

Statement of Apology on Behalf of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to Inuit Students Who Attended Residential Schools in Newfoundland and Labrador

I respectfully thank you for coming together today for this important occasion.

I extend my deepest gratitude to residential schools survivors, their families and loved ones, and special guests who have assembled to hear this Apology.

I am pleased to be joined by the President of Nunatsiavut, Johannes Lampe, and elected officials of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

I wish to acknowledge the support of the Nunatsiavut Government, the Inuit communities, and the officials who provided assistance and support as we engaged to deliver this Apology.

Let me say from the outset that the treatment of Inuit in residential schools represents a tragic and sad chapter in the history of Newfoundland and Labrador.

While we have a duty to acknowledge the past, we must also reflect upon the hardships faced by Inuit children, and solemnly pledge to ensure that these historical events are never forgotten nor repeated.

The Moravian Mission and the International Grenfell Association established schools with dormitories for Indigenous children. Their stated purpose was to educate Indigenous children throughout Labrador, including those from Hebron, Hopedale, Makkovik, Nain, Nutak, Postville, and Rigolet.

There is no disputing that Inuit children in these schools were physically and emotionally separated from their communities and families. As time passed, there was a weakening of their knowledge of their language, culture and traditions. Loved ones, parents and siblings, left behind at home, also keenly felt this separation and loss.

For some, this loss was severe. Many students were neglected. Others have recounted experiences of physical and sexual abuse. However, all of the students shared the loss of their language, attachment to family, community, and culture.

As these children became older, some returned home to the families and communities they used to know. It wasn't easy. It was especially difficult for students who carried the incredible weight of traumatic experiences – grief, violence, abuse, social and family dislocations, and mental and physical health issues.

The benefit of hindsight tells us that the practices, culture, and traditions, learned at an early age and developed through the formative years, became eroded by a system that may have had good intentions, but was wrong.

There were attempts to make amends for what had happened. On September 28, 2016, the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador approved a settlement for the survivors of the residential schools.

There was a financial settlement to compensate students who attended the residential schools in Newfoundland and Labrador and suffered abuse. This came from the courageous actions of former Inuit students who, despite the pain, chose to speak openly about their experiences.

The process of negotiating a settlement did not happen overnight. As time passed, so too did some of the students. They were not able to hear an apology nor receive compensation; however, we remember them for their strength and their courage. They will not be forgotten.

So today, with a heavy heart, I respectfully and humbly offer an apology to the Inuit students of residential

schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. As Premier, and on behalf of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, I extend this apology to the students for all that you experienced while in residential school, to your families, and to all Labrador Inuit.

We are sorry – pijâgingilagut – that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador allowed this to happen and did not step in to protect the children who needed to be protected. We turned a blind eye and neglected our responsibility and duty as a Government.

It is unacceptable that the survivors experienced neglect, abuse, hardship, and discrimination at the hands of people and institutions who were entrusted to provide care and nurturing.

There was a failure to treat Inuit children and their families with equality and respect. There was no regard for culture and traditions. Spiritual beliefs and Inuititut were considered inferior. So much has been lost. The work of reclaiming and revitalizing the language, culture, traditions, and traditional skills that would have come naturally from family and Elders during the formative years is difficult.

As Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated, saying sorry is not enough. It cannot turn back the clock and undo the harm. The tragedy of enduring separation from families and communities is something you live with every day.

I do not want my words to suggest that an apology relieves the weight of the pain and suffering that you have endured. However, it is my hope that coming here and expressing with complete sincerity that I am sorry, supports you in your healing journey.

I admire your strength and resilience.

It is my belief and the belief of the Government that I lead, that we have to truly understand the history of residential schools if we ever hope to advance reconciliation with Labrador Inuit.

We must also acknowledge the on-going challenges faced by Inuit when interacting with programs and services such as child welfare, health and justice. I am here today to give you my unwavering commitment, and the commitment of my Government, that we will continue to work hand in hand, government-to-government, to advance the priorities of Labrador Inuit.

Only by coming to terms with the past and apologizing for our failures can we forge a path towards re-shaping a future for our children and our grandchildren.

Reconciliation is a difficult process. It takes time, effort, and sincerity.

