

NEW FRIEND



MICHELLE BERG/The StarPhoenix

Grade 1 student Muhammed Soomro meets Arabian horse 'Sox' at Vincent Massey Community School Thursday. "Horses are great for learning because they act like a mirror and kindly reflect a person back to themselves, helping them to understand positive ways to change and grow," said Gary Millar, founder of the Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project. Millar said horses encourage intellectual growth because they are non-judgmental and intuitive, so if a child struggling with school reads to the horse, they feel comfortable and happy.

Survivors over docu

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Shapiro is chief adjudicator of the Independent Assessment Process (IAP), established several years ago to hear residential school abuse claims and rule on compensation for victims.

The 37,879 Canadians who made claims, including nearly 9,000 from Saskatchewan, were promised confidentiality. Most of the cases have been resolved, resulting in \$2.4 billion in payments.

Shapiro is pushing for destruction of all documentation, saying it's the only way to ensure it is never released.

The files contain graphic testimony, medical and counselling records and other personal information. Any sharing or release would "re-victimize" the claimants, he said.

"This was a painful process, and the single biggest concern was not wanting others to know what happened to them."

A second, public, process — the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) — occurred at the same time as the IAP. The commission hosted events in cities, towns and reserves across Canada, inviting abuse sur-

vivors and others for the public r

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**"WE ARE
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Shapiro said is supported b bly of First Na ers, including and former AL Fontaine.

Wallin Says Sto

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On Thursday, she also said she never believed Stodin was planted in her office. She said she never used the terms "plant" or "spy" in any of the conversations she

On Aug. 22, fired Stodin for were performa Stodin said Wal to sully the go that Stodin had