

First Nations Summit

STATEMENT

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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First Nations Summit acknowledges federal apology to former students of Newfoundland and Labrador residential schools

Coast Salish Territory, Vancouver, British Columbia – First Nations Summit Leaders today welcomed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s statement of apology on behalf of Canada to former students of Newfoundland and Labrador residential schools.

Today’s apology is another chapter in recognizing and acknowledging the devastating impacts of the residential school systems on indigenous peoples across Canada and ensuring that this dark time in our collective history is never forgotten.

The apology to former students of the Newfoundland and Labrador residential schools, many of whom were Innu, Inuit, and NunatuKavut children, is long overdue since these students and their families were unfortunately and wrongfully left out of a compensation package and national apology in 2008 by former prime minister Stephen Harper, whose Conservative government denied federal involvement in overseeing those schools.

The First Nations Summit commends Prime Minister Trudeau for righting this wrong and delivering today’s long overdue apology.

We also acknowledge all the survivors of the Newfoundland and Labrador residential schools. We know that despite the best efforts of the residential school system to destroy their language and culture, the resilience of the survivors and their ancestors, their identity and culture, is still very much alive today and will continue to thrive into the future. Our thoughts are with them on this important day.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The Summit is also a NGO in Special Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Further information on the First Nations Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

