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Residential School Claims Face Delay

FRIDAY, 09 NOVEMBER 2007

Regina lawyer Tony Merchant, who spearheaded the effort to secure compensation for survivors of Indian residential schools, says there's more than just a backlog of paperwork that is delaying payment to the eligible survivors. Ottawa says they're swamped by the volume of applications that have to be processed, and more staff is being hired to deal with the situation.

But Merchant says its not a staffing problem, rather, the form filled out by survivors is inadequate and many claimants are being moved from what might be called an automatic process to a higher level of scrutiny.

Survivors are to receive an average payment of \$28,000 under Canada's largest ever class action settlement. (RM 11/09/07)

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