

Statement from the International Grenfell Association

November 24, 2017- Our belief is that Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to Happy Valley-Goose Bay, is underpinned by genuine compassion and an honest desire to have a positive impact on the healing process.

We have all heard directly from, and read about, individuals who felt pain and suffering during their time in Labrador schools and dormitories. We have also heard that, for the healing process to truly begin, an apology is necessary. The acknowledgement of their pain and the respect shown through the Federal Government apology given in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, will go a long way toward that healing.

The International Grenfell Association's mission in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador has always had at its core the health, welfare and betterment of the community of people we serve. "To all members of that community, and to those individuals determined to move forward with their lives, the IGA offers its sincere apology for in any way not sheltering these individuals from the suffering they endured. In the spirit of reconciliation IGA looks forward to walking into the future with all peoples of Newfoundland and Labrador," said Keating Hagmann, Chairman, IGA.

Background

The International Grenfell Association (IGA) was established over 100 years ago to bring a range of much-needed health care and related services to the people of Northern Newfoundland and coastal Labrador. During difficult times IGA provided care to people in need throughout the entire coastal region.

Prior to 1946, and in the absence of government funding, IGA staffed and operated schools in Labrador and Northern Newfoundland offering families of all ancestry the opportunity to educate their children. At no time did IGA have an intent to separate children of aboriginal descent from their families or their culture. Post 1946, IGA's direct involvement in education concluded and was limited to assisting Government with the difficult task of recruiting teachers to these remote locations.

In Cartwright, Northwest River, and St. Anthony, IGA was involved in the staffing and operation of dormitories for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. These dormitories served not only children of Innu, Inuit and settler family origins who were attending school away from their home communities but also children, who through no fault of their own, were wards of the province.

About the International Grenfell Association Today

Today IGA operates as a registered charitable organization, empowering local non-profit organizations that offer community services by providing them financial support through grants and bursaries. Through such partnerships our mission continues to focus on helping to grow the health, education, social, and cultural well-being of families and communities. To date, the IGA has granted more than \$40 million and launched more than 1,100 projects ranging from medical equipment, to health and recreational programs, to bursaries for students committed to giving back to their communities. We remain here for the people of Northern Newfoundland and coastal Labrador.

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