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Dix urges relief for school abuse survivors

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NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. - B.C.'s NDP Leader is urging the premier to compensate 300 Woodlands School abuse survivors who were excluded from a class-action lawsuit settlement approved last month.

Adrian Dix met with former residents of the New Westminster school on B.C. Day to call on Christy Clark to extend relief beyond 900 people who endured sexual, physical and psychological abuse at the hands of staff.

A legal loophole means the settlement reached in early July doesn't apply to people who were abused before 1974.

Dix says the provincial Liberals have the ability to look past the technicality and allow the oldest remaining survivors to apply for compensation before the Sept. 19 deadline.

Former residents after 1974, when the government became legally liable for people under its care, are eligible for restitution ranging from \$3,000 to \$150,000.

If there's no movement in the next month, Dix says he will introduce a motion in the legislature aiming to achieve his goal.