



CLASS PROCEEDING

FORM 171A - Rule 171

FEDERAL COURT

Court File No. T-1542-12		
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F I L E D	COUR FÉDÉRALE 11-FEB-2022	D É P O S É
Natasha Brant		
Ottawa, ONT	doc	323

BETWEEN:

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON, on behalf of the TK'EMLUPS TE SECWÉPEMC INDIAN BAND and the TK'EMLUPS TE SECWÉPEMC INDIAN BAND, and

CHIEF GARRY FESCHUK, on behalf of the SECHELT INDIAN BAND and the SECHELT INDIAN BAND

PLAINTIFFS

and

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA as represented by
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA

DEFENDANT

SECOND RE-AMENDED STATEMENT OF CLAIM

TO THE DEFENDANT

A LEGAL PROCEEDING HAS BEEN COMMENCED AGAINST YOU by the Plaintiffs. The claim made against you is set out in the following pages.

IF YOU WISH TO DEFEND THIS PROCEEDING, you or a solicitor acting for you are required to prepare a statement of defence in Form 171B prescribed by the Federal Courts Rules serve it on the plaintiffs' solicitor or, where the plaintiffs do not have a solicitor, serve it on the plaintiffs, and file it, with proof of service, at a local office of this Court, **WITHIN 30 DAYS** after this statement of claim is served on you, if you are served within Canada.

If you are served in the United States of America, the period for serving and filing your statement of defence is forty days. If you are served outside Canada and the United States of America, the period for serving and filing your statement of defence is sixty days.

Copies of the Federal Court Rules information concerning the local offices of the Court and other necessary information may be obtained on request to the Administrator of this Court at Ottawa (telephone 613-992-4238) or at any local office.

IF YOU FAIL TO DEFEND THIS PROCEEDING, judgment may be given against you in your absence and without further notice to you.

(Date)

Issued by: _____
(Registry Officer)

Address of local office: 90 Sparks Street Ottawa, ON K1A 0H9

TO:

Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada,
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and
Attorney General of Canada
Department of Justice
900 - 840 Howe Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2S9

RELIEF SOUGHT

1. The Representative Plaintiffs, on behalf of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Indian Band and Sechelt Indian Band, and on behalf of the members of the Class, claim:

- (a) a Declaration that the Sechelt Indian Band (referred to as the shíshálh or shíshálh band) and Tk'emlúps Band, and all members of the certified Class of Indian Bands, have Aboriginal Rights to speak their traditional languages and engage in their traditional customs and religious practices;
- (b) a Declaration that Canada owed and was in breach of fiduciary, constitutionally-mandated, statutory and common law duties as well as breaches of International Conventions and Covenants, and breaches of international law, to the Class members in relation to the purpose, establishment, funding, operation, supervision, control, maintenance, obligatory attendance of Survivors at, and support of, the SIRS and the KIRS and other Identified Residential Schools;
- (c) a Declaration that the Residential Schools Policy and the KIRS, the SIRS and Identified Residential Schools caused Cultural, Linguistic and Social Damage and irreparable harm to the Class;
- (d) a Declaration that Canada was or is in breach of the Class members' linguistic and cultural rights, (Aboriginal Rights or otherwise), as well as breaches of International Conventions and Covenants, and breaches of international law, as a consequence of its establishment, funding, operation, supervision, control and maintenance, and obligatory attendance of Survivors at and support of the Residential Schools Policy, and the Residential Schools;
- (e) a Declaration that Canada is liable to the Class members for the damages caused by its breach of fiduciary, constitutionally-mandated, statutory and common law duties and Aboriginal Rights as well as breaches of International Conventions and Covenants, and breaches of international law, in relation to the purpose, establishment, funding, operation, supervision, control and maintenance, and obligatory attendance of Survivors at and support of the Residential Schools;
- (f) non-pecuniary and pecuniary general damages and special damages for breach of fiduciary, constitutionally-mandated, statutory and common law duties and Aboriginal Rights, as well as breaches of International Conventions and Covenants, and breaches of international law, including amounts to cover the ongoing cost of care and development of wellness plans for individual members of the Indian Bands in the Class, as well as the costs of restoring, protecting and preserving the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Indian Bands for which Canada is liable;

- (g) the construction of healing centres in the Class communities by Canada;
- (h) exemplary and punitive damages for which Canada is liable;
- (i) pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- (j) the costs of this action; and
- (k) such further and other relief as this Honourable Court may deem just.

