

Press Release

Law Society of Upper Canada officials to engage in initial dialogue with Residential School survivors

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(Sioux Lookout, ON) A special meeting will take place in Sioux Lookout on [September 20](#), 2017 between Indian Residential School survivors and officials from the Law Society of Upper Canada.

On June 28, 2017, Law Society Treasurer Paul Schabas announced the appointment of a review panel to examine the way in which the Law Society and its Tribunal address regulatory matters involving Indigenous persons, complaints and issues. The review panel will identify issues and make recommendations on opportunities for inclusion of Indigenous perspectives.

"The appointment of this review panel follows the Law Society's experiences in *The Law Society of Upper Canada v. Keshen*, which raised questions about the Law Society's regulatory and hearing process in relation to First Nations, Métis and Inuit people", says a release by the Law Society.

The panel will submit its final report in [May 2018](#).

Lawyer and former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Ovide Mercredi is hired to work in tandem with the review panel. As an independent reviewer, Mr. Mercredi will work closely with Residential School survivors and the communities.

Mr. Mercredi said, "If we are all serious about creating change for the better, then it is extremely vital that the law society officials engage with Residential School survivors right at the outset of this important task. This gathering marks the beginning of important dialogue."

The head of the Law Society of Upper Canada, Treasurer Paul Schabas and members of the review panel will meet with survivors. The review panel is co-chaired by lawyers Dianne Corbiere and Julian Falconer. The members of the panel include: Robert Burd, Teresa Donnelly, Isfahan Merali, Kathleen Lickers and Elder/Advisor Myeegun Henry.

The one day gathering will take place on [September 20](#), 2017 in the traditional territory of the Lac Seul First Nation, at the Nishnawbe Gamik Friendship Centre, 52 King Street in Sioux Lookout. In addition to important dialogue, the gathering will include traditional ceremonies and activities: sunrise ceremony (Pelican Falls Centre, site of the former Residential School); honour songs and sharing circle.

Everyone is invited. More information will soon follow.

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