

Federal Court



Cour fédérale

Date: 20220811

Docket: T-402-19

T-141-20

T-1120-21

Ottawa, Ontario, August 11, 2022

PRESENT: The Honourable Madam Justice Aylen

CLASS PROCEEDING

BETWEEN:

**XAVIER MOUSHOOM, JEREMY MEAWASIGE (by his
litigation guardian, Jonavon Joseph Meawasige) AND JONAVON
JOSEPH MEAWASIGE**

Plaintiffs

and

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA

Defendant

T-141-20

BETWEEN:

**ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS, ASHLEY DAWN LOUISE BACH, KAREN
OSACHOFF, MELISSA WALTERSON, NOAH BUFFALO-JACKSON (by his litigation
guardian, Carolyn Buffalo), CAROLYN BUFFALO AND DICK EUGENE JACKSON also
known as RICHARD JACKSON**

Plaintiffs

and

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Defendant

T-1120-21

BETWEEN:

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS and ZACHEUS JOSEPH TROUT

Plaintiffs

and

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA

Defendant

ORDER

UPON MOTION by the Plaintiffs, heard at a special sitting of the Court on August 8, 2022, for:

- (a) An order approving the proposed notice plan for the distribution of the Notices of Certification and Settlement Approval Hearing, substantially in the form appended as Schedule “A” to the Notice of Motion [Notice Plan];
- (b) An order that Canada pay the reasonable costs of giving notice in accordance with the Notice Plan;

- (c) An order appointing Deloitte LLP as the administrator for notice, opt-out and the claims implementation in the proposed settlement in these class proceedings;
- (d) An order that Canada pay the reasonable costs and disbursements of the administrator in accordance with the terms of the proposed settlement agreement, including subject to Canada's right to dispute the reasonableness of such costs and disbursements; and
- (e) Such further and other relief as this Honourable Court may deem just and appropriate;

CONSIDERING the Plaintiffs' motion record and the submissions of counsel for the parties at the hearing of the motion;

AND CONSIDERING that the Defendant consents to the relief sought;

AND CONSIDERING that the Court is satisfied that the Notice Plan meets the requirements of Rules 334.32 and 334.34 and shall constitute good and sufficient service upon class members of the certification of these proceedings and of the Settlement Approval Hearing;

AND CONSIDERING that the provision of notice to class members of any approval of the Settlement Agreement will be the subject of a future notice plan to be submitted to the Court for approval;

AND CONSIDERING that the Court is satisfied that the balance of the relief sought should be granted;

THIS COURT ORDERS that:

1. The Notices of Certification and Settlement Approval Hearing shall be delivered in the manner set out in the Notice Plan attached hereto as Schedule “A” commencing immediately upon the issuance of this Order and continuing until the commencement of the Settlement Approval Hearing.
2. The Defendant shall pay the reasonable costs of giving notice in accordance with the Notice Plan, including the costs of translation of the notices.
3. In the event that the proposed settlement agreement is approved, the notice plan for the distribution of the notice of approval of the proposed settlement shall be the subject of a future order of this Court.
4. Deloitte LLP is hereby appointed as the Administrator in the proposed settlement of these class proceedings.
5. The Defendant shall pay the reasonable costs and disbursements of the Administrator in accordance with the terms of the proposed settlement agreement, including subject to the Defendant’s right to dispute the reasonableness of such costs and disbursements.
6. The Administrator shall, within ninety days of the date of this Order, provide the parties with a detailed estimate of the anticipated costs in an illustrative budget based on expected claims/services for the administration during the first year of the administration including the anticipated costs of case setup, monthly

overhead, claim intake, claim processing, support centre and distribution and communication/noticing.

