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- MUSIC
- ON DEMAND
- NEWS
- PROGRAMMING
- CONTACT
- CONTESTS

THUNDER BAY INQUEST CONCLUDES

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The inquest into the deaths of seven indigenous high school students in Thunder Bay concluded this week.

Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day commended the Nishnawbe Aski Nations for pressing provincial officials to organize the inquest.

There are only five high schools – most going to only Grade 10 — serving 23 First Nation communities in northwestern Ontario.

Six males and one female lost their lives between 2000 and 2011. Reggie Bushie, Jethro Anderson and Jordan Wabasse were only 15 years old. The other students were Curran Strang, 18, Paul Panacheese, 21, Robyn Harper, 18, and Kyle Morrisseau, 17.

Day said northern First Nations will immediately continue to press forward to resolve poor circumstances for youth; including high school education on reserve and improving cultural and spiritual supports for indigenous students who are studying far from home.

The inquest will hear concluding statements on May 24 with final recommendations expected in June.

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