DEFINITIONS

2. The following definitions apply for the purposes of this Claim:

- (a) “Aboriginal(s)”, “Aboriginal Person(s)”, “Aboriginal People(s)” or “Aboriginal Child(ren)” means a person or persons whose rights are recognized and affirmed by the *Constitution Act*, 1982, s. 35;
- (b) “Aboriginal Right(s)” means any or all of the aboriginal and treaty rights recognized and affirmed by the *Constitution Act*, 1982, s. 35;
- (c) “Act” means the *Indian Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-5 and its predecessors as have been amended from time to time;
- (d) “Agents” means the servants, contractors, agents, officers and employees of Canada and the operators, managers, administrators and teachers and staff of each of the Residential Schools;
- (e) “Agreement” means the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement dated May 10, 2006 entered into by Canada to settle claims relating to Residential Schools as approved in the orders granted in various jurisdictions across Canada;
- (f) “Indian Band” means any entity that:
 - (i) Is either a "band" as defined in s.2(1) of the *Indian Act* or a band, First Nation, Nation or other Indigenous group that is party to a self-government agreement or treaty implemented by an Act of Parliament recognizing or establishing it as a legal entity; and
 - (ii) Asserts that it holds rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.
- (g) “Class” means the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc Indian Band and the shíshálh band and any other Indian Band(s) that:
 - (i) has or had some members who are or were Survivors, or in whose community a Residential School is or was located; and

- (ii) is specifically added to this claim in relation to one or more specifically identified Residential Schools.
- (h) “Canada” means the Defendant, Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada as represented by the Attorney General of Canada;
- (i) “Class Period” means 1920 to 1997;
- (j) “Cultural, Linguistic and Social Damage” means the damage or harm caused by the creation and implementation of Residential Schools and Residential Schools Policy to the educational, governmental, economic, cultural, linguistic, spiritual and social customs, practices and way of life, traditional governance structures, as well as to the community and individual security and wellbeing, of Aboriginal Persons;
- (k) “Identified Residential School(s)” means one or more of the KIRS or the SIRS or any other Residential School specifically identified by a member of the Class;
- (l) “KIRS” means the Kamloops Indian Residential School;
- (m) “Residential Schools” means all Indian Residential Schools recognized under the Agreement;
- (n) “Residential Schools Policy” means the policy of Canada with respect to the implementation of Indian Residential Schools;
- (o) “SIRS” means the Sechelt Indian Residential School;
- (p) “Survivors” means all Aboriginal Persons who attended as a student or for educational purposes for any period at a Residential School, during the Class Period.

THE PARTIES

The Plaintiffs

3. The Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc Indian Band and the shíshálh band are Indian Bands and they both act as Representative Plaintiffs for the Class. The Class members represent the collective interests and authority of each of their respective communities.

The Defendant

4. Canada is represented in this proceeding by the Attorney General of Canada. The Attorney General of Canada represents the interests of Canada and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and

Northern Development Canada and predecessor Ministers who were responsible for “Indians” under s.91 (24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, and who were, at all material times, responsible for the formation and implementation of the Residential Schools Policy, and the maintenance and operation of Residential Schools, including the KIRS and the SIRS.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

5. Over the course of the last several years, Canada has acknowledged the devastating impact of its Residential Schools Policy on Canada’s Aboriginal Peoples. Canada’s Residential Schools Policy was designed to eradicate Aboriginal culture and identity and assimilate the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada into Euro-Canadian society. Through this policy, Canada ripped away the foundations of identity for generations of Aboriginal People and caused incalculable harm to both individuals and communities.

6. The direct beneficiary of the Residential Schools Policy was Canada as its obligations would be reduced in proportion to the number, and generations, of Aboriginal Persons who would no longer recognize their Aboriginal identity and would reduce their claims to rights under the Act and Canada’s fiduciary, constitutionally-mandated, statutory and common law duties.

7. Canada was also a beneficiary of the Residential Schools Policy, as the policy served to weaken the claims of Aboriginal Peoples to their traditional lands and resources. The result was a severing of Aboriginal People from their cultures, traditions and ultimately their lands and resources. This allowed for exploitation of those lands and resources by Canada, not only without Aboriginal Peoples’ consent but also, contrary to their interests, the Constitution of Canada and the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

8. The truth of this wrong and the damage it has wrought has now been acknowledged by the Prime Minister on behalf of Canada, and through the pan-Canadian settlement of the claims of those individuals who *resided at* Canada's Residential Schools by way of the Agreement implemented in 2007, and subsequently, the settlement of the claims of those individuals who attended at Canada's Residential Schools in this and other proceedings.

9. This claim is on behalf of the members of the Class, consisting of the Aboriginal communities within which the Residential Schools were situated, or whose members are or were Survivors.