7. There shall be no costs of this motion.

"Mandy Aylen"

Judge

SCHEDULE “A”

NOTICE PLAN

(Certification and Settlement Approval Hearing)

First Nations Child and Family Services, Jordan’s Principle and Trout Essential Services

I. BACKGROUND

A. Parties

The parties to this matter are as follows:

- (a) Xavier Moushoom, Jeremy Meawasige by his litigation guardian, Jonavon Joseph Meawasige, and Jonavon Joseph Meawasige (together, the “**Moushoom Plaintiffs**”);
- (b) Assembly of First Nations (“**AFN**”), Ashley Dawn Louise Bach, Karen Osachoff, Melissa Walterson, Noah Buffalo-Jackson by his litigation guardian, Carolyn Buffalo, Carolyn Buffalo, and Dick Eugene Jackson also known as Richard Jackson (together, the “**AFN Plaintiffs**”);
- (c) AFN and Zacheus Joseph Trout (together, the “**Trout Plaintiffs**”), and;
- (d) Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada (“**Canada**”) (collectively, “**Parties**”).

B. Background of the litigation

The Moushoom Plaintiffs commenced a Federal Court class action against Canada over the discriminatory provision of child and family services and essential services to First Nations dating back to April 1, 1991. The AFN Plaintiffs subsequently commenced a similar action in the Federal Court. The Moushoom Plaintiffs and AFN Plaintiffs later agreed to advance the matter jointly and cooperatively in the best interests of the class.

The Federal Court ordered the consolidation of the claims in July 2021 (“**Consolidated Action**”). The Federal Court also ordered the separate prosecution of the claims relating to delays, denials or gaps in the provision of essential services between 1991 and 2007, and therefore the Trout Plaintiffs commenced an action in July 2021 (“**Trout Action**”, and together with the Consolidated Action, “**Actions**”).

The Federal Court certified the Consolidated Action on November 26, 2021, and the Trout Action on February 11, 2022.

C. The Class

The Actions and the Final Settlement Agreement affect several groups of people (*i.e.*, the class) as follows: The Removed Child Class, The Removed Child Family Class, The Jordan’s Principle Class, The Jordan’s Principle Family Class, The Trout Child Class, and The Trout Family Class. These classes were defined in the certification orders.

II. FACTORS AFFECTING NOTICE DISSEMINATION

This plan is designed to notify the class members of certification and the settlement approval hearing in a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive manner, and to provide them with the opportunity to see, read, or hear the notice of certification and settlement approval hearing, understand their rights, and respond if they choose to.

The following factors inform the dissemination method needed to achieve an appropriate notice effort: class size, location of class members, the literacy and education level of class members, and the languages spoken by class members.

A. Targeted Groups

i. First Nations Composition of the Class

The Actions solely concern First Nations people amongst the Indigenous population (not Inuit or Métis).¹ Given the publicity that has surrounded these class proceedings and the overlapping proceedings before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, many class members are expected to be aware of the proceedings.

ii. Class Size

The class is primarily a subset of the First Nations population in Canada. The 2016 Census² shows that 977,235 individuals identified as being First Nations.³ The more recent 2021 Census relating to First Nations people is expected to be released on September 21, 2022.⁴ Relevant information that becomes available in the 2021 Census will form part of any ongoing notice dissemination at that time, and for the next phase of notice in this proposed settlement further particularized below.

The Parties retained experts to estimate the size of the Removed Child Class. They estimated the size of the Removed Child Class to be 115,000 based on historical data on First Nations children whose out of home care was funded by Indigenous Services Canada between April 1991 and March 2022. The number of Removed Child Family Class members is unknown. The Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer has estimated that on average there may be 1.5 parents or grandparents per First Nations child.⁵

¹ With the exception of non-common law caregiving parents and caregiving grandparents, where a First Nations condition does not exist in the class definition and those class members may be from the general population or non-First Nations Indigenous persons.

² Statistics Canada. 2018. *Canada [Country]* (table). *Aboriginal Population Profile*. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/abpopprof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed July 24, 2022).

³ Statistics Canada. 2018. *Canada [Country]* (table). *Aboriginal Population Profile*. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/abpopprof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed July 24, 2022).

⁴ See Statistics Canada: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/ref/prodserv/release-diffusion-eng.cfm>.

