



## Media Release

**For Immediate Release  
March 16, 2009**

*An American Indian Non-profit Organization*

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## Healing the Legacy of Indian School Abuses, 1879-2009

Colorado Springs, Colorado  
March 16, 2009

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 a petition will be presented to President Obama asking that he provide an apology for the federal government's role in the abuses that occurred at US Indian Schools.

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### **Apology for Abuses at US Indian Schools**

Sponsored by: White Bison Inc.

Dear Mr. President,

We, the undersigned, call upon you to formally apologize on behalf of the US Federal Government and the People of this Great Nation for the widespread abuse of Native American children at the nearly 500 schools funded by the US government to assimilate Native American people.

There is a growing body of evidence that the traumas experienced by Native American children at the schools is largely responsible for the alarming levels of suicides, substance abuse, domestic violence and child sexual abuse in Native American communities today.

We ask you to join the leaders of Canada and Australia by apologizing to First Nations people here for what was allowed to happen to children at the schools, and for the scars of hurt and pain that it left on generations of Native American people.

We seek this apology not to go after monetary reparations from the government, but to promote a collective healing of all Americans for this tragic chapter in our nation's history.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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Please sign the petition online at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/Apology-For-Indian-School-Abuses> and also please tell everyone you know about it in order to maximize the number of Native Americans who have an opportunity to sign this petition. Thousands of signatures are still needed to make the maximum impact on President Obama.

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In support of this petition effort and the healing of all nations, on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, White Bison Inc., a Colorado based Native American non-profit, will begin a 40 day, 6800 mile cross-country Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness to present and former Indian School sites. Its goal is to promote awareness, dialogue and forgiveness among Native peoples for the historical trauma of the US Government-sanctioned Indian Schools. This historic journey will begin at Chemawa Indian School, Salem OR and end in Carlisle, PA at the site of the first Indian Industrial School established in 1879. Along the way, White Bison will be holding gatherings at each of 23 historic boarding school sites. Please visit <http://www.wellbrietyjourney.org/> for more information and constant updates about the Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness.

Elders have told us: “To be free from the effects of intergenerational trauma, forgiveness is necessary.”

You are invited to sign this petition, and if possible to come and participate in one of the events on the Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness or the “End of Journey Gathering” in Washington DC on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

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