



## NEWS RELEASE



Inuvialuit Regional Corporation



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Société Makivik  
Makivik Corporation

For Immediate Release

### NTI, IRC, and Makivik Applaud Historic Residential Schools Agreement

*(November 24, 2005 – Iqaluit, NU; Inuvik, NT; Kuujuaq, QC)* Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) President Paul Kaludjak, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) Chair and Chief Executive Officer Nellie Cournoyea, and Makivik Corporation President Pita Aatami today expressed their support for the comprehensive settlement agreement on the Aboriginal residential schools legacy announced by the Government of Canada.

The settlement offers Inuit, Métis, and First Nations former students who attended residential schools associated with the Government of Canada: A common experience payment for loss of culture, family life, and language; an improved claims process for those who suffered sexual abuse and serious physical abuse; a truth and reconciliation process; and increased funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

“For the first time, Canada has acknowledged the profoundly negative impact residential schools had on Aboriginal language, culture and family life across Canada. By making compensation, recognition and healing available to former students, this settlement will help us begin to heal and move on with our lives. It brings closure to one of Canada’s great injustices,” said Kaludjak.

The negotiations that resulted in the settlement were a constructive effort by all parties.

“Inuit regional groups worked with the Government of Canada, federal representative Frank Iacobucci and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to ensure that the interests of all Canada’s Aboriginal former students were represented in the final outcome of this process. In addition to obtaining equitable participation for Inuvialuit and Inuit in the settlement, IRC, NTI and Makivik made certain the unique aspects of residential schooling in the Arctic were recognized,” said Cournoyea.

All common experience payments will go directly to former students. Inuit regional organizations will continue to play an active role in implementing the agreement and work to ensure Elders receive compensation as quickly as possible.

“The present government’s willingness to address this grave historical legacy, as well as the Assembly of First Nations’ commitment to the issue, is to be commended,” Aatami commented.

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