

# Canada settles '63 brainwash case

By Robert D'Arcy  
USA TODAY

Linda Macdonald checked into a Montreal psychiatric hospital in 1963 because she was depressed.

Five months later she was released — her mind emptied.

She didn't remember her husband, her children or the first 26 years of her life.

She couldn't read, write, cook a meal or make a bed.

One of the world's leading psychiatrists, funded by the CIA, had brainwashed her by:

▶ Drugging her with amphetamines, including LSD.

▶ Making her sleep 85 days.

▶ Repeated electroshocks.

▶ "Psychic driving" — playing repeated taped messages 16 hours a day for days on end.

Neither Macdonald nor her family gave their permission and later sued.

This week the Canadian government, which didn't dispute that Macdonald and at least 79 other patients were brainwashed by the late Ewen Cameron, finally settled.

In Ottawa, Justice Minister Elan Campbell decided victims still living will get \$70,000.

"I accept the government's symbolic apology through compensation," Macdonald said in a statement from Los Angeles,

where she is meeting with film producers. "But no amount of money can compensate me for the loss of memory ... and the enormous difficulties my family and I have suffered."

The CIA and the Canadian government funded Cameron's "deprogramming" experiments in Montreal in the 1950s and '60s. The CIA hoped to learn how to counter brainwashing techniques thought to have been developed by the communists.

But during an early test, Frank Olson, one of the CIA and Army scientists who was secretly given an LSD-laced drink, killed himself.

Yet two years later, the CIA began funding Cameron, contributing about \$80,000.

The U.S. government reached a settlement in 1980, agreeing to pay Macdonald and eight others who sued about \$100,000.

"It's a sad chapter from more than 20 years ago," said CIA spokesman John Hedley. "It's now a closed chapter."

Lawyer James Turner represented the victims with Joseph Rauh Jr., former civil rights lawyer who died Sept. 2.

"As bizarre as this case was, none of the facts were in dispute," Turner said. "Wheels of justice grind exceedingly slowly sometimes."

By Doug Miller, AP  
Kasper arrives at court in Belleville, N.Y. He is responsible for his ailments.

where the state supreme court Wednesday upheld a lower court decision that would allow a group of smokers to sue cigarette companies in state courts.

## Ark sparks furor

Fordice, a construction company owner in his first year holding political office, has angered environmentalists by calling them "tree huggers."

He once threatened to "call out the National Guard" to fight any court-ordered tax increase to equalize funding at nearly all-white and all-black universities.