

Progress Report – Specific Claims

2012-2013

First Nations asked the government for a faster process to resolve their outstanding specific claims. In 2007, the Government of Canada announced *Justice at Last*, which is succeeding in accelerating the resolution