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## Mixed blessing to money

**Doug Cuthand, Special to The Leader-Post**

Published: Monday, December 03, 2007

But for many of our people the settlement will trigger old memories and they will relive the trauma. Also, some of our people have addictions that will affect their ability to invest and spend their settlement sensibly.

At the end of the day it will be our frontline workers and band councils that will be left holding the bag. How much damage will be done to individuals by this settlement remains to be seen, but for some it will mean relieving the pain and falling into old patterns of coping through alcohol or drugs.

But as one person told me, she received her settlement but money means nothing. She didn't feel any better. Now she needs to spend her money on a good vacation as an important part of her healing journey.



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At the end of the day that is what it is all about. Money is only a tool you can use to buy things. It's the yardstick we use to measure happiness, but it can also be used to measure unhappiness. This settlement is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to do a lot of good for people that have endured a lifetime of pain, but if it isn't properly handled it will only mean more pain on top of what already exists.

- Cuthand is a Saskatoon freelance writer.

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