



TRC INUIT SUB-COMMISSION CONCLUDES ITS WORK

~ Open House celebrates Northerners' contribution to truth-telling and reconciliation ~

March 19, 2013 – The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada will celebrate the important contribution of Northerners to its work at an Open House at the Yellowknife TRC office Friday, March 22 from noon to 4 p.m. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

The northern office at 5114-49th Street will officially close its doors at the end of this month. Since January 2011 it has served as the headquarters for the TRC's Inuit Sub-Commission, established to ensure Inuit survivors of the residential school system have been fully included in this historic national truth-telling and reconciliation process. The office has also been responsible for planning and implementing all of the TRC's northern public outreach, community hearings and statement-gathering activities.

“We have a lot to celebrate, starting with the courage of one thousand northern Survivors and others who have put their personal experiences on record,” said TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson. “The stories they have shared will help educate all Canadians about some of the earliest and longest-operating residential schools in the entire country, and about their particular and often devastating impacts within northern families and communities.”

“Even more important is the healing that has taken place among the families and communities of those who have spoken about their residential school experiences at the hearings and events organized by the Yellowknife office,” added Dr. Wilson. “And just as the TRC has been well served in fulfilling its mandate by the people of the North, the North has also been well served by the leadership demonstrated by the Co-Directors of the TRC Inuit Sub-Commission, Jennifer Hunt Poitras and Robbie Watt. Their outstanding efforts and passionate commitment to residential school Survivors, both in Inuktitut and in English, have assured a prominent Inuit voice and perspective in the overall work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.”

Leading up to the TRC's Northern National Event in Inuvik in the summer of 2011, the northern team organized a three-month tour of 18 communities across Nunavik, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon. The Inuit Sub-Commission organized later hearings in Hopedale and Happy Valley-Goose Bay in Labrador, and Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, and Qikiqtarjuaq in Nunavut. A tour of NWT Beaufort Delta communities included Tuktoyuktuk, Ulukhaktok, Sachs Harbour and Paulatuk, and an Ottawa event was also organized for Inuit and others in that area.

Earlier this year the Yellowknife TRC office piloted an historic statement-gathering event at the North Slave Correctional Centre. In partnership with the Council for Yukon First Nations, it also mounted a two-day Yukon Regional Event in Whitehorse, wrapping up the Commission's northern focus, and its need for a northern-based office.



The TRC will continue to operate until the end of its five-year mandate in 2014. Anyone wishing to make a statement to the TRC after March 22, 2013 is invited to call the Winnipeg office at 1-888-872-5554.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is an independent commission established as a result of a massive class-action lawsuit against the federal government and several national churches that ran residential schools, and the resulting 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in the 150-year history of the Indian Residential Schools, and to guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

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