

MCLEAN DAY SCHOOL CLASS ACTION UPDATE

03/25/11

In the spring of 2009, Spiritwind Inc., which is an Indian Residential School support organization in Manitoba, approached Joan Jack Law Office and the McLean Day School Class Action was filed on July 31, 2009. The claim was amended on November 24, 2009 so that all day school survivors across Canada could potentially be included (Indian/Inuit/Metis).

Since then, Spiritwind Inc. and Joan Jack Law Office, along with many hundreds of grassroots volunteers, have been working non-stop to gather potential claimants information and there are now upwards of 10,000 day school survivors registered with Joan Jack Law Office supporting this class action right across Canada.

Today, Joan Jack is pleased to let the day school survivors know that **Phil Fontaine** has agreed to do his best to help her with the resolution of the McLean Day School Class Action and she is hopeful that a negotiated solution is possible so that the survivors can receive compensation sooner as litigation will take years.

Now that the day school survivors are uniting behind the McLean Day School Class Action and are 10,000 strong from all across Canada, with the number growing daily, Joan is exploring partnering with a large law firm to create a winning litigation team.

Depending upon the availability of resources, Joan plans to attend the following Chiefs Assemblies this spring to provide this update in person and ask the Chiefs to take the information to their people so that we continue to increase our numbers and stay united:

- CHIEFS OF ONTARIO – April 12 – 14, 2011 in Toronto;
- ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS – May in Manitoba;
- GRAND COUNCIL OF TREATY 3 – May in Ontario;
- BC FIRST NATION SUMMIT – JUNE in Vancouver

If you would like Joan to come to your community, call 1-250-651-7557.

The legal fees that class action lawyers receive are determined by the court, or through a negotiated settlement when the matter is resolved. Until then, Joan Jack, as the class action lawyer is allowed to receive support to cover the “disbursement costs” associated with taking the case forward. Disbursement costs are things like phone charges, document production costs, advertising, and travel to contact and provide information to the potential claimant group. For example, traveling to your community to share information about the class action is a disbursement cost.

To date, Joan Jack has covered 99.9% of the disbursement costs for work out of her law office, but the McLean Day School Class Action has also received tremendous support from hundreds of grassroots people across Canada who have given of their valuable time and money to forward the information to their people. The spirit of volunteer work supporting this case is a testament to the unity and strength of this cause for justice that is being driven by the grassroots people. Individual day school survivors have also sent unsolicited donations in \$20 or \$40 money orders along with their forms and the \$530.00 received at Joan Jack Law Office to date was applied to the disbursement costs, as this is your class action! Kitchi Miigwetch

Watch for Joan's Website! Coming soon at www.joanjack.ca

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