Today is an important step in rebuilding our relationship – one that must be founded on respect, cooperation, partnership, and trust.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come here today to say I am sorry on behalf of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Nakummek



Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

November 2023

UgguagutiKannimik kiggatotiKannik kavamanganit Niufulami Lapatuarmilu Inunnut ilinniaviliattitaumajunut aullatitautlutik ilinniavinut Niufulami Lapatuarmilu

Sulijutsasiannikut nakutsavunga katiutigunnagata ullumi
ikKanallagittumik pitjutiKlluta

KujaliutiKallagikKunga anigotjaumalittunik
ilinniaviliattitaumajut, ilangit, nalligijangit,
KaikKujaumajuillu tamaungagunnamata tusagasuamut
ugguagutiKannimik

KujaliutiKatsuvunga Kaigunnasimammat AngajukKasuak
Nunatsiavummi, Johannes Lampe.

uKautigigumammijakka ikajulaunngit Nunatsiavut
kavamanga, Inuit nunalingit, kamajellu pannaigutiKalittiluta
tatsuminga ugguagutigijattinik.

UKautigigumammijaga tamanna pigiasjaulaunngina
pilukattauningit Inuit tukisinnattuk ilinniaviliattitautlutik
uKumaitasimalaunngit tutsimannatolaunngalu sivunnita
ilusiviningit Niufulami Lapatuarmilu.

Pijutsaugatta uKautigillugit Kângiutisimajut,
isumagijatsagimmijavut uKumaitasalaunngit Inuit
sugusingit, uKatsiagunnalutalu taimák pilukattausimanningit
puigujaugatsaungit pigiallataugatillu.

Morâviat misiuningit Ânniasiutiligijellu (International
Grenfell Association) sakKititsilauttut ilinniavinik
tjummiuvitsanillu NunaKakKâsimajuit suguset
aivitsanginnik. TugâgutiKasimajut ilinniatitsigiamik
NunaKakKâsimajuit sugusinginnik Lapatuarmi, ukunangat
nunannit, Hebron, Hopedale, Makkovik, Nain, Nuták,
Postville, Rigolet.

Akigattugatsaungituk Inuit sugusingit
ilinniaviliattitaumalauttut ánnititaumalauttut
uKumaitasitautlutillu aullatitaumata nunaminit
ilamminillu. Akuniugianguullitilugu, uKausituKamminik
puiguvalliallilauttut, ilugusimminik, piusituKamminillu.
Nalligijatit, angajukKât (anânait/atâtaít), nukâtsutit/
angijuatsutit, Kimattaumajut angiggamini
ippiniagutiKalaummijut tamatsumingatsainak

aviutiijaummata kingomammatalu.

Ilanginnut, kingomannik uKumaittuosimajuk. Unuttuit
suguset kamagijautsiasimalaungit. Ilangit ikKaumautiKajut
ánnititaunnimik uivisáttuanimillu. Távatuak , ilonnatik
suguset puigulinnimik uKausituKamminik, ilamminik
katingaKatiKannimik, nunamminik, ilugusimminillu
ippiniagutigesimajuvinet.

JârikKutusigiammata taikka suguset, angiggaminut
utisimajut ilamminut nunaminullu Kaujimalauttaminut.
Nalunangitolauttut. UKumailuasimajuk
ilinniaKattasimajunut tigumiannikut uKumaittunik
pilukattauKattasiminnimmut – kitsanikkut, pilukattaunikkut,
uivissatuisanikkut, inoKatinginnit ilamminullu
siammattaumanikkut, isumangatigut timnitigullu Kanuigatik.

KaujimauiKajugut taimák pititaumannik, ilugguset,
piustuKaillu ilinniatitaumannik járikittinginni
piguvalliasimajut Kaujisanninginni, asiguvalliatitamajuk
pitsiasugaluattunut, tammautaumajuk.

ÁkKigasuasimajut pikatasimajamminik. September
28, 2016. Itluasaivitsuanga Niufulâmi Lapatuarmilu
kajusiutjismalauttut akilittuigiamik ilinniaviliattitaumajunut
aullatitauKattasimajunut.

kenaujattigut kajusiutjismalauttut akilegianga
ilinniaviliattitaumajunut Niufulâmi Lapatuarmilu
ánnititaumajunullu. Tamanna sakKititaumajuk
pitlagasuanningita ilinniaviliattitaumajut Inuit,
uKumaitasagaluatlutik, uKâlautiKatlutik Kanuk
pijausimanningit.

