



TRC MEDIA ADVISORY

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE TO HEAR TRC REFERENCE DECEMBER 20 AND 21

December 19, 2012 – The Ontario Superior Court of Justice will consider a reference from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) on Thursday, December 20 and Friday, December 21. The reference concerns Canada’s obligation under the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) to provide documents to the TRC.

WHERE: Courtroom 7, Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto
WHEN: Beginning at 10 a.m. each day

With very limited exceptions, the TRC’s mandate requires it to collect all documents relevant to the Indian Residential Schools that are in the possession or control of the Government of Canada, and to make them available to the people of Canada. Canada maintains that it is not obligated to produce the huge volume of relevant records held at Library and Archives Canada despite their obvious historical value. The TRC has asked the court to settle the matter.

Intervener status in the case has been granted to the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit representatives, and the University of Manitoba. Representatives of a variety of Aboriginal organizations, including Survivors of the schools, are expected to gather outside the courthouse and to attend the proceedings.

See FAQs below for further background information and details. An earlier news release on this issue is available at www.trc.ca.

The TRC was established as a result of the IRSSA to inform all Canadians about the harms and injustices experienced by Aboriginal peoples during the 150-year history of the residential schools, and to guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect. The last Indian Residential School in Canada closed its door in 1996.

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