

## **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSIONER TO MEET WITH NORTH SLAVE INMATES OCTOBER 29**

**~ TRC Commissioner to visit correctional facility ~**

**October 25, 2012** – Commissioner Dr. Marie Wilson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) will meet with inmates of the North Slave Correctional Centre (NSCC) in Yellowknife on Monday, October 29.

Her visit will mark the first time a TRC Commissioner meets with inmates at a correctional facility in Canada.

Commissioner Wilson commended the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) Corrections officials for their determination to ensure inmates have an opportunity to learn about the work of the Commission and to express to other Canadians, through the statement process, the impact the schools have had, directly or indirectly, on their lives.

“The individuals I’ll be meeting with next week are living the legacy of the residential schools,” said Commissioner Wilson. “Many of the inmates were born to parents whose lives were severely disrupted by the residential school experience.”

“The damaging effects of residential schools on our population are well known. It is important that all of our residents, who wish to do so, have the opportunity to give a statement” said GNWT Justice Minister Glen Abernethy. “We are pleased to welcome the Commission to our Correctional facility. We will support our inmates as they take these healing steps.”

The NSCC houses inmates from communities across the NWT and Nunavut. The week of statement gathering will begin with a feeding the fire ceremony and a presentation by Commissioner Wilson. The rest of the week will be devoted to private statement gathering.

Health Canada has been working closely with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Government of Northwest Territories, and North Slave Correctional Centre to ensure that mental health and emotional supports are available to inmates before, during and after the event. Through its Indian Residential Schools Health Support Program, Health Canada has coordinated a team of six professional counsellors to be present throughout the week, along with two Residential Health Support Workers and two elders from the Healing Drum Society. Additional elders will be on call as necessary.

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**Commissioner Marie Wilson and Northwest Territories Minister of Justice, Glen Abernethy will be available to speak with journalists at a news conference at the TRC office in Yellowknife following Commissioner Wilson's first presentation to the inmates. Representatives of the media are invited to attend in person or by phone.**

**TRC NEWS CONFERENCE  
5114-49<sup>th</sup> St. (CJCD Building), Yellowknife  
October 29, 2012 from 11:00 – 11:45 MT  
To register for teleconference, please call 867-766-8491 by noon MT,  
Friday, October 26**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established as a result of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to tell Canadians about the 150-year history of the schools in part through the statements of those whose lives were affected by them, and to guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

For more information:

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To register for teleconference:  
Jeannie Maniapik at 867-766-8491

Attached: Photo of Commissioner Wilson