



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC) SEEKS ACCESS TO POLICE FILES ON ST. ANNE'S RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

December 16, 2013 – The TRC will seek direction from the Ontario Superior Court of Justice tomorrow to determine its entitlement to Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) files relating to criminal investigations of abuse at St. Anne's Residential School in Fort Albany, ON.

The TRC's court filing relates to a five-year OPP investigation (1992-1997) of serious sexual and physical abuse at St. Anne's, an investigation which resulted in Criminal Code convictions. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. ET in Courtroom #4 at Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice is the Supervising Court for the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

"It is the Commission's view that the documents in question are relevant to the TRC's legal mandate 'to identify sources and create as complete an historical record as possible of the IRS system and legacy,' " said Justice Sinclair.

Former Students also seek Court's direction

The TRC's Request for Direction will be heard before Justice Paul Perell at the same time as an Application by some former students of St. Anne's Residential School. The former students hope to use the documents to support their claims for compensation under the Independent Assessment Process (IAP), one of the components of Settlement Agreement.

"The TRC does not take any formal position before the Court in respect of the claimants' court application," said Justice Sinclair. "However, we recognize the importance of the federal government giving claimants in the IAP process full and complete access to all relevant documents in the government's possession."

This is the second time that the TRC has requested direction from the Ontario Superior Court in connection with documents in the possession and control of the Government of Canada. In January 2013, the Ontario Superior Court agreed with the TRC that under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Government of Canada must produce to the Commission all documents Housed in Library and Archives Canada that are relevant to the residential schools.



The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is an independent commission established as a result of the Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in the 130-year history of the residential schools in Canada, and to guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

Further information:

Julian Falconer
Falconers LLP
10 Alcorn Avenue, Suite 204
Toronto, ON
M4V 3A9
Phone: 416-964-0495, x 222
julianf@falconers.ca

Media inquiries:

Heather Frayne
TRC Media Relations
Phone: 204.984.8292
Cell: 204.297.4853
heather.frayne@trc.ca