

# INFORMATION NOTICE FOR INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT – PERSONAL CREDITS FOR EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES AND GROUPS

## Why have you been sent this Information Notice?

Common Experience Payment recipients and/or certain family members may be coming to you to use non-cash Personal Credits of up to \$3000 for educational programs and services.

## What is the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA)?

The IRSSA is the largest class action in Canadian history. Implementation began on September 19, 2007, following the agreement reached between legal counsel for former students and the Churches, the Assembly of First Nations, other Aboriginal organizations and the Government of Canada to achieve a fair and lasting resolution of the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

One of the key components of the IRSSA is the Common Experience Payment (CEP), which was to be paid to all eligible former students who applied from a \$1.9 billion trust (referred to as the Designated Amount Fund – DAF).

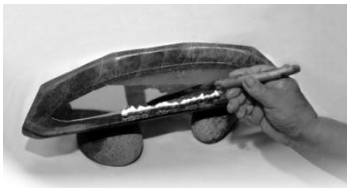
## What are Personal Credits?

Personal Credits are defined in the IRSSA as credits that have no cash value, and are redeemable for either personal or group educational programs and services, provided by approved educational entities and groups.

Personal Credits can be used by Common Experience Payment recipients or certain family members as defined in the Court-approved terms and conditions, which can be found at the website below or by calling the Personal Credits toll free line (also below).

## How can Personal Credits be used?

Personal Credits are available for a wide range of programs and services including those provided by universities, colleges, trade or training schools, Indigenous Institutions of Higher Learning or which relate to literacy or trades, as well as programs and services which relate to the preservation, reclamation, development or understanding of native history, cultures or languages. Personal Credits can also be used for either approved individual or group learning activities.



If your organization is included on the list of approved Educational Entities and Groups for Personal Credits, which can be found on the Official Court Website at [www.residentialschoolssettlement.ca](http://www.residentialschoolssettlement.ca), it will have a key role to play in the delivery of eligible educational programs and services. Since Personal Credits are non-cash, students will not be able to make an up-front payment, so the Educational Entity or Group will have to submit the redemption form to receive payment directly from Crawford Class Action Services (the Court-appointed administrator).

If an organization is not included on the list of approved Educational Entities and Groups, please consult the website for more information.

## For Group Educational Services:

First Nations, Métis and all other non-Inuit CEP Recipients may choose to pool their Personal Credits with other CEP Recipients (or family members who have been transferred Personal Credits) in a Group Educational Service. These Group Services are aimed at the preservation, reclamation, development or understanding of native identities, histories, cultures or languages.

Inuk CEP Recipients may choose to pool their Personal Credits with other CEP recipients and/or family members who have been transferred Personal Credits towards Inuit culture and language programs or services to be designed and delivered in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavik or Nunavut. These Services will be delivered by educational entities and groups with assistance from the appropriate Inuit Land Claim organization (Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Makivik Corporation for Nunavik and Nunavut Tungavik Inc. (NTI) for Nunavut).

## What is the process to access Personal Credits?

There is a three-step process for Personal Credits: notification, acknowledgement and redemption.

**Notification:** Every CEP Recipient will be sent a direct mail notice that explains how they can access and use their Personal Credits. A national campaign using television, radio and print media will be used to further reach CEP recipients and their families to ensure they know how to access information on Personal Credits.

**Acknowledgement:** As part of the direct mail notice, each CEP recipient will receive a personalized Personal Credits Acknowledgement Form to complete and return to Crawford Class Action Services (the

Court-appointed Administrator). The CEP recipient will indicate who will be using the Personal Credits and for each individual how much of the \$3000 credit will be used at each Educational Entity or Group.

**Redemption:** Once the Administrator approves the Personal Credits Acknowledgement Form, an approval letter and personalized Personal Credits Redemption Form(s) will be sent to the CEP Recipient. There will be a personalized Redemption Form for each individual using a Personal Credit at each Educational Entity or Group. The individual will take their form to the Educational Entity or Group identified on it to register for the educational program or Group Educational Service. The Educational Entity or Group would then:

- verify the identity of the individual who is named on the Redemption Form;
- verify the name of the Educational Entity or Group listed on the Redemption Form (only the Educational Entity or Group on the form is eligible to submit the Redemption Form for reimbursement);
- register the individual;
- complete the expenses section of the Redemption Form including only eligible expenses;
- submit the Redemption Form, proof of registration and invoice to the Administrator for payment.

## What is the deadline for Personal Credits?

Personal Credits Redemption Forms must be received by the Administrator, postmarked no later than December 1, 2014. Late Personal Credits Redemption Forms will not be accepted or honoured.

## Where can I obtain more information on Personal Credits?

More information including Court-approved terms and conditions, a list of approved Educational Entities and Groups, instructions for Personal Credits Redemption Forms, a sample Personal Credits Redemption Form, a sample Personal Credits Group Redemption Form and eligible expenses can be found on the Official Court Website at:

[www.residentialschoolssettlement.ca](http://www.residentialschoolssettlement.ca)

or by calling the

Personal Credits toll free number at 1-866-343-1858.

This website will be updated on a regular basis.

