

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TRC Launches Call for Proposals for
Commemoration Initiative**

The Residential School era in Canada is gone, but it must not be forgotten. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) aims to ensure that this shared piece of Canadian history remains in the minds of all Canadians.

Earlier today, the TRC launched its first call for proposals for a Commemoration Initiative.

“Survivors of residential schools have been waiting a long time for this,” says Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of the TRC. “When the work of the Commission is complete, we will ensure that the whole world hears the truth about residential schools, so that generations to come- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians alike- will hold to the statement that resonates with all of us: ‘This must never happen again.’”

In total, \$20 million will be available for Commemoration, with \$10 million available for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. All proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the TRC, who will then make its recommendations to the Government of Canada. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will also be responsible for administration of the funding on behalf of the Government of Canada through a Contribution Agreement between the proposer and INAC. Approved projects will begin to receive funding in April 2011.

The Commemoration is rolling out as part of the TRC’s mandate to: learn the truth about what happened in the residential schools and to inform all Canadians about what happened in the schools; and to guide and inspire First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and Canadians in a process of truth and healing leading toward reconciliation and renewed relationships based mutual understanding and respect.

Those wishing to obtain funds for their respective Commemoration initiatives can get more information on criteria, eligibility and how to apply from the Commemoration Initiative Call for Proposals Guide at www.trc.ca. The applications for 2011 Commemoration proposals will be accepted until 2 p.m. CT on March 18, 2011.

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More information:

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