

Secretariat Office
468 Queen St E., Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5A 1T7
Phone: (416) 597 1266
Fax: (416) 597 8365
www.chiefs-of-ontario.org



Head Office
1 Migizii Miikan, PO Box 711
Nipissing First Nation
North Bay, ON P1B 8J8
Phone: (705) 476 0999
Fax: (416) 597 8365
1 877 517 6527

BRIEFING NOTE

Funding Opportunities to Support Initiatives Related to Indian Residential Schools

To: First Nations Leadership
From: Justice Sector, Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat
Date: May 23, 2025
Purpose: Funding Opportunities to Support Initiatives Related to Indian Residential Schools

CONTENT WARNING: This briefing contains an update on information related to Indian Residential Schools. A national *Indian Residential School Crisis Line* is available to provide support for Survivors and those affected. People can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-hour service at 1-866-925-4419.

Mental health counselling and crisis support are also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the *Hope for Wellness* hotline at 1-855-242-3310 or by [online chat](#).

ISSUE

This briefing provides information on potential funding streams to support initiatives related to Indian Residential Schools:

- Law Foundation of Ontario: <https://lawfoundation.on.ca/apply/responsive/>
 - \$250,000 per year for up to two years
- Future Generations Foundation: <https://www.fgfoundation.ca/granting/continuing-their-journey>

BACKGROUND

Chiefs of Ontario continues to advocate for long-term, sustainable funding from the federal and provincial governments to support efforts towards healing and to address the profound impacts of the residential school system. We continue to await an update on the Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support from the Government of Canada and will circulate an update once received. The Government of Ontario continues to accept funding proposals, and we encourage you to contact Lareina

Secretariat Office
468 Queen St E., Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5A 1T7
Phone: (416) 597 1266
Fax: (416) 597 8365
www.chiefs-of-ontario.org



Head Office
1 Migizii Miikan, PO Box 711
Nipissing First Nation
North Bay, ON P1B 8J8
Phone: (705) 476 0999
Fax: (416) 597 8365
1 877 517 6527

Rising, Special Projects Coordinator at Indigenous Affairs, at Lareina.Rising@ontario.ca for further information.

CURRENT STATUS

Law Foundation of Ontario (LFO)

The LFO funds community-led initiatives to help improve access to justice for people in Ontario through their Responsive Grants. Grants are up to \$250,000 per year for up to 2 years.

Information on how to apply can be found here: <https://lawfoundation.on.ca/apply/open-call-for-applications/> or you can contact Leah Zilnik at lzilnik@lawfoundation.on.ca.

Future Generations Foundation (FG Foundation)

The FG Foundation aims to support First Nations and Indian Residential Schools Survivors through initiatives related to the repatriation of our ancestors and unmarked graves at former IRS sites through the “Continuing Their Journey” Program. This program funds the following:

- Survivor Support Groups: Offering mental health support, healing journeys, ceremonies, and counseling.
- Healing and Ceremony: Facilitating healing circles, ceremonies, and reconciliation efforts.
- Research, Engagement, and Knowledge Gathering: Investigating IRS cemeteries and engaging Survivors for knowledge sharing.
- Memorialization and Commemoration: Honouring the children who died at IRS through memorials and commemorative events.
- Bringing Children Home: Locating, identifying, and repatriating children from marked and unmarked graves.

The funding amount may vary depending on the FG Foundation’s fund availability. For further information about the application process, please visit: <https://www.fgfoundation.ca/granting/continuing-their-journey>. You can also contact the FG Foundation at info@fgfoundation.ca or 1-888-268-0520.

ANALYSIS

While the colonial governments have an ethical and legal responsibility to fund initiatives related to Indian Residential Schools, we are circulating information about

Commented [KD1]: Could we possibly change this to “related to the repatriation of remains” - thoughts?

Secretariat Office
468 Queen St E., Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5A 1T7
Phone: (416) 597 1266
Fax: (416) 597 8365
www.chiefs-of-ontario.org



Head Office
1 Migizii Miikan, PO Box 711
Nipissing First Nation
North Bay, ON P1B 8J8
Phone: (705) 476 0999
Fax: (416) 597 8365
1 877 517 6527

other possible streaming sources to help support initiatives. We acknowledge that the funding available through these detailed sources are not long-term nor adequate.

NEXT STEPS

The Justice Sector will provide an update to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the COO Annual Chiefs Assembly (ACA) the morning of June 18, 2025, on the mandates in COO Resolution 24-10A. A resolution demanding mandatory government funding on IRS-related initiatives will be brought to the floor during this update for the Assembly's consideration.

An honouring ceremony for Kimberly Murray, the Independent Special Interlocutor, will be held after this update.

CONTACT

For questions about this briefing, please contact Jackie Lombardi, Director of Justice, at jackie.lombardi@coo.org.