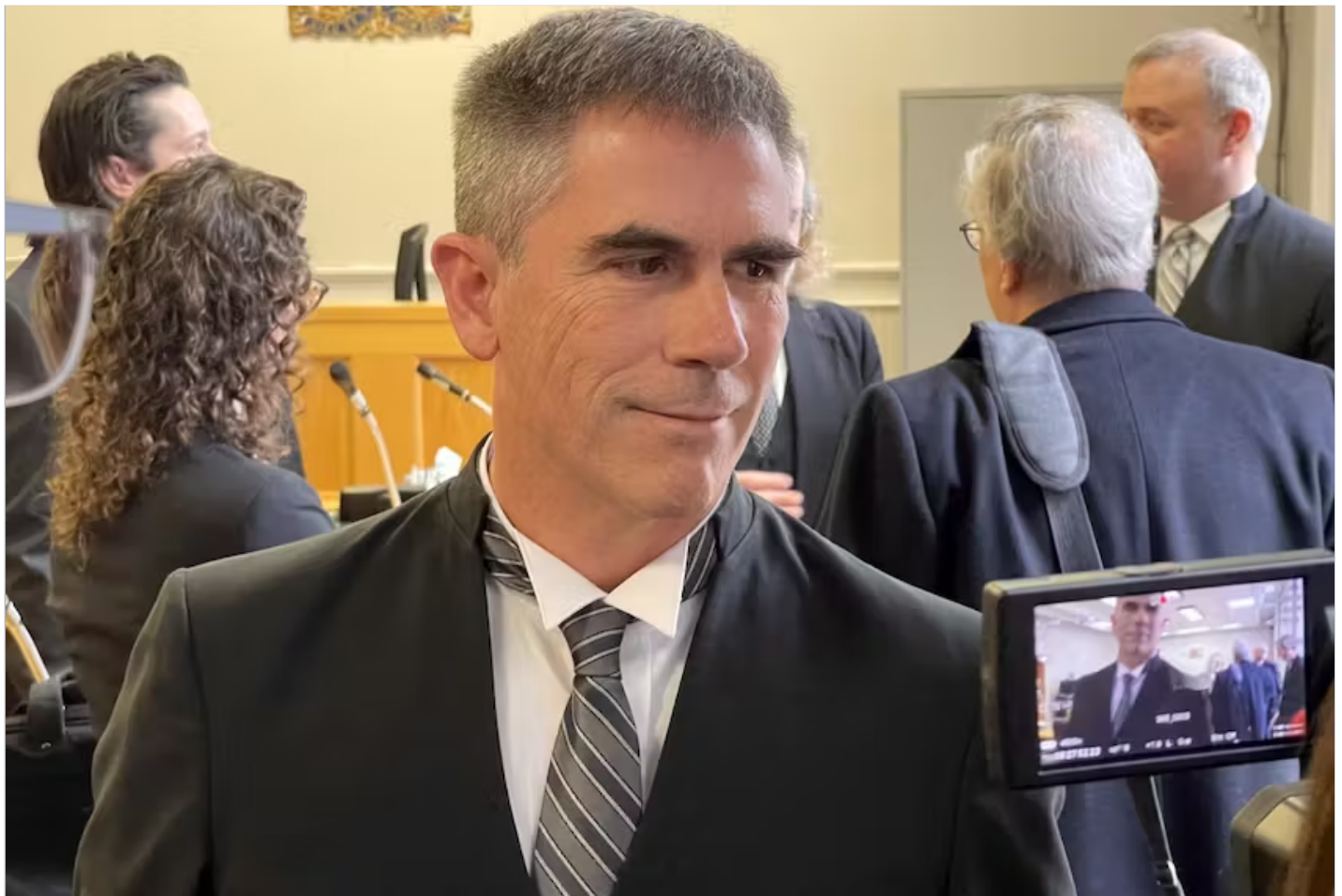


Newfoundland & Labrador > News

N.L. government will pay St. John's archdiocese \$13 million for 32 schools as part of Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation insolvency

It's believed the sale of the schools brings the total amount raised by the archdiocese so far to settle the claims to around \$43 million

Tara Bradbury · Reporter | Posted: 1 hour ago | Updated: 1 hour ago | 5 Min Read



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ST. JOHN'S, N.L. — The province of Newfoundland and Labrador will pay the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's \$13 million for 32 schools on the Avalon and Burin peninsulas as the archdiocese continues selling its assets to pay survivors of abuse at Mount Cashel orphanage.

Lawyers representing the corporation (RCEC), the province, the Newfoundland and Labrador English School district (NLESD), survivors, and monitor Ernst & Young appeared before Justice Garrett Handrigan in Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court Wednesday, April 19, some in person and some by phone, where the court heard an agreement in principle had been reached for the government purchase of the RCEC's remaining interests in the school properties.

"We may have an additional property or two that we may be sorting out some history with as we go forward, to deal with this stuff once and for all," said lawyer Todd Stanley, representing the province.

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Out-of-court settlement expected for former Roman Catholic schools involved in St. John's archdiocese bankruptcy



Fate of 30 former Catholic schools — used by 10,500 students every day — remains in question as lawyers debate Mount Cashel insolvency case



Still sorting out details

Stanley said it will take time to organize the different real estate transactions since some of the properties — which span the St. John's metro area, communities on the Southern Shore, St. Marv's, Marystown, Saint Bernard's-



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"The settlement amount is subject to adjustments; that amount may differ at the end of the day, once we reach conclusions on these various transactions, but I'm confident we will eventually be able to come back to court and request a vesting order," said RCEC lawyer Geoffrey Spencer.



Brother Rice Junior High School. - Joseph Gibbons

'Pleased with the resolution'

Claimants against the archdiocese had been scheduled in February to present an application in court to sort out the status of the school properties and their potential to become marketable assets, but the hearing was postponed as out-of-court talks continued.

The court was advised last week that a settlement had been reached.

"We're pleased with the resolution and we believe it's a workable one that will see significant funds delivered to the episcopal corporation and then, we submit, ultimately for the compensation of survivors," lawyer Geoff Budden, representing the claimants, said.

The courts have found the RCEC vicariously liable for sexual abuse by certain Christian Brothers on children at Mount Cashel in the 1940s '50s and '60s



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NLESD lawyer Rod Zdebiak told reporters after court students will not see any impact as the process continues.

"The schools are going to carry on as normal," he said. "We're glad it's all resolved and the schools are going to continue as they've always been."



Newfoundland and Labrador English School District lawyer Rod Zdebiak. - Tara Bradbury

The parties may be back in court at the end of May, having told Handrigan talks have stalled related to the appointment of a claims officer to oversee the survivors' compensation. "While the parties have made some good efforts, (we) appear to have reached an impasse," Spencer said.

"While I anticipate that discussions will continue, we may require the assistance of the court to make a final decision on a claims officer."

More to come.

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