⁵ Compensation for the delay and denial of services to First Nations children, February 23, 2021, page 7: <https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/dpb-pbo/YN5-219-2021-eng.pdf>.

The information on the size of the Jordan's Principle Class and the Trout Child Class is far less precise because reliable data does not exist. One method of arriving at a rough estimate has been to extrapolate the number of individual service requests accepted under the current Jordan's Principle service delivery program to the past. An extrapolation of this form with a pre-COVID quarter of individual requests since Canada has been found to be compliant with Jordan's Principle yields an estimated Jordan's Principle Class size of between 58,385 and 69,728—with a conservatively high median class size estimate of 65,000 class members. On the same basis as above, the Trout Child Class can be roughly estimated at 104,000 for the period of 1991-2007, by the simple multiplication of the median Jordan's Principle Class size estimate by the longer time period of 1991-2007. The number of Jordan's Principle Family Class and Trout Family Class members is unknown.

iii. Place of Residence

Class members are located throughout Canada, on and off First Nations reserves, within First Nations communities including northern and remote communities, and within the non-Indigenous population. Those residing outside of a First Nation community are in rural and urban areas. A percentage of the class members are incarcerated or currently reside outside of Canada.

The 2016 census data reported that 334,385 First Nations people were living on reserves.⁶ This compares to 642,845-First Nations people living outside reserves.⁷

⁶ Statistics Canada. 2018. *Canada [Country]* (table). Aboriginal Population Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/abpopprof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed July 24, 2022).

⁷ Statistics Canada. 2018. *Canada [Country]* (table). *Aboriginal Population Profile*. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/abpopprof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed July 24, 2022).

Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta are home to the largest First Nations populations in Canada, although most of the First Nations population in Canada is generally concentrated in the prairie provinces and the West Coast. The following chart shows the First Nations population in Canada, by province/territory:⁸

Location	First Nations
Canada	977,235
Ontario	236,680
Quebec	92,655
British Columbia	172,520
Alberta	136,585
Manitoba	130,505
Saskatchewan	114,570
Nova Scotia	25,830
New Brunswick	17,575
Newfoundland and Labrador	28,375
Prince Edward Island	1,875
Northwest Territories	13,185
Nunavut	190
Yukon	6,690

The population reporting of First Nations identity is prevalent both in urban centres and northern and remote communities. Metropolitan areas, such as Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver contain large populations of First Nations who live outside reserves: The following chart shows the number of First Nations residents of some metropolitan areas:⁹

Metropolitan Area	Population of First Nations
Toronto	27,805
Ottawa-Gatineau	17,790

⁸ Statistics Canada. 2018. Canada [Country] (table). Aboriginal Population Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada. Ottawa. Released Date modified October 2, 2020.

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/abpopprof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed July 24, 2022).

⁹ Statistics Canada. 2018. *Canada [Ontario]* (table). Aboriginal Population Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada. Ottawa. Released Date modified October 2, 2020. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/hltfst/abo-aut/Table.cfm?Lang=Eng&T=103&S=102&O=D&RPP=25> (please note to toggle between provinces at the link in order to find the related data for the cities) (accessed July 26, 2022).

Sudbury	7,395
Thunder Bay	11,340
Hamilton	9,695
London	8,725
St. Catherines - Niagara	6, 815
Winnipeg	38,700
Edmonton	33,885
Calgary	17,955
Vancouver	35,765
Victoria	9,935
Prince George	7,050
Kelowna	5,235
Kamloops	6,340
Montreal	16,130
Quebec City	6,230
Saskatoon	15,775
Regina	13,150
Prince Albert	9,045
Halifax	7,955

iv. Anticipated Age of Class Members

Communications will be attentive to different experiences amongst class members to ensure awareness and understanding of all class members. The class members targeted for notice are mostly expected to be youths and young adults.

The experts retained by the Parties estimated that about 44,000 of the Removed Child Class were under the age of majority as of March 2022. Insofar as the Family of Removed Child Class members is concerned: parents and grandparents are expected to be almost exclusively adults.

