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NO AGREEMENT REACHED IN DENE-METIS LAND CLAIM

OTTAWA (April 2, 1990) -- Negotiators for Canada, the Dene and Metis of the Northwest Territories (NWT) and the Government of the NWT were unable to reach Final Agreement on the Dene-Metis claim over the weekend. Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, expressed his disappointment at the outcome today.

"I understand that a number of differences remain after almost 19 months of negotiations since the Agreement-in-Principle was signed," said Mr. Siddon. "I applaud the sincere efforts of all parties and only regret that we fell short of our goal in spite of those efforts."

Mr. Siddon said he will await a full report from his Chief Negotiator, David Osborn, before considering any future action. He also agreed to meet with the Dene-Metis executive as soon as possible after he has reviewed that report.

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