



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS BULLETIN

Indian Residential School Settlement Update February 7, 2007

More information can be found on the AFN's website at www.afn.ca

The National Chief is very proactive in protecting the interests of former Indian Residential School students, and in seeing the residential schools settlement implemented as quickly as possible. The current legal disputes between the Government and the Merchant Law Group could delay this process. Therefore, the AFN is requesting that these parties consent to resolve the legal fees issue separate from the Settlement Agreement to avoid delaying implementation of the agreement for survivors.

The National Chief recognizes that we are losing survivors at a rate of four per day, and that any delay is a delay for justice for the survivors.

There will be a comprehensive Community Outreach Mobile Plan to reach every survivor through community forums and gatherings, in the approximately six month time frame which is set in place by the courts for survivors to consider the settlement. Survivors will have the final say as to whether they choose to accept the IRS settlement agreement or not.

The AFN is also working with the government to ensure that the issue of lost records is addressed and alternative forms to verify attendance are provided for, where necessary, while we prepare for implementation of the Settlement Agreement.

The AFN has also been at the forefront of all discussions preparing for other components of the settlement including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Healing and Commemoration.

We thank you for your patience and support as we work through the administrative and legal aspects of this settlement. This is necessary to protect your rights and provide you the certainty you require that you will see compensation, truth sharing, healing and reconciliation for you and your families as a result of this agreement.