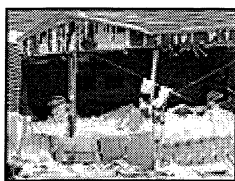


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Further delay for avalanche funeral

WebPosted Wed Jan 6 01:43:33 1999

KANGIQUALUJUAQ, QUEBEC - There has been yet another delay in the funeral service for nine people killed in last week's avalanche in northern Quebec.

The weather had cleared enough that organizers had hoped to hold the ceremony on Tuesday afternoon. But they were later forced to postpone it until at least Wednesday.



Rescuers at work



Prime Minister
Jean Chretien

Four adults and five children were killed when an avalanche struck a school in the small Inuit village.

The funerals were scheduled to be held Monday, but weather conditions forced a delay.

Deputy Premier Bernard Landry and Prime Minister Jean Chretien were in the region on Tuesday.

Both Landry and Chretien had said that they would like the service to go ahead even if they are unable to attend.

As he flew to the area, Chretien said the federal government may offer the community some aid.




Community leaders must also decide where their children will attend school.

The victims were in the local school when the avalanche swept down and smashed through the walls. Those walls will probably never be reconstructed, leaving local young people not only without a place to learn, but without a community centre as well.

In 1995 a report recommended the installation of snow barriers on the hill above the school. This was not acted upon.

The local school board commissioned the study following an avalanche in the same location.





The Royal Bank of Canada in Iqaluit told CBC News Online that a Kangiqsualujjuaq Disaster Fund has been established. Donations can be made with the Royal Bank by calling (867) 979-5344.

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