

August 29, 2024

To: Valarie Gideon, Deputy Minister, Crown and Indigenous Relations
Valerie.Gideon@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

Re: Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support project funding

Our project awaits contact from your department following the August 16th email indicating a reversal of the funding cuts announced in July.

It was with great disappointment and a sense of betrayal that we received the notice of the termination of funding for the Splatsin Monument Project.

The Residential School Survivors Planning Group at Splatsin (Planning Group) began in May 2022. The Planning Group identified and engaged with Survivors and held a gathering with the Survivors for the first time in September 2022. At that time, the Monument themes and scope were developed by the Survivors and the community publicly honored the Survivors.

In December 2022 the Planning Group submitted a proposal for the Splatsin Monument Project. The Splatsin Monument Project qualified for start up funds which were received in March 2023. Following our work plan, our group selected an artist, confirmed the site and shared the initial design with the Survivors.

An expectation of ongoing funding was verbally communicated by ISC project officers, and our full project proposal was forwarded within ISC with the recommendation from the project officer for approval.

The funding termination notice was an act of bad faith. What was previously approved was disqualified mid way through the process.

We request a reinstatement of project funding to complete the work that has begun. We look forward to discussions with your department to continue this important work.

We further request a meeting with you so that our Splatsin Survivors can express their concerns directly to you.

Residential School Survivors Planning Group at Splatsin
On behalf of the 44 surviving members of the Residential Schools

cc. Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations Canada,

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