The Residential School System

10. Residential Schools were established by Canada prior to 1874, for the education of Aboriginal Children. Commencing in the early twentieth century, Canada began entering into formal agreements with various religious organizations (the "Churches") for the operation of Residential Schools. Pursuant to these agreements, Canada controlled, regulated, supervised and directed all aspects of the operation of Residential Schools. The Churches assumed the day-to-day operation of many of the Residential Schools under the control, supervision and direction of Canada, for which Canada paid the Churches a *per capita* grant. In 1969, Canada took over operations directly.

11. As of 1920, the Residential Schools Policy included compulsory *attendance* at Residential Schools for all Aboriginal Children aged 7 to 15. Canada removed most Aboriginal Children from their homes and Aboriginal communities and transported them to Residential Schools which were often long distances away. However, in some cases, Aboriginal Children lived in their homes and communities and were similarly required to attend Residential Schools as day students and not residents. This practice applied to even more children in the later years of the Residential Schools

Policy. While at Residential School, all Aboriginal Children were confined and deprived of their heritage, their support networks and their way of life, forced to adopt a foreign language and a culture alien to them and punished for non-compliance.

12. The purpose of the Residential Schools Policy was the complete integration and assimilation of Aboriginal Children into the Euro-Canadian culture and the obliteration of their traditional language, culture, religion and way of life. Canada set out and intended to cause the Cultural, Linguistic and Social Damage which has harmed Canada's Aboriginal Peoples and Class members.

13. Canada chose to be disloyal to its Aboriginal Peoples, implementing the Residential Schools Policy in its own self-interest, including economic self-interest, and to the detriment and exclusion of the interests of the Class members to whom Canada owed fiduciary and constitutionally-mandated duties. The Residential Schools Policy was intended to eradicate Aboriginal identity, culture, language, and spiritual practices. This assimilation would result in a reduction in the number of individuals identifying as Aboriginal, and with that would be a reduction in Canada's obligations to Aboriginal individuals and Indian Bands, as Aboriginal individuals who no longer identify as Aboriginal would be unlikely to make claims to their rights as Aboriginal Persons.

The Effects of the Residential Schools Policy on the Class Members

Tk'emlúps Indian Band

14. Tk'emlúpsemc, 'the people of the confluence', now known as the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Indian Band are members of the northernmost of the Plateau People and of the Interior-Salish Secwépemc (Shuswap) speaking peoples of British Columbia. The Tk'emlúps

Indian Band was established on a reserve now adjacent to the City of Kamloops, where the KIRS was subsequently established.

15. Secwepemctsin is the language of the Secwépemc, and it is the unique means by which the cultural, ecological, and historical knowledge and experience of the Secwépemc people is understood and conveyed between generations. It is through language, spiritual practices and passage of culture and traditions including their rituals, drumming, dancing, songs and stories, that the values and beliefs of the Secwépemc people are captured and shared. From the Secwépemc perspective all aspects of Secwépemc knowledge, including their culture, traditions, laws and languages, are vitally and integrally linked to their lands and resources.

16. Language, like the land, was given to the Secwépemc by the Creator for communication to the people and to the natural world. This communication created a reciprocal and cooperative relationship between the Secwépemc and the natural world which enabled them to survive and flourish in harsh environments. This knowledge, passed down to the next generation orally, contained the teachings necessary for the maintenance of Secwépemc culture, traditions, laws and identity.

17. For the Secwépemc, their spiritual practices, songs, dances, oral histories, stories and ceremonies were an integral part of their lives and societies. These practices and traditions are absolutely vital to maintain. Their songs, dances, drumming and traditional ceremonies connect the Secwépemc to their land and continually remind the Secwépemc of their responsibilities to the land, the resources and to the Secwépemc people.

18. Secwépemc ceremonies and spiritual practices, including their songs, dances, drumming and passage of stories and history, perpetuate their vital teachings and laws relating to the harvest

of resources, including medicinal plants, game and fish, and the proper and respectful protection and preservation of resources. For example, in accordance with Secwépemc laws, the Secwépemc sing and pray before harvesting any food, medicines, and other materials from the land, and make an offering to thank the Creator and the spirits for anything they take. The Secwépemc believe that all living things have spirits and must be shown utmost respect. It was these vital, integral beliefs and traditional laws, together with other elements of Secwépemc culture and identity, that Canada sought to destroy with the Residential Schools Policy.

Shíshálh band

19. The shíshálh Nation, a division of the Coast Salish First Nations, originally occupied the southern portion of the lower coast of British Columbia. The shíshálh People settled the area thousands of years ago, and occupied approximately 80 village sites over a vast tract of land. The shíshálh People are made up of four sub-groups that speak the language of Shashishalhem, which is a distinct and unique language, although it is part of the Coast Salish Division of the Salishan Language.

