

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



BULLETIN UPDATE: Personal Credits for Education

January 9, 2015

The Assembly of First Nations issues regular updates on work underway at the national office. More information can be found at www.afn.ca.

Extension Granted for Applications for Personal Credits for Education

On December 17, 2014 the British Columbia Supreme Court ruled to extend the deadlines for Indian residential schools personal education credits. On January 8, 2015 new deadline dates were directed by the court as follows:

Acknowledgement Forms – NEW Deadline March 7, 2015

Crawford Class Action Services will continue to receive and process acknowledgement forms until March 7, 2015.

Redemption Forms – NEW Deadline June 7, 2015

Crawford Class Action Services will continue to receive and process acknowledgement forms until June 7, 2015.

Payments Finalized – NEW Deadline August 7, 2015

Crawford Class Action Services will finalize payments to education entities in exchange for successful personal credits applications by August 7, 2015.

All education programs and services must be concluded by August 31, 2015.

The AFN pressed for a deadline extension in response to the serious administrative concerns expressed by survivors and family members across the country and continues to push for existing administrative concerns to be addressed quickly so that former students of residential schools can more easily access the program.

The personal education credit is the final phase of compensation to Indian residential school survivors as set out in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) of 2007. It provides a one-time value of up to \$3,000 to former residential school students who have received the Common Experience Payment to be used for personal or group education programs and services provided by approved educational entities and groups. The process to access personal credits was announced in January 2014 and is being administered by Crawford Class Action Services.

As of January 8, 2015 approximately 24,500 of approximately 79,000 eligible Common Experience Payment recipients had submitted applications.

AFN Liaison Coordinators, who have been in every region since February 2014 offering information to former students interested in learning more about the program and advising on applications, will continue to offer assistance to former students and their families. If you require assistance please contact AFN or see resources, links and instructional videos available at www.afn.ca or directly at <http://www.afn.ca/index.php/en/personal-credits>.

For direct information from the program administrator please contact Crawford Class Action Services at 1-866-343-1858 or at www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca.