



After Woodlands: Options to Respond

Everyone who lived at Woodlands will feel differently about their life there and how they want to respond to “The Need to Know” report.

This is a list of some of the ways that people can respond:

- 1) **Criminal Charges:** If you believe that you were assaulted you can report the offence to the police. The police and crown counsel will decide if they can prove your claim in criminal court. If there is a trial you will be asked to be a witness.
- 2) **Civil Law Suit:** People who were abused at Woodlands can file a civil action for money to compensate them. There are time limits that prevent most actions after 30 years and so you should get legal advice if you want to do this.
- 3) **Class Action:** The PGT has also filed an action which may become a class action. If that happens, everyone from Woodlands will be included in that action unless you opt out. (see Class Action info sheet).
- 4) **Crime Victim Assistance:** If you were the victim of a crime at Woodlands you may be able to apply for assistance from Crime Victim Assistance. (http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victim_services/cva/index.htm)
- 5) **Community Response Groups:** Some groups in the community have organized information and support meetings for survivors and family from Woodlands. The following is a list of some of the groups. This service is provided for information only and the PGT is not endorsing the work of any particular group:



Options to Respond cont.

BC Association for Community Living and Self Advocates Foundation: <http://www.bcacl.org/>

We Survived Woodlands: <http://www.wesurvived.net/main.htm>

Community Living Coalition:

<http://www.communitylivingcoalition.bc.ca/woodlands.htm>

FamilyLink: <http://www.cls-bc.org/NewFiles/families.html>

Jane Holland, Advocate for Service Quality:

http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/getting_help/advocate_service_quality.htm

- 6) Ad hoc Redress Programs: In some cases in Canada where government has operated an institution where children have been abused, the government has agreed to create an ad hoc redress program to provide compensation and recognition to survivors. This was recommended by Dulcie McCallum in her report. So far the government has not agreed to do anything like this for former residents who were abused at Woodlands. For more information on what has happened in other places in Canada you can review the Law Commission of Canada report on Institutional Child Abuse at:

http://www.lcc.gc.ca/en/themes/mr/ica/2000/ica00_main.asp