20. Shíshálh tradition describes the formation of the shíshálh world (Spelmulh story). Beginning with the creator spirits, who were sent by the Divine Spirit to form the world, they carved out valleys leaving a beach along the inlet at Porpoise Bay. Later, the transformers, a male raven and a female mink, added details by carving trees and forming pools of water.

21. The shíshálh culture includes singing, dancing and drumming as an integral part of their culture and spiritual practices, a connection with the land and the Creator and passing on the history and beliefs of the people. Through song and dance the shíshálh People would tell stories, bless events and even bring about healing. Their songs, dances and drumming also signify critical seasonal events that are integral to the shíshálh. Traditions also include making and using masks,

baskets, regalia and tools for hunting and fishing. It was these vital, integral beliefs and traditional laws, together with other elements of the shíshálh culture and identity, that Canada sought to destroy with the Residential Schools Policy.

The Impact of the Residential schools

22. For Aboriginal Children who were compelled to attend the Residential Schools, rigid discipline was enforced as per the Residential Schools Policy. While at school, children were not allowed to speak their Aboriginal language, even to their parents, and thus members of these Aboriginal communities were forced to learn English.

23. Aboriginal culture was strictly suppressed by the school administrators in compliance with the policy directives of Canada including the Residential Schools Policy. At the SIRS, members of shíshálh were forced to burn or give to the agents of Canada centuries-old totem poles, regalia, masks and other “paraphernalia of the medicine men” and to abandon their potlatches, dancing and winter festivities, and other elements integral to the Aboriginal culture and society of the shíshálh and Secwépemc peoples.

24. Because the SIRS was physically located in the shíshálh community, Canada’s eyes, both directly and through its Agents, were upon the elders and they were punished severely for practising their culture or speaking their language or passing this on to future generations. In the midst of that scrutiny, members of the shíshálh band struggled, often unsuccessfully, to practice, protect and preserve their songs, masks, dancing or other cultural practices.

25. The Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc suffered a similar fate due to their proximity to the KIRS.

26. The children at the Residential Schools were taught to be ashamed of their Aboriginal identity, culture, spirituality and practices. They were referred to as, amongst other derogatory

epithets, “dirty savages” and “heathens” and taught to shun their very identities. The Class members’ Aboriginal way of life, traditions, cultures and spiritual practices were supplanted with the Euro-Canadian identity imposed upon them by Canada through the Residential Schools Policy.

27. The Class members have lost, in whole or in part, their traditional economic viability, self-government and laws, language, land base and land-based teachings, traditional spiritual practices and religious practices, and the integral sense of their collective identity.

28. The Residential Schools Policy, delivered through the Residential Schools, wrought Cultural, Linguistic and Social devastation on the communities of the Class and altered their traditional way of life.

Canada’s Settlement with Former Residential School Residents

29. From the closure of the Residential Schools until the late 1990’s, Canada’s Aboriginal communities were left to battle the damages and suffering of their members as a result of the Residential Schools Policy, without any acknowledgement from Canada. During this period, Residential School survivors increasingly began speaking out about the horrible conditions and abuse they suffered, and the dramatic impact it had on their lives. At the same time, many survivors committed suicide or self-medicated to the point of death. The deaths devastated the life and stability of the communities represented by the Class.

30. In January 1998, Canada issued a Statement of Reconciliation acknowledging and apologizing for the failures of the Residential Schools Policy. Canada admitted that the Residential Schools Policy was designed to assimilate Aboriginal Persons and that it was wrong to pursue that goal. The Plaintiffs plead that the Statement of Reconciliation by Canada is an admission by

Canada of the facts and duties set out herein and is relevant to the Plaintiffs' claim for damages, particularly punitive damages.

31. The Statement of Reconciliation stated, in part, as follows:

Sadly, our history with respect to the treatment of Aboriginal people is not something in which we can take pride. Attitudes of racial and cultural superiority led to a suppression of Aboriginal culture and values. As a country we are burdened by past actions that resulted in weakening the identity of Aboriginal peoples, suppressing their languages and cultures, and outlawing spiritual practices. We must recognize the impact of these actions on the once self-sustaining nations that were disaggregated, disrupted, limited or even destroyed by the dispossession of traditional territory, by the relocation of Aboriginal people, and by some provisions of the Indian Act. We must acknowledge that the results of these actions was the erosion of the political, economic and social systems of Aboriginal people and nations.

Against the backdrop of these historical legacies, it is a remarkable tribute to the strength and endurance of Aboriginal people that they have maintained their historic diversity and identity. The Government of Canada today formally expresses to all Aboriginal people in Canada our profound regret for past actions of the Federal Government which have contributed to these difficult pages in the history of our relationship together.