Siblings are expected to include both minors and adults. As such, the class is mostly young but includes several generations of First Nations: children, youth, parents, and grandparents.

The Jordan's Principle Class is likewise expected to include minors for a number of years given that the end date of that class affecting children is November 2, 2017. The Trout Child Class, which ended in 2007, is expected to consist almost entirely of adults. The age range of the

Jordan's Principle Family Class and the Trout Family Class is expected to be similar to the Removed Child Family Class.

In general terms, the 2016 Census showed a national trend toward a younger First Nations population. The following figure shows a breakdown of the age distribution. The age composition of the First Nations population in Canada is generally as follows:¹⁰

Age	First Nation Population
Total	977,230
0 to 24 years	456,530
25 to 34 years	136,920
35 to 44 years	116,625
45 to 54 years	117,945
55 to 64 years	87,135
65 years and over	62,075
65 to 74 years	43,610
75 years and over	18,460

v. Literacy and Education Level

Literacy and education levels are expected to vary widely amongst the class members. While a significant number of class members did not complete a high school diploma, some have received higher university education. This is further exacerbated by the wide age range of class members, which often interrelates with education levels.

Amongst the general population of First Nations people of 20 years or older, 196,305 individuals had not obtained a high school or equivalent level of education. Conversely, 603,305 individuals

¹⁰ Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016156. Ottawa. Released Date modified: June 19, 2019. (accessed July 24, 2022). https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/abpopprof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=PR&Code1=01&Data=Count&SearchText=Canada&SearchType=Begins&B1=All&C1=All&SEX_ID=1&AGE_ID=1&RESGEO_ID=1

had obtained that level of education. In percentage terms, this represents 32% and 68% of the First Nations population, respectively.¹¹

vi. Languages

The majority of First Nations people (826,295 individuals) have identified English or French as their mother tongue, while approximately 166,120 individuals have identified a First Nations language as their mother tongue.¹² These numbers represent approximately 83% of the First Nations population and 17% of the population, respectively. Those First Nations who identified an Indigenous language as a mother tongue were more likely to reside on reserve, at 74%.¹³

The Federal Court has ordered that the long-form notice, short-form notice and the opt-out form in this case be translated into four First Nations languages: Cree, Dene, Mi'kmaq, and Ojibway. These four languages were spoken as the mother tongue of the largest number of First Nations. Cree has the largest number of speakers, at 89,550, with Ojibway, Dene, and Mi'kmaq, following at 34,835, 9,950, and 7,010, respectively.¹⁴

III. NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING

A. The two phases of notice in the settlement, and the focus of this notice plan

¹¹ Statistics Canada. 2018. Canada [Country] (table). Aboriginal Population Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. (accessed July 26, 2022); Statistics Canada. 2018. Canada [Country] (table). Aboriginal Population Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. (accessed July 26, 2022).

¹² Statistics Canada. 2018. Canada [Country] (table). Aboriginal Population Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. (accessed July 26, 2022); Statistics Canada. 2018. Canada [Country] (table). Aboriginal Population Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. (accessed July 26, 2022).

¹³ Statistics Canada. 2018. Canada [Country] (table). Aboriginal Population Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. (accessed July 26, 2022).

¹⁴ Statistics Canada. 2018. Canada [Country] (table). Aboriginal Population Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. (accessed July 26, 2022); Statistics Canada. 2018. Canada [Country] (table). Aboriginal Population Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-510-X2016001. Ottawa. Released July 18, 2018. (accessed July 26, 2022).

