

PRESS RELEASE
March 8, 2007

**NINE JUDGES FINALIZE THE APPROVAL OF
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SETTLEMENT**

On Thursday, March 8, 2007 an historic event occurred when nine judges from across Canada convened together in Calgary. Five of the judges attended in person and four judges attended by teleconference. The nine judges represented the nine different jurisdictions in Canada where Indian Residential Schools were located.

This historic event was to finalize the approval by the Courts of the Indian Residential School Settlement negotiated between May 30, 2005 and May, 2006 between Canada and the Churches and representatives of Aboriginal survivors including the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit organizations and Independent Counsel.

For the benefit of survivors, it is important to note that there will be a five month opt-out period which will end on August 20, 2007. There will then be approximately thirty days to have the system up and running with respect to the applications for the common experience payment.

It is very important for survivors to know that there are no application forms for the common experience payment at this time.

A second notice has been ordered by the Courts which will be delivered over the next forty-five to sixty days. That notice will inform survivors that they may opt out of the agreement if they are not satisfied with the settlement. However, if a survivor receives this notice and does not wish to opt-out of the agreement, they do not have to do anything at this time.

As soon as the opt-out period has expired, there will be an implementation date. That will occur in early September and at that time, applications for the common experience payment will be made available.

Our law firm has been actively involved in negotiating this settlement which we believe will be of benefit to a large number of survivors who otherwise would receive nothing. This is an historic day for the Aboriginal people of Canada and hopefully the Settlement Agreement, when implemented, will help to heal the long suffering damage caused by the horrific legacy of the Indian Residential Schools.

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