One aspect of our relationship with Aboriginal people over this period that requires particular attention is the Residential School System. This system separated many children from their families and communities and prevented them from speaking their own languages and from learning about their heritage and cultures. In the worst cases, it left legacies of personal pain and distress that continued to reverberate in Aboriginal communities to this date. Tragically, some children were the victims of physical and sexual abuse.

The Government of Canada acknowledges the role it played in the development and administration of these schools. Particularly to those individuals who experienced the tragedy of sexual and physical abuse at Residential Schools, and who have carried this burden believing that in some way they must be responsible, we wish to emphasize that what you experienced was not your fault and should never have happened. To those of you who suffered this tragedy at Residential Schools, we are deeply sorry. In dealing with the legacies of the Residential School

program, the Government of Canada proposes to work with First Nations, Inuit, Metis people, the Churches and other interested parties to resolve the longstanding issues that must be addressed. We need to work together on a healing strategy to assist individuals and communities in dealing with the consequences of this sad era of our history...

32. Reconciliation is an ongoing process. In renewing our partnership, we must ensure that the mistakes which marked our past relationship are not repeated. The Government of Canada recognizes that policies that sought to assimilate Aboriginal People, women and men, were not the way to build a strong community. On June 11, 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper on behalf of Canada, delivered an apology (“Apology”) that acknowledged the harm done by Canada’s Residential Schools Policy:

*For more than a century, Indian Residential Schools separated over 150,000 Aboriginal children from their families and communities. In the 1870’s, the federal government, partly in order to meet its obligation to educate Aboriginal children, began to play a role in the development and administration of these schools. **Two primary objectives of the Residential Schools system were to remove and isolate children from the influence of their homes, families, traditions and cultures, and to assimilate them into the dominant culture.** These objectives were based on the assumption Aboriginal cultures and spiritual beliefs were inferior and unequal. Indeed, some sought, as it was infamously said, **“to kill the Indian in the child”**. Today, we recognize that this policy of assimilation was wrong, has caused great harm, and has no place in our country. [emphasis added]*

33. In this Apology, the Prime Minister made some important acknowledgments regarding the Residential Schools Policy and its impact on Aboriginal Children:

The Government of Canada built an educational system in which very young children were often forcibly removed from their homes, often taken far from their communities. Many were inadequately fed, clothed and housed. All were deprived of the care and nurturing of their parents, grandparents and communities. First Nations, Inuit and Métis languages and cultural practices were prohibited in these schools.

Tragically, some of these children died while attending residential schools and others never returned home.

The government now recognizes that the consequences of the Indian Residential Schools policy were profoundly negative and that this policy has had a lasting and damaging impact on Aboriginal culture, heritage and language.

The legacy of Indian Residential Schools has contributed to social problems that continue to exist in many communities today.

* * *

We now recognize that it was wrong to separate children from rich and vibrant cultures and traditions, that it created a void in many lives and communities, and we apologize for having done this. We now recognize that, in separating children from their families, we undermined the ability of many to adequately parent their own children and sowed the seeds for generations to follow, and we apologize for having done this. We now recognize that, far too often, these institutions gave rise to abuse or neglect and were inadequately controlled, and we apologize for failing to protect you. Not only did you suffer these abuses as children, but as you became parents, you were powerless to protect your own children from suffering the same experience, and for this we are sorry.

The burden of this experience has been on your shoulders for far too long. The burden is properly ours as a Government, and as a country. There is no place in Canada for the attitudes that inspired the Indian Residential Schools system to ever prevail again. You have been working on recovering from this experience for a long time and in a very real sense, we are now joining you on this journey. The Government of Canada sincerely apologizes and asks the forgiveness of the Aboriginal peoples of this country for failing them so profoundly.

CANADA'S BREACH OF DUTIES TO THE CLASS MEMBERS

34. From the formation of the Residential Schools Policy to its execution in the form of forced attendance at the Residential Schools, Canada caused incalculable losses to the Class members. The Class members have all been affected by Cultural, Linguistic and Social Damage which has impaired the ability of Class members to govern their peoples and their lands.

Canada's Duties

35. Canada was responsible for developing and implementing all aspects of the Residential Schools Policy, including carrying out all operational and administrative aspects of Residential Schools. While the Churches were used as Canada's Agents to assist Canada in carrying out its objectives, those objectives and the manner in which they were carried out were the obligations of Canada. Canada was responsible for:

- (a) the administration of the Act and its predecessor statutes as well as all other statutes relating to Aboriginal Persons and all Regulations promulgated under these Acts and their predecessors during the Class Period;
- (b) the management, operation and administration of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and its predecessors and related Ministries and Departments, as well as the decisions taken by those ministries and departments;
- (c) the construction, operation, maintenance, ownership, financing, administration, supervision, inspection and auditing of the Residential Schools and for the creation, design and implementation of the program of education for Aboriginal Persons in attendance;
- (d) the selection, control, training, supervision and regulation of the operators of the Residential Schools, including their employees, servants, officers and agents, and for the care and education, control and well being of Aboriginal Persons attending the Residential Schools;
- (e) preserving, promoting, maintaining and not interfering with Aboriginal Rights, including the right to retain and practice their culture, spirituality, language and traditions and the right to fully learn their culture, spirituality, language and traditions from their families, extended families and communities; and
- (f) the care and supervision of all Survivors while they were in attendance at the Residential Schools during the Class Period.

