



# **IRSSS Bulletin**

**(June 6, 2008)**  
**Residential School Apology (update)**



## **Canada's Prime Minister will apologize to Residential School Survivors on June 11, 2008: Video conference facilities in place for Survivors to gather and watch televised apology**

The Prime Minister of Canada has announced that he will offer a formal apology to Residential School Survivors on June 11, 2008. We expect the apology to be offered at 12:00 noon Pacific Time (15:00 Eastern Time). The apology will likely be broadcast, live, on television and cable networks across the country.

**The Indian Residential School Survivors Society, the First Nations Summit and partnering agencies have made arrangements for viewing rooms in locations around BC (please see Page 2 for details).**

We invite Survivors and your relatives to come and view the apology at a site nearest you. The televised apology will be followed by video conference events: leaders of the BC Leadership Council wish to address the televised apology with Survivors; and Survivors throughout their territories will be able to engage in dialogue about the apology. Survivors attending the viewings will also have the opportunity to participate in Sharing Circles and moderated discussions if you so choose.

We want Survivors to be aware that the apology may cause you to remember your Residential School experience. You may react in any number of ways. You may be happy to finally get the acknowledgment you've been seeking, you may become numb, you may become angry or you may become triggered. All of these reactions are normal.

**Wherever you watch, we encourage you to watch with someone you trust for support.**

We want Survivors to know that you are not alone if you have been triggered. Help is available from a number of sources (please see Page 4 for details).

For more information, please contact:

Tsee'Tsee'Watul'Wit (Sharon Thira)  
Indian Residential School Survivors Society  
Phone: (604) 925-4464  
Toll-free: 1-800-721-0066  
Email: [reception@irsss.ca](mailto:reception@irsss.ca)  
Website: [www.irsss.ca](http://www.irsss.ca)



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## **Canada's IRS Apology (Viewing Locations)**

The Indian Residential School Survivors Society, the First Nations Summit and the following organizations have made arrangements for viewing rooms in locations around BC<sup>1</sup>. We invite Survivors and their relatives to come view the apology at a site nearest you. Support Staff will be at each location to provide support if needed. Wherever you watch, we encourage you to watch with someone you trust for support<sup>2</sup>. The apology can be viewed in the following locations:

- ❑ **Campbell River**  
Inter Tribal Health Authority  
1400A Drake Road  
Campbell River  
Contact: Kim  
(250) 286-9766  
Capacity: 19
- ❑ **Cranbrook**  
Prestige Inn  
209 Vanhorne Street  
Contacts: Don Maki  
or Pauline Eugene  
(250) 417-4001  
Capacity: 60
- ❑ **Kamloops**  
Coast Canadian Inn  
Grand Ball Room  
339 St. Paul Street  
Contact: Londea Riffel  
(250) 851-7394  
Capacity: 75
- ❑ **Nanaimo**  
Inter Tribal Health Authority  
534 Centre Street  
Contact: Tammy  
(250) 753-3990  
Capacity: 30
- ❑ **Nanoose**  
Tsow Tun Le Lum Healing  
Society  
699 Capilano Road  
Lantzville  
Contact: Yvonne Rigsby-Jones  
(250) 390-3123  
Capacity: 180
- ❑ **North Vancouver**  
First Nations Summit  
Chief Joe Mathias Centre  
100 Capilano Road  
Contact: Colin Braker  
(604) 926-9903  
Capacity: 50
- ❑ **Prince George**  
Carrier Sekani Family  
Services  
987-4th Avenue  
Contact: Benna Rathburn  
(250) 562-3591  
Capacity: 25
- ❑ **Terrace**  
North West College  
5331 McConnell Avenue  
Contact: Diane Collins  
(250) 635-4906  
Capacity: 100
- ❑ **Vancouver**  
Vancouver Aboriginal  
Friendship Centre Society  
1607 East Hastings  
Contact: Sherry Small  
(604) 251-4844  
Capacity: 350
- ❑ **Victoria**  
Victoria Friendship Centre  
231 Regina Street  
Contact: Bruce Parisian  
(250) 384-3211  
Capacity: 75

1. Please visit the "What's New?" section of our website: [www.irsss.ca](http://www.irsss.ca) for instructions on how to access the broadcast.
2. Other communities will link in but they will not have dialogue capabilities. Information was not available at time of writing. Please contact your local band office or health centre to see if your community will be joining the video link.



## **Canada's IRS Apology Proposed Agenda**

**Wednesday June 11, 2008**

- 11:00**      **Lunch**
- 12:00**      **Canada's IRS Apology**
- Viewing of live broadcast
  - Speeches from the Leadership Council:
    - Ed John, First Nations Summit (FNS)
    - Stewart Philip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC)
- 13:30**      **Local Responses**
- Local Responses (Optional)
- 14:30**      **Health Break**
- 14:45**      **Debrief**
- Video Conference Dialogue
- 16:00**      **Closing**
- Closing Ceremony



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## **Canada's IRS Apology (Help is Available)**

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We want Survivors to be aware that the apology may cause you to remember your Residential School experience. You may react in any number of ways. Some will be happy to finally get the acknowledgment they've been seeking, some may become numb, some may become angry and others may become triggered. All of these reactions are normal.

We want Survivors to know that you are not alone if you have been triggered. Help is available from the following sources:

❑ **National Survivors Support Line**  
1-866-925-4419  
Available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Most operators are Aboriginal.  
For crisis counselling & referral services.

❑ **Aboriginal Healing Foundation**  
75 Albert Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E7  
Toll-free: 1-888-725-8886  
Website: [www.ahf.ca](http://www.ahf.ca)  
For information on community-based healing projects in your area.

❑ **IRS Health Support Program**  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sinclair Centre Federal Tower  
757 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C 3E6  
Toll-free: 1-877-477-0775  
Website: [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/irs](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/irs)  
For counselling, emotional support (RHSWs), cultural support (Elders), transportation costs.

❑ **Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS)**  
911-100 Park Royal South  
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2  
Toll-free: 1-800-721-0066  
Phone: (604) 925-4464  
Email: [reception@irsss.ca](mailto:reception@irsss.ca)  
Website: [www.irsss.ca](http://www.irsss.ca)  
For a wide range of services to Survivors & their relatives.

**IRSSS staff will be available by phone, at: 1-800-721-0066, from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm on June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> in case anyone needs someone to talk to.**