 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.

9. 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 for the class action settlements. The application process is designed so that you don't need your own lawyer to participate.

Class Counsel have been working for reduced legal fees, or no fees, since the lawsuit was started, based on an agreement with the plaintiffs that they would receive a "contingency fee". This means being paid a percentage of any financial success in the lawsuit. This is how most class action lawsuits work in Canada.

At the settlement approval hearing, the judge approved Class Counsel's legal fees request:

- \$9,605,000.00, to be paid by Canada separate and apart from the Canada settlement money; and
- \$8,500,000.00, to be paid by Saskatchewan from the Saskatchewan settlement money.

Any legal fees for Class Counsel 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.

The settlement with Saskatchewan is different: it's "all-inclusive", meaning that the 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 Compensation awards or Experience Payment top-ups, but the money for the legal fees will come off the top of the settlement fund before the individual awards are paid out.

The judge also approved Class Counsel's request for 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.

10. WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASS ACTION? (OPTING OUT)

If you are part of the Survivor Class or the Family Class (see the definitions on page 3) and you do not want to be part of the class action lawsuit at all, you can "opt out". By opting out, you exclude yourself from the class action, meaning that you have the right to start your own individual lawsuit but you do not have the right to participate in the class action settlements.

If you want to opt out, you must tell the Claims Administrator by sending an Opt-Out Form by the deadline of August 30, 2026. You can find the Opt-Out Form (with instructions for how to fill it out and submit it) online [here](#) or email info@ILEXSettlement.ca or call 1-833-700-7458 for a paper copy.

Opt-Out Forms must be sent to the Claims Administrator by mail, fax or email:

Email: info@ILEXSettlement.ca

Mail:

Attn: Île-à-la-Crosse School Class Action Opt-Out Forms

Claims Administrator c/o Deloitte LLP
PO Box 278 STN ADELAIDE
Toronto, ON M5C 2J4

Fax: 416-324-4411

If you opt out, that means that you are no longer a Class Member and you are not part of the class action at all. Former Class Members who opt out will not be entitled to share in the compensation awarded through these settlements. They also will not be bound by the Court's order approving the settlements and granting releases to Canada and Saskatchewan. If you opt out, you will keep any existing right that you had to sue Canada and Saskatchewan in relation to the Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding/Mission School on your own.

If you opt out, you will not be able to apply for compensation from these Settlements. If you opt out, you can start your own lawsuit, but Class Counsel will not be your lawyers in that lawsuit.

You do not need to opt out of this class action if you want to start or continue a lawsuit against anyone other than Canada and Saskatchewan about the Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding/Mission School. Only Canada and Saskatchewan are included in/affected by this class action.

11. HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about the class action, the settlements, applications for compensation, or opting out, visit <http://ilexsettlement.ca/> or email info@ILEXSettlement.ca or call 1-833-700-7458.

If you'd like legal advice about any of those topics, contact Class Counsel using the information below. There's no cost for speaking with them.

Sotos LLP

55 University Avenue, Suite 600
Toronto, ON M5J 2H7
Email: ilex@sotos.ca
Phone: 1-888-451-9227 (toll-free)

Goldblatt Partners LLP

20 Dundas Street West, Suite 1039
Toronto, ON M5G 2C2
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