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## **Implementation of Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement**

**For Immediate Release**

**September 20, 2007**

**OTTAWA** – Yesterday, Minister Strahl announced that Canada’s New Government is proceeding with the implementation phase of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin commends Canada’s New Government for its commitment to achieving a fair and lasting resolution to the legacy of the Indian Residential School system. The implementation phase of this historic Agreement is intended to assist former students and all Canadians move down a path toward healing and reconciliation together.

The Government of Canada acknowledges that the Indian Residential School system had a negative impact on former students of those schools, their families and communities. This Settlement Agreement aims to promote reconciliation and resolution of the Indian Residential School legacy for all Canadians.

In addition to the Common Experience Payment, the Settlement Agreement also includes collective measures for the healing, commemoration, and truth and reconciliation for former students of Indian Residential Schools.

Vellacott said, “Several years ago, within our Party, I said that we must address the sad legacy of Indian Residential Schools. Our Party supported a motion that called on the House of Commons to apologize to the survivors of Indian Residential Schools for the trauma they suffered. The Government of Canada also apologized in 1998 and AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine accepted that apology.”

Vellacott concluded, “Canada’s New Conservative Government negotiated an historic \$2.2 billion settlement agreement. Once again, we have delivered.”

– 30 –

**For further comment, call (613) 992-1966 or 297-2249**