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Signing Ceremony - Toronto Purchase and Brant Tract Specific Claims Agreement with the Mississaugas of the New Credit

Notes for Remarks by

The Honourable John Duncan, P.C., M.P.

**Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and
Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians**

at a

Signing Ceremony:

**Toronto Purchase and Brant Tract Specific Claims Agreement
with the Mississaugas of the New Credit**

Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, ON
October 29, 2010

Check against delivery

Thank you all for being a part of this very special occasion.

I am extremely happy to be here today, with Chief LaForme, and community members, to celebrate a great accomplishment. I'd also like to acknowledge my colleague and local Member of Parliament Phil McColeman and other invited guests.

Today we take a major step forward on a path of reconciliation and renewal. Together we are here to mark the signing of a \$145 million claim settlement. This financial settlement resolves an outstanding dispute that is closely tied to the histories of both Toronto and Burlington. I am very proud to be here and share in this event with you.

As you know, this agreement resolves two claims: the first relating to the 1797 land purchase of the Brant Tract, and the second concerning the Toronto Purchase of 1805. With this settlement, we are bringing closure to these longstanding claims.

Our Government is serious about its commitment to making progress and resolving outstanding claims like this one. Since the launch of Canada's Specific Claims Action Plan in 2007, we have made major strides. This government has addressed almost 350 specific claims across the country. This Action Plan has fundamentally altered the way specific claims are handled, bringing greater fairness, speed and transparency to the process.

We are committed to resolving unsettled claims for the benefit of all Canadians. Today's celebration of the settlement of the Toronto Purchase and Brant Tract specific claims is another significant step towards achieving this goal.

This claim settlement not only rights a past wrong and honours a legal obligation, but it also opens up new investment and business opportunities for your community and its members.

I am very proud to say that the progress achieved at this table, through dedicated negotiation, shows that claim talks can deliver impressive results. It is clear that when we negotiate together we can find solutions that work. This settlement helps to reconcile the past with the present and creates common ground for a shared future.

I could not be more pleased or more proud to be part of this day.

Thank you.

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