



## **TRC Hosts Press Conference to Announce Regional Event to be held in City of Victoria**

December 13, 2011 – The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) held a press conference today with First Nations Leaders and Mayor Dean Fortin to announce that the TRC will host its first Regional Event, April 13-14, 2012 in the City of Victoria, BC.

The TRC's Regional Event in Victoria will provide more than 2,000 survivors from Vancouver Island (and adjacent islands) with the opportunity to reflect and share their experiences with the TRC.

Justice Murray Sinclair, TRC Chair said, "The TRC Regional Event is an opportunity for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the Residential School system."

Regional Event activities will include Statement Gathering, Traditional Ceremonies, Survivor Gatherings, Education Day, Witnessing Survivor Statements, Cultural performances, films and more.

In preparation for the TRC Regional Event in Victoria, four Regional Hearings will also be held on Vancouver Island.

"The Regional Hearings on Vancouver Island are just four of many that are happening throughout Canada leading up to national events. The smaller hearings give survivors who may not be able to attend a national event a chance to still share their story. Each story has its own truth to it," said Sinclair.

The TRC's Regional Event in Victoria and the Regional Hearings on Vancouver Island will provide an opportunity for Residential School Survivors to share with the Commission and Canada the unique experiences of children who attended Residential School.

The City of Victoria is proud to host the TRC's first Regional Event and is working with the TRC to engage more businesses and community members in this important gathering.

Planning is already underway for the TRC's BC National Event which is scheduled to be held in Vancouver in the Fall of 2013. Dates and locations for the BC mainland Hearings in lead up to this event will be announced at a later date.



## **TRC Vancouver Island Regional Hearings Schedule**

### **Port Hardy**

February 27-28, 2012

### **Campbell River**

March 1-2, 2012

### **Port Alberni**

March 12-13 2012

### **Cowichan (Duncan)**

March 15-16, 2012

## **TRC Regional Event in Victoria, BC**

Victoria Convention Centre & Fairmont Empress

April 13-14, 2012

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established as a result of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in the 150 year history of the Residential Schools, and guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

For more information on National and Regional Events please visit [trc.ca](http://trc.ca)

### **Media Inquiries:**

Nancy Pine, Senior Communications and Outreach Advisor

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

613-947-4647 office

613-316-5654 cell

Email [nancy.pine@trc.ca](mailto:nancy.pine@trc.ca)