

MEDIA RELEASE  
Chief Glenn Hudson  
Peguis First Nation  
Treaty #1

*A media conference will be held at 2 p.m. today May 4, 2010 at 16<sup>th</sup> floor, 275 Portage Avenue, by Chief Glenn Hudson and Peguis First Nation Councillors. Copies of the Federal Court Decision will be distributed.*

**FEDERAL COURT DISMISSES LOUIS STEVENSON'S LEGAL ACTION  
CHALLENGING RESULTS OF REFERENDUM FOR SETTLEMENT;  
"PEGUIS CAN NOW RECEIVE JUSTICE: CHIEF GLENN HUDSON"**

The Federal Court has emphatically terminated an application by former Chief Louis Stevenson which has blocked the Peguis First Nation's ratification of a \$118,760,000 settlement with the Federal Government of a land claim which had been finalized by current Chief Glenn Hudson.

"We can now get back to achieving justice for the people of the Peguis First Nation which has been held back since last October by this needless action," Chief Hudson said.

In his decision, Federal Court Prothonotary Roger R. Lafreniere said that as a result of the Stevenson application, the Federal Government has held off paying the funds, "and the membership of the Peguis First Nation has been prevented from enjoying the potential benefits of the Agreement." The decision noted that the requests for delays which Mr. Stevenson had asked for resulted in "significant prejudice" to the First Nation.

"In order to obtain an extension of time, an applicant must establish a continuing intention to pursue the application, that the application has some merit, that no prejudice arises from the delay, and that a reasonable explanation for the delay exists," the decision stated. "Being substantially in agreement with the written representations filed on behalf of the Peguis Respondents, I conclude that the motion for an extension of time be denied and the application accordingly dismissed."

Chief Hudson said he was tremendously gratified by the decision, and was relieved that the people of Peguis could finally enjoy the benefits of the settlement. He said the delay was costing the First Nation approximately \$11,000 a day in lost interest.

Notice of the decision was provided this morning to solicitor Norman Boudreau of the Booth Dennehy LLP law firm which acted for the Peguis First Nation.

“There is evidence of serious prejudice to the Peguis Respondents arising from the Applicant’s delay in moving the proceeding forward. Coupled with the absence of any reasonable explanation for the delay and any evidence that the application has some merit, I decline to exercise my discretion in favour of the applicant,” Mr. Lafreniere said in his decision.

“The overriding principle in applications for extension of time is that justice must be done. In this case, the interests of justice would not be served by allowing this proceeding to continue.”

The Federal Court ordered Mr. Stevenson to reimburse the First Nation for its costs in defending his application.

"The order did not cover, however, the lost interest on the settlement money," Chief Hudson said. He estimated Mr. Stevenson's legal action had cost the First Nation about \$2.4-million for the 217 days of delay.

For more information: Norman Boudreau 771-2577