



EWEN CAMERON: He performed the experiments in the 1960s.

'Brainwashed' compensated ^{EQ - Cameron}

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By Stephen Bindman
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

OTTAWA — The federal government has finally agreed to compensate unwitting victims of government-funded brainwashing experiments in the 1960s.

Justice Minister Kim Campbell announced yesterday the former patients of the late Dr. Ewen Cameron at McGill University's Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal will each be eligible for \$100,000 compensation.

Although Ottawa still does not admit legal responsibility for the experiments, Campbell said the victims deserve financial assistance on compassionate and

\$100,000 set aside for victims of tests

humanitarian grounds. "In recognizing the plight of these people, I believe that this financial assistance responds in a way that expresses the fairness and compassion Canadians expect from their government," Campbell said in a statement.

Linda Macdonald is a 55-year-old Vancouver woman who lost all memory of the first 26 years of her life as a result of the experimental treatment called "depatterning." She said she's glad the compensation fight is over.

"It took too long," said Macdonald, who launched a lawsuit against Ottawa in 1990 but has been in lengthy discussions with Campbell's department about an out-of-court settlement.

"I accept the government's symbolic apology through compensation, but no amount of money can compensate me for the loss of memory of the first 26 years of my life and the enormous difficulties my family and I have suffered subsequently."

Macdonald received over 100 electroshock treatments, was fed massive amounts of powerful drugs and was put in a drug-induced sleep for at least 86 days.

SOUTHAM NEWS

Brainwash-experiment victims to get \$100,000 each

By Stephen Bindman
Southam News for the Citizen

OTTAWA CITIZEN
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Justice Minister Kim Campbell announced Tuesday that former patients of the late Dr. Ewen Cameron at McGill University's Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal will each be eligible for \$100,000 in compensation. Although the federal government still does not admit legal responsibility for the experiments, Campbell said the victims deserve financial assistance on "compassionate and humanitarian grounds."

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who lost all memory of the first 26 years of her life as a result of the experimental treatment called "depatterning," said she was "glad it's over."

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Macdonald received more than 100 electroshock treatments, was fed massive amounts of powerful drugs and was put in a drug-induced sleep for at least 86 days after she was admitted to the hospital in 1963 at age 25 for fatigue and depression following the birth of her fifth child.

Macdonald, who was speaking from Los Angeles

where she is discussing a film on her life, was also subject to intensive "psychic driving" — forced to listen to a continuous repetition of words and phrases intended to alter her mind.

A classically trained singer who had won national competitions, she couldn't read or write when she was released after six months. She had to be toilet trained and didn't recognize her husband or young children.

Cameron's experiments were originally secretly funded by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency through an organization called the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology as part of top-secret research into brainwashing. Later, when Macdonald was a patient, Cameron received \$70,000 from the Canadian health department until 1964.

Several of Campbell's predecessors had rejected repeated requests for compensation after a former Tory MP concluded in 1986 that the government bears no "legal or moral responsibility" for the experiments.