



## SCHEDULE R

July 2005

### **To former students of Indian residential schools and their legal counsel:**

On May 30, 2005, the Honourable Frank Iacobucci was appointed by the Government of Canada to lead discussions with legal counsel for former students, the Churches, the Assembly of First Nations, and other interested parties toward a fair and lasting resolution of the legacy of Indian residential schools. The purpose of this letter is to assure former students that participation in either the current Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) or litigation processes will not prejudice their ability to take advantage of benefits which may arise from the discussions led by Mr. Iacobucci.

In addition to exploring ways to recognize the residential school experience of former students, the discussions led by Mr. Iacobucci will also focus on ensuring that former students have options for pursuing their claims of sexual and serious physical abuse, and on finding ways to support the healing that needs to continue. Also on May 30, 2005, the Government of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations signed a Political Agreement outlining the basis on which they intend to work together on issues related to the resolution of the Indian residential schools legacy.

Please find attached copies of the *News Release*, *Backgrounder* and *Questions & Answers*.

The Government of Canada is committed to the fair and timely resolution of Indian residential school claims and to implementing the necessary changes to its approach to engender broader reconciliation with Aboriginal people.

We hope that this clarifies the matter for former students and legal counsel for former students who are currently in the litigation or ADR processes.

  
Mario Dion