



DONATE

WORLD

# Canada pledges \$40 billion in talks over rampant abuses of Indigenous children

December 14, 2021 · 11:18 AM ET

JOE HERNANDEZ



A makeshift memorial outside the former Kamloops Indian Residential School honors the 215 children whose remains were found near the facility, in Kamloops, Canada, on September 1, 2021.

COLE BURSTON/AFP via Getty Images

The Canadian government will set aside \$40 billion — more than \$30 billion in U.S. currency — to compensate Indigenous people who faced abuses as children in the country's residential schools, officials announced Monday. The funds will also be used to reform the country's troubled child welfare system.

The pledge comes amid ongoing negotiations between Canadian authorities and First Nations groups over how to make amends for the historical mistreatment of Indigenous children.

"We have been unequivocal throughout these historic negotiations: we will compensate those harmed by the federal government's discriminatory funding practices and we will lay the foundation for an equitable and better future for First Nations children, their families and communities," Minister of Indigenous Services Patty Hajdu and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Marc Miller said in a joint statement.

From 1831 to 1998, the government separated some 150,000 Indigenous children from their families and sent them to residential schools where they routinely faced

physical and sexual abuse. At least 6,000 students died, though officials say that number could be higher.

The money will be used to settle a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal order and two class action lawsuits as well as pay for longer-term improvements to the Indigenous child welfare system, the CBC reported.

"While the Government of Canada's promise to put \$40 billion towards ending ongoing discrimination and compensating the children and families who were hurt is an important step, there are more legal steps to take before victims get the compensation they are owed and First Nations children get the services they deserve," Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada, said in a statement.

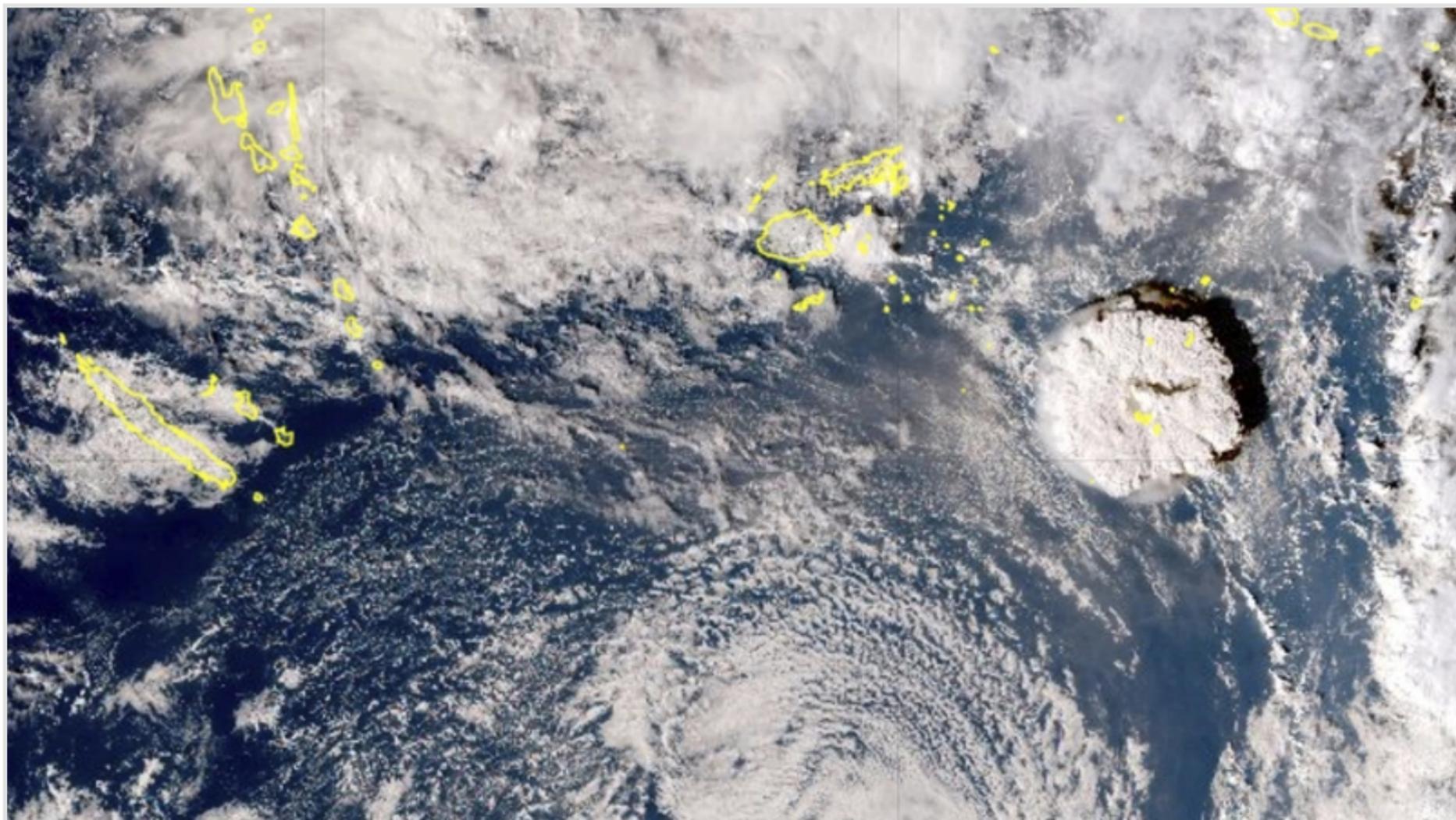
Blackstock noted that many Indigenous children and young adults in Canada still face challenges in attaining basic public services.

