



STATEMENT BY THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA

June 20, 2014

Yesterday, Mr. Dan Shapiro, the Chief Adjudicator of the Independent Assessment Process (IAP), issued a statement calling for the destruction of all records related to claims of abuse suffered by students at Indian Residential Schools in Canada.

In response to this statement, the TRC is reissuing its statement of May 14, 2014 on this case:

Along with the Chief Adjudicator of the Independent Assessment Process (IAP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) is seeking court direction on the ultimate disposition of records produced as a result of IAP hearings. Unfortunately, there is a lack of certainty as to how the different records from the IAP proceedings are to be treated. The court hearing before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice is scheduled to take place in Toronto from July 14 to 16, 2014.

Kimberly Murray, Executive Director of the TRC, today issued the following statement:

“In its court filings, the Government of Canada has advised that it does not intend to destroy the records submitted by claimants during the IAP proceedings. The Government has decided to send some of these records to Library and Archives Canada, where they will be kept permanently and eventually made available to the public.

“In these circumstances, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has asked the court to designate the National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation as the safest and most respectful place to protect those records that the Government will not be destroying. The NRC has the governance structure to ensure Aboriginal control over its own records.

“The Truth and Reconciliation Commission agrees with Survivors that the private medical records of survivors submitted during the IAP should be rendered permanently inaccessible to anyone, including Government officials.”

The National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is being established at the University of Manitoba to house and protect all of the documents, statements and other materials collected by the TRC during its mandate.

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