The Parties anticipate that notice will be given to the class members in two phases. **This plan only deals with the first phase of notice distribution**, further described below, while the distribution of notice regarding the process to claim compensation will be subject to a further plan specific to that purpose and subject to judicial approval at a future date. The two phases of notice are as follows:

- (a) **Phase I**: This phase, which is the subject of this notice plan, disseminates the notices already approved by the Court. The approved notices adopt a trauma-informed, culturally and age-appropriate method of communication. They announce that the Actions have been certified pursuant to the Federal Court's certification orders. The notices advise class members of their legal rights as a result of certification, including the binding nature of the Actions on all class members who do not opt out of the settlement. Further, the notices advise of the procedures and deadlines whereby those who wish to opt-out of the settlement may do so. This phase also describes the proposed Final Settlement Agreement, the dates and location for the settlement approval hearing, where and how to access information about the settlement, as well as providing information on how to object, if desired. The Parties expect many class members to already be aware of the Actions and the proposed settlement, and for class members to have significant interest in the settlement approval hearing.

- (b) **Phase II**: This phase will be the subject of a further notice plan and includes a more extensive notice plan that is in effect for a longer period. Notice in the second phase announces the approval of the settlement by the Federal Court

and outlines the settlement and its benefits. It also provides information on how to access the claims process. Given that there are multiple distinct classes, this phase will provide instructions and direct class members to dedicated support to assist in clarifying eligibility, filling out claim forms, and obtaining supporting documentation. The Phase II notice plan will be presented to the Court at a later date.

B. Phase I Notice Plan

i. Notice of Certification

In its order certifying the Consolidated Action on November 26, 2021, the Court stated: “The form of notice of certification, the manner of giving notice and all other related matters shall be determined by separate order(s) of the Court.” The Federal Court’s certification order in the Trout Action dated February 11, 2022 was to the same effect.

The Federal Court approved the short-form and long-form notice of certification and settlement approval hearing on June 24, 2022. This included a short-form notice, a long-form notice, and an opt-out form. The Federal Court’s June 24, 2022 order and its schedules is enclosed as **Schedule “A”** to this notice plan.

In this phase of notice, class members are advised that the Federal Court has certified the Actions. The dissemination of this notice triggers the opt-out period and the opt-out right of the class members. The short-form notice and the long-form notice approved by the Federal Court provide accessible information to class members about their options, the implications of opting out of the Actions, and how they can opt out should they choose to.

Any class member who wishes to be excluded from the Actions needs to complete the opt-out form approved by the Federal Court on June 24, 2022 and submit the completed opt-out form to the administrator before the expiry of the six-month deadline from the date on which notice is disseminated to the class pursuant to this notice plan.

Class members who have already commenced a proceeding that raises the common questions of law or fact set out in the certification orders are excluded from the Actions and cannot benefit from the Final Settlement Agreement if those class members do not discontinue such individual proceedings before the opt-out deadline. Class members who do not opt out of the Actions will be bound by the results achieved in the Actions, including the terms of the Final Settlement Agreement if approved by the Federal Court.¹⁵

ii. Notice of Settlement Approval Hearing

The notices advise of the date that the court has set for the settlement approval hearing and provide specific information about the hearing in order to allow class members to attend in person, participate, or to file objections to the settlement in advance. In this case, class members will have virtual attendance options in order to maximize opportunity for class members across the country to participate in the settlement approval process.

Class members who wish to object to the settlement must send their written objections to the administrator so that the comments can be compiled and sent to the Federal Court in advance of the hearing. The Federal Court can only approve or deny the Final Settlement Agreement and cannot change the terms of the Final Settlement Agreement.

¹⁵ Rule 344.21 of the *Federal Courts Rules*, SOR/98-106.

IV. NOTICE PLAN DELIVERY

The approved short-form and long-form notices direct class members to the extensive mental health and wellness supports that the Parties have negotiated as part of the Final Settlement Agreement. Those supports are summarized in “Schedule C: Framework for Supports for Claimants in Compensation Process” to the Final Settlement Agreement, which is enclosed hereto as **Schedule “B”**.

Given the vulnerability of many class members, notice must take into account that concepts such as opt-out may not be easily understandable to some class members and a real risk exists that such class members think they need to opt out in order to receive compensation under the Final Settlement Agreement. Therefore, the approved notices seek to explain the implications of opting out and the approval of the Final Settlement Agreement clearly and in plain language.