Negotiations are continuing, but both sides have agreed to a deadline of Dec. 31, according to the CBC.

---

This story originally appeared in the *Morning Edition* live blog.

## More Stories From NPR



SCIENCE

**What Led To The Massive Volcanic Eruption In Tonga**



**CULTURE**  
**Metropolitan Opera says it will sever ties with Putin-allied artists**



**WORLD**  
**Europe and the U.S. move to isolate Russia as Ukrainians fight to hold off invaders**

**WORLD**  
**Ukrainian and Russian negotiators agree to hold talks in Belarus**

**WORLD**  
**Ukrainian soldiers who profanely told off Russian warship may be alive, officials say**

**WORLD**  
**After a night of heavy fighting, Ukrainian officials say they still control Kharkiv**

# Popular on NPR.org

WORLD

**Want to support the people in Ukraine? Here's how you can help**

HEALTH

**It's safe to unmask in many places, says the CDC. These experts aren't quite ready**

HEALTH

**CDC says Americans can now go unmasked in many parts of the country**

GLOBAL HEALTH

**Coronavirus FAQ: I'm a one-way masker. What strategy will give me optimal protection?**

WORLD

**Photos: Ukraine fights back Russian forces after invasion**

BUSINESS

**A rodent infestation shut down Family Dollar stores. How one Alabama town is coping**

## NPR Editors' Picks

TECHNOLOGY

**Facebook uncovers disinformation and hacking campaigns targeting Ukraine**

EUROPE

**How an actor-turned-president found himself leading Ukraine during war**

CULTURE

**For decades, cartoonist Ray Billingsley has depicted Black family life in 'Curtis'**

NATIONAL

**New York could lift its vaccine mandate for indoor spaces as soon as March 7**

MUSIC NEWS

**A Russian conductor has been dropped by a management company over his ties to Putin**

EDUCATION

**Lawmakers want to ban discomfort in school. But Black history isn't always comfortable**

READ & LISTEN

**Home**

**News**

**Culture**

**Music**

**Podcasts & Shows**

CONNECT

**Newsletters**

**Facebook**

**Twitter**

**Instagram**

**Press**

**Contact & Help**

ABOUT NPR

**Overview**

**Diversity**

**Ethics**

**Finances**

**Public Editor**

**Corrections**

GET INVOLVED

**Support Public Radio**

**Sponsor NPR**

**NPR Careers**

**NPR Shop**

**NPR Events**

**NPR Extra**

[terms of use](#)

[privacy](#)

[your privacy choices](#)

text only

© 2022 npr