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## Woodlands survivors appeal for more compensation

Group to join NDP Leader Adrian Dix for special announcement

John Ackermann 2011/08/01

NEW WESTMINSTER (NEWS1130) - They suffered decades of physical, sexual, mental and psychological abuse, but only some of them will be compensated.

That's why members of the "[We Survived Woodlands](#)" group and NDP leader [Adrian Dix](#) will be urging the provincial government today to change its mind.

Woodlands was a school in New Westminster for developmentally disabled children and adults that operated between 1950 and 1996. However, Victoria is only compensating victims who went there on or after August 1st 1974, as part of an earlier class action suit settlement.

The group's Gregg Schiller says the cut-off is unfair.

"We've always asked for a general payment for everybody equally, instead of the cost of all these court hearings and lawyers and fighting every case. I mean, it's just costing more money not to pay these people."

He feels older survivors would benefit the most from the cash. "A lot of them have heart problems, they get so excited about this still because it's just never-ending and the government is slowly re-victimizing them again."

Schiller claims the government could compensate all the victims if it wanted to. He maintains the August 1, 1974 date was chosen because that is when the Crown Proceedings Act first took effect. That is the legislation that gave people the power to sue the provincial government for any wrongdoing.

Settlements are to range from \$3,000 to \$150,000. The deadline to apply for a settlement is September 19th.



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