36. Further, Canada has at all material times committed itself to honour international law in relation to the treatment of its people, which obligations form minimum commitments to Canada's Aboriginal Peoples, including the Class, and which have been breached. In particular, Canada's breaches include the failure to comply with the terms and spirit of:

- (a) the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, 78 U.N.T.S. 277, entered into force Jan. 12, 1951,, and in particular Article 2(b), (c) and (e) of that convention, by engaging in the intentional destruction of the culture of Aboriginal Children and communities, causing profound and permanent cultural injuries to the Class;
- (b) the *Declaration of the Rights of the Child* (1959) G.A. res. 1386 (XIV), 14 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 16) at 19, U.N. Doc. A/4354 by failing to provide Aboriginal Children with the means necessary for normal development, both materially and spiritually, and failing to put them in a position to earn a livelihood and protect them against exploitation;
- (c) the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, GA res. 44/25, annex, 44 UN GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 167, U.N. Doc. A/44/49 (1989); 1577 UNTS 3; 28 ILM 1456 (1989), and in particular Articles 29 and 30 of that convention, by failing to provide Aboriginal Children with education that is directed to the development of respect for their parents, their cultural identities, language and values, and by denying the right of Aboriginal Children to enjoy their own cultures, to profess and practise their own religions and to use their own languages;
- (d) the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, G.A. res. 2200A (XXI), 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 16) at 52, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), 999 U.N.T.S. 171, entered into force Mar. 23, 1976, in particular Articles 1 and 27 of that convention, by interfering with Class members' rights to retain and practice their culture, spirituality, language and traditions, the right to fully learn their culture, spirituality, language and traditions from their families, extended families and communities and the right to teach their culture, spirituality, language and traditions to their own children, grandchildren, extended families and communities;
- (e) the *American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man*, O.A.S. Res. XXX, adopted by the Ninth International Conference of American States (1948), reprinted in *Basic Documents Pertaining to Human Rights in the Inter-American System*, OEA/Ser.L.V//II.82 doc.6 rev.1 at 17 (1992), and in particular Article XIII, by violating Class members' right to take part in the cultural life of their communities;
- (f) the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, G.A. Res. 61/295, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/295 (Sept. 13, 2007), 46 I.L.M. 1013 (2007), endorsed by Canada 12 November 2010, Article 8, 2(d), which commits to the provision of effective mechanisms for redress for forced assimilation, and the additional following provisions: Preamble, Articles 1-15, 17-28, 31, 33-46.

37. Canada's obligations under international law inform Canada's common law, statutory, fiduciary, constitutionally-mandated and other duties, and a breach of the aforementioned international obligations is evidence of, or constitutes, a breach under domestic law.

Breach of Fiduciary and Constitutionally-Mandated Duties

38. Canada has constitutional obligations to, and a fiduciary relationship with, Aboriginal People and Indian Bands in Canada. Canada assumed the responsibility for educating Aboriginal children, and prevented Aboriginal Persons and Class members from doing so, by adopting and implementing the Residential Schools Policy, which included creating, planning, establishing, setting up, initiating, operating, financing, supervising, controlling and regulating a program of assimilation through the Residential Schools. Through the assumption of this role, and/or by virtue of the *Constitution Act 1867*, the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and the provisions of the Act, as amended, Canada owed a fiduciary duty to Class members.

39. Canada's constitutional duties include the obligation to uphold the honour of the Crown in all of its dealings with Aboriginal Peoples, including the Class members. This obligation arose with the Crown's assertion of sovereignty from the time of first contact and continues through post-treaty relationships. This is and remains an obligation of the Crown and was an obligation on the Crown at all material times. The honour of the Crown is a legal principle which requires the Crown to operate at all material times in its relations with Aboriginal Peoples from contact to post treaty in the most honourable manner to protect the interests of the Aboriginal Peoples.