The distribution of notice in this phase is expected to start immediately upon approval by the Federal Court of this notice plan and the appointment of the proposed administrator, both of which are necessary in order to disseminate notice to the class.

The proposed method of disseminating Phase I notice includes four approaches described below. These approaches will enable Phase I notice to reach class members for the purposes of certification and settlement approval.

The notice plan for Phase II will be developed and submitted to the Court for approval at a later date.

A. Direct Communication with Class Members

During the course of this litigation, class counsel have maintained a website dedicated to this case where class members can obtain information, learn how to contact class counsel and register for updates. This website is: <https://www.sotosclassactions.com/cases/first-nations-youth/>. The

AFN has also created a website where class members can obtain information and register for updates: <http://www.fnchildcompensation.ca/>.

Through these websites, thousands of interested class members and organizations assisting class members have signed up for updates. The information provided includes name, email address, phone number (optional) and mailing address (optional). Further, when class members contact class counsel by phone and do not have an email, their information and mailing address is recorded and entered into the database.

This information enables direct communication with such class members by email or regular mail, where no email exists. This direct communication will include the short-form and long-form notice of certification and settlement approval under this notice plan.

Further, class counsel and the AFN have travelled and established communication channels with First Nations child and family service providers and First Nations leadership across Canada. Class counsel have presented on the Actions before First Nations child and family stakeholders in British Columbia and Quebec and attended related gatherings in Saskatchewan. The AFN consulted with First Nations leadership to provide updates of the status on the negotiations, the structure of the settlement, and the substance of the Final Settlement Agreement at approximately 50 such briefings across the country. Further meetings and presentations are planned and invitations to provide information sessions across communities are always welcomed.

B. Dissemination by the Assembly of First Nations

The AFN is a national advocacy organization that works to advance the collective aspirations of First Nations individuals and communities across Canada on matters of national or international nature and concern. The AFN hosts two Assemblies a year where mandates and directives for the

organization are established through resolutions directed and supported by elected Chiefs or proxies from member First Nations across Canada.

The AFN is guided by an Executive Committee consisting of an elected National Chief and Regional Chiefs from each province and territory. Representatives from five national councils (Knowledge Keepers, Youth, Veterans, 2SLGBTQQA+ and Women) support and guide the decisions of the Executive Committee.

The AFN is thus connected to 634 First Nation communities in the country and will circulate the short-form notice and long-form notice to class members through those communications channels.

C. Dissemination through Social Media

Given that the targeted population is generally younger, the notices will be disseminated through targeted advertising on social media, including Facebook and Instagram. These media enable the selection of criteria that ensure that the notices are brought to the attention of individuals and organizations with an interest in the subject matter of this litigation through an efficient, relevant, and trauma-informed process.

Given that internet accessibility will vary across the regions and provinces, the use of social media will complement, where possible, the other dissemination approaches specified in this notice plan.

D. Circulation Through Indigenous Media

Notice will also be published in the following Indigenous newspapers/publications upon approval and may be repeated in some or all of these media during the opt-out period, which is six months from the date of dissemination of notice: First Nations Drum, The Windspeaker, Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nations News, APTN National News.

V. CONCLUSION

The notice plan for the Actions recognizes the scope and breadth of the class members, particularly in terms of age of the target, individual experiences, geographic distribution, language representation and familiarity with traditional and social media means of communication.

The notice plan seeks a proportionate, multi-faceted, culturally appropriate, relevant and trauma-informed approach to notice dissemination, backed by extensive mental health and wellbeing supports available to class members.

As ordered by the Federal Court, the notice plan is intended to commence at least one month prior to the settlement approval hearing date set by the court. As approved by the Federal Court, the notices provide sufficient information on certification and the Final Settlement Agreement in plain language so that class members understand how the Final Settlement Agreement may affect them. The approved notices also specify the terms upon which judicial approval is being sought, providing critical information on the settlement approval hearing itself in terms of logistics and class members' right to participate or file an objection to the proposed settlement.