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Extraordinary Progress Settling Specific Claims in British Columbia

2-3124

Ottawa, Ontario (February 15, 2009) - The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians today announced that 31 specific claims have been settled in British Columbia since the launch of Canada's action plan on specific claims.

These settlements were reached between June 2007 and the end of December 2008 at 14 different negotiating tables involving 13 British Columbia First Nations. The Government of Canada's contribution to these settlements totaled approximately \$8.9 million in financial compensation.

"These shared achievements show what can be accomplished when partners work together to find common solutions," said Minister Strahl. "These settlements demonstrate that Canada is taking decisive action to speed up the resolution of specific claims and deliver concrete results."

Specific claims deal with the past grievances of First Nations. Negotiated settlements resolve these longstanding grievances for the benefit of all Canadians. About half of the outstanding specific claims in Canada are located in British Columbia.

The Government of Canada launched its [Specific Claims Action Plan](#) in June of 2007 to accelerate and improve claims resolution in order to provide justice to First Nation claimants and certainty for all Canadians.

[Fact Sheet - Specific Claims Settled in British Columbia](#)

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Date Modified: 2009-03-20