Satusaigianga akilittaunitsamik tapvainak kajusiutjaulaun
gilak. Akunigiak, ilangittauk ilinniavimmisimajut
ajulisimalauttut. Tusalautsimagatik ugguagutaunniik
akilittaugatiillu; távatuak, ikKsumajavut songuningit
sivogajuittosimanningillu. Puigujauniangit.

Taimaimmat ullumi, uKumaitsanikkut, sulijutsagillusi

tunitjiutiKavunga ugguanimmik Inunnut sugusinut
ilinniavimmetitaumajunut Niufulâmi Lapatuarmilu.
AnajukKângullunga, kiggatullugillu Inungit
Niufulâmi Lapatuarmilu, ugguagutiKanniga tunijaga
ilinnialautsimajunut pikattausimajunut ilinniavini
aullatitaumatlutik, ilatsinut, ilonnainullu Inunginnut
Lapatuarmi.

Pijâgingilagut – pijâgingilagut kavamanga Newfulâmi
Lapatuarmilu tamatsuminga sakKititsinimmata
nukKatitsigasuatillu saputjinikkut sugusinik
paigijaujutsausimajunik.. Takuttojalaungilagut pigatsatinillu
Kujanâtluta pijutsausimatluta kavamattut.

Kujanâttajutsaungilak ilinniaviliattitaumalauttut
pilukattausimanningit ippigijunnesimanningit,
ánnititaumanningit, uKumaitasitaumanningit
Kunugijausimanningillu inunnut aulatsijinullu
sulijugijausimajunut kamatsiagiamik pitsiagiammilu.

Pitsiasimangituk Inuit sugusinginnik ilanginnilu
atjigettisitsiagatik sulijutsasiagatillu. IkKagijaulaungit
ilugguset piusituKaillu. Uppigusunnik Inuttitullu
uKausituKak Kujanâttalauttut ikKananginitsutijautlutik.
AsiujillagisimajuKavuk pigiasinningillu
utittisivalliagasuanningit uKausittuKamminik,
iluggusimminik, piusittuKamminik, pikatattausimminillu
atujannaKattasimatillugit ilangitigut InutuKammitigullu
sugusiun immni ajunnalagittuk.

Sollu AnajukKâsuak Justin Trudeau uKalaummat,
ugguagutiKannik nâmmalungilak. Utittitaugunnangilak
sitontik asiutigunnalunnagulu ánnesimannik.
Pilukattausimannik siammatitlugit ilaget nunaKatigellu
attuniKatsainatuk ullu tamât.

UKausikka asigutjiniangituk uKumaitasimannisinik
ánniagutiKasimannisinillu. Távatuak, nigiuvinga
Nunatsinut tikinniga uKanniganillu sulijutsasianikkut
ugguagutiKannimik, ikajugunnaKuk ákKivallianitsini.

Songunisi uKumaittukogunnasilu piugitsujaga.

Uppivunga uppimijuk kavamak suliaKapviga,
tukisimatsiagalivut piusigisimajangit ilinniaviliattitaumajuit
nigiugumagutta ikajullagigiamik Lapatuarmi Inunginnik.

UKautigijatsaumijuk mánnaluatsiak uKumaittukokatanningit
Inuit piKatiKagiaKanninginni suliatatigut
kiggatuttaunikkulu sollu sugusinik kamajunut,
inosiligijunut itluatsaiviligijinnulu. Tamânevunga ullumi
Kaujitsiagumallusi sulitsialunga, sulitsianingalu kavamaga,
ikajunnaniattugut kavamamit kavamamut, pivalliasuamut
Lapatuarmi Inungit.

Tukisitsialugit kisiani ugguagutigijavullu
tamautigisimajavut pivalliautigigunnatavut
asiangutigasuumut sivunitsangit sugusitta ingutattalu.

Pivalliautikagianga uKumaittuk. Pivalliautikagasuannik
akuniutjausok, pitsianikkut sulijutsanikkulu.

Ullumi ikKanallagittuk pitsiasuannik inoKatigetsianimmik
– tungaviKatsiatillugu sulijutsanimmik, ikajuttigennimik,
suliaKaKatigennimik sulijutsanikkulu.

Nakummek pivitsaKattisganga maungagamut Nunatsinut
ullumi ugguagutiKanniganik kiggatutlunga Niufulâmik
Lapatuarmilu.

Nakummek

Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

November 2023