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# Schools on reserve will not reopen until report on conditions reviewed

By Beth Gallagher, Expositor Staff

OHSWEKEN — Schools on the Six Nations and New Credit reserves will not reopen on Monday as planned by the department of Indian Affairs.

Gerry Kerr, the regional director general for Ontario, said Friday the schools will remain closed until he has reviewed an independent consultant's report into the health and safety conditions in the buildings.

Mr. Kerr said he will discuss the report with Six Nations Chief Coun. William Montour on Monday and he expects the schools will open within the following two days.

"The chief and myself are working together on a resolution to this issue," said Mr. Kerr.

But Chief Montour has set the reopening date for Nov. 29th. He said children

won't go back to class until all conditions of an action plan are met and janitorial and teaching staff have had time to prepare for the students.

"We regret the terms of the resolution have not been met by district staff," said Chief Montour.

Earlier in the week Chief Montour accused district staff of "dragging their feet" on repairs but Mr. Kerr said on Friday there have been no unnecessary delays. "Our understanding is that the work is going along very well."

About 1,200 students on the two reserves have been out of class since Sept. 5 to force the federal government to bring the schools up to proper health and safety standards.

The action plan was a set of conditions agreed upon between Chief Montour and Mr. Kerr in an effort to end the boycott.