40. Canada's fiduciary duties obliged Canada to act as a protector of Class members' Aboriginal Rights, including the protection and preservation of their language, culture and their way of life, and the duty to take corrective steps to restore the Plaintiffs' culture, history and status, or assist them to do so. At a minimum, Canada's duty to Aboriginal Persons and Indian Bands,

including the Class members, included the obligation to respect their Aboriginal Rights and not to deliberately seek to assimilate them, reduce their numbers, undermine, harm or impair them.

41. Canada breached the fiduciary and constitutional duties owed by Canada to the Class by targeting for destruction the collective identity and way of life established and enjoyed by the Class members.

42. Canada acted in its own self-interest and contrary to the interests of the Class members, not only by being disloyal to, but by actually betraying these communities which it had a duty to protect. Canada wrongfully exercised its discretion and power over Aboriginal Peoples, and in particular children, for its own benefit. The Residential Schools Policy was pursued by Canada, in whole or in part, to eradicate what Canada saw as the “Indian Problem”. Namely, Canada sought to relieve itself of its moral and financial responsibilities for Aboriginal People and communities, the expense and inconvenience of dealing with cultures, languages, habits and values different from Canada’s predominant Euro-Canadian heritage, and the challenges arising from land claims.

43. In further breach of its ongoing fiduciary, constitutionally-mandated, statutory and common law duties to the Class, Canada failed, and continues to fail, to adequately remediate the damage caused by its wrongful acts, failures and omissions. In particular, Canada has failed to take adequate measures to ameliorate the Cultural, Linguistic and Social Damage suffered by the Class, notwithstanding Canada’s admission of the wrongfulness of the Residential Schools Policy since 1998.

Breach of Aboriginal Rights

44. The shíshálh and Tk’emlúps people, and indeed all members of the Class have exercised laws, customs and traditions integral to their distinctive societies prior to contact with Europeans.

In particular, and from a time prior to contact with Europeans, these Indian Bands have sustained their individual members, communities and distinctive cultures by speaking their languages and practicing their customs and traditions.

45. As a result of Residential School Policy, Class members were denied the ability to exercise and enjoy their Aboriginal Rights in the context of their collective expression within the Indian Bands, some particulars of which include, but are not limited to:

- (a) shísháhlh, Tk'emlúps and other Indian Bands' cultural, spiritual and traditional activities have been lost or impaired;
- (b) the traditional social structures, including the equal authority of male and female leaders have been lost or impaired;
- (c) the shísháhlh, Tk'emlúps and other Aboriginal languages have been lost or impaired;
- (d) traditional shísháhlh, Tk'emlúps and Aboriginal parenting skills have been lost or impaired;
- (e) shísháhlh, Tk'emlúps and other Aboriginal skills for gathering, harvesting, hunting and preparing traditional foods have been lost or impaired; and,
- (f) shísháhlh, Tk'emlúps and Aboriginal spiritual beliefs have been lost or impaired.

46. Canada had at all material times and continues to have a duty to respect, honour and protect the Class members' Aboriginal Rights, including the exercise of their spiritual practices and traditional protection of their lands and resources, and an obligation not to undermine or interfere with the Class members' Aboriginal Rights. Canada has failed in these duties, without justification, through its Residential Schools Policy. Canada breached the Class members' Aboriginal Rights and caused the Class members Cultural, Linguistic and Social Harm.

Vicarious Liability

47. Canada is vicariously liable for the negligent performance of the fiduciary, constitutionally-mandated, statutory and common law duties of its Agents.

48. Additionally, the Plaintiffs hold Canada solely responsible for the creation and implementation of the Residential Schools Policy and, furthermore:

- (a) The Plaintiffs expressly waive any and all rights they may possess to recover from Canada, or any other party, any portion of the Plaintiffs' loss that may be attributable to the fault or liability of any third-party and for which Canada might reasonably be entitled to claim from any one or more third-party for contribution, indemnity or an apportionment at common law, in equity, or pursuant to the British Columbia *Negligence Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 333, as amended; and
- (b) The Plaintiffs will not seek to recover from any party, other than Canada, any portion of their losses which have been claimed, or could have been claimed, against any third-parties.

Damages

49. As a consequence of the breach of fiduciary, constitutionally-mandated, statutory and common law duties, and breach of Aboriginal Rights by Canada and its Agents, for whom Canada is vicariously liable, the Class members have suffered from the loss of the ability to fully exercise their Aboriginal Rights collectively, including the right to have a traditional government based on their own languages, spiritual practices, traditional laws and practices.

Grounds for Punitive and Aggravated Damages

50. Canada deliberately planned the eradication of the language, religion and culture of the Class. The actions were malicious and intended to cause harm, and in the circumstances punitive and aggravated damages are appropriate and necessary.

Legal Basis of Claim

51. The Class members are Indian Bands, being collectives of Aboriginal Peoples who recognize their shared cultural and linguistic identities.

52. The Class members' Aboriginal Rights existed and were exercised at all relevant times pursuant to the *Constitution Act, 1982*, s. 35, being Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982 (UK)*, 1982, c. 11.

53. At all material times, Canada owed the Plaintiffs and Class members a special and constitutionally-mandated duty of care, good faith, honesty and loyalty pursuant to Canada's constitutional obligations and Canada's duty to act in the best interests of Aboriginal Peoples and communities. Canada breached those duties, causing harm.

54. The Class members are comprised of Aboriginal Peoples who have exercised their respective laws, customs and traditions integral to their distinctive societies prior to contact with Europeans. In particular, and from a time prior to contact with Europeans to the present, the Aboriginal Peoples who comprise the Class members have sustained their people, communities and distinctive culture by exercising their respective laws, customs and traditions in relation to their entire way of life, including language, dance, music, recreation, art, family, marriage and communal responsibilities, and use of resources.

Application of the Quebec Charter

55. Where the aforementioned acts of Canada and its agents took place in the province of Quebec, they constitute breaches of article 1457 of the *Civil Code of Quebec*, CQLR c CCQ-1991, and the *Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms*, CQLR c C-12.

Constitutionality of Sections of the Indian Act

56. The Class members plead that any section of the Act and its predecessors and any Regulation passed under the Act and any other statutes relating to Aboriginal Persons that provide or purport to provide the statutory authority for the eradication of Aboriginal People through the destruction of their languages, culture, practices, traditions and way of life, are in violation of sections 25 and 35(1) of the *Constitution Act* 1982, sections 1 and 2 of the *Canadian Bill of Rights*, R.S.C. 1985, as well as sections 7 and 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and should therefore be treated as having no force and effect.

57. Canada deliberately planned the eradication of the language, spirituality and culture of the Plaintiffs and Class members.

58. Canada's actions were deliberate and malicious and, in the circumstances, punitive, exemplary and aggravated damages are appropriate and necessary.

59. The Plaintiffs plead and rely upon the following:

Federal Courts Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. F-7, s. 17;

Federal Courts Rules, SOR/98-106, Part 5.1 Class Proceedings;

Crown Liability and Proceedings Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-50, ss. 3, 21, 22, and 23;

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Part 1 of the Constitution Act, 1982, being Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (UK), 1982, c 11, ss. 7, 15, 25, 35(1);

The Canadian Bill of Rights, S.C., 1960, c.44, Preamble, ss. 1 and 2;

The Indian Act, R.S.C. 1985, ss. 2(1), 3, 18(2), 114-122 and its predecessors;

Indigenous Languages Act S.C. 2019, c.23, Preamble, ss.2-10, 23-24;

Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act, S.C. 2000, c. 24, s.2-4, and Schedule (Articles 6-7);

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, s.c. 2021, c. 14, Preamble, s.2, ss. 4-6, Schedule;

Civil Code of Quebec, CQLR c CCQ-1991, Article 1457;

Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, CQLR c C-12, ss. 1, 4, 5, 39, 41, 43.

International Treaties:

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 78 U.N.T.S. 277, entered into force Jan. 12, 1951, preamble and Articles 1-5;

Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959), G.A. res. 1386 (XIV), 14 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 16) at 19, U.N. Doc. A/4354, preamble and Principles 1-10;

Convention on the Rights of the Child, GA res. 44/25, annex, 44 UN GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 167, U.N. Doc. A/44/49 (1989); 1577 UNTS 3; 28 ILM 1456 (1989), Preamble, Articles 1-9, 11-20, 24-25, 27-32, 34, 36-37, 39;

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, G.A. res. 2200A (XXI), 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 16) at 52, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), 999 U.N.T.S. 171, entered into force Mar. 23, 1976, Preamble, Articles 1-3, 5-9, 12, 16-19, 21-27;

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, O.A.S. Res. XXX, adopted by the Ninth International Conference of American States (1948), reprinted in *Basic Documents Pertaining to Human Rights in the Inter-American System*, OEA/Ser.L.V//II.82 doc.6 rev.1 at 17 (1992), Preamble, Articles 1-3, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 22;

United Nations Resolution A/RES/60/147, December 16, 2005, Preamble, ss.1-3, and Annex; and

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, G.A. Res. 61/295, U.N. Doc. A/RES/61/295 (Sept. 13, 2007), 46 I.L.M. 1013 (2007), endorsed by Canada 12 November 2010, Article 8, 2(d), Preamble, and Articles 1-15, 17-28, 31, 33-46.

60. The plaintiffs propose that this action be tried at Vancouver, BC.

Amended January 13, 2022

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all Solicitors for the Plaintiffs

Solicitors for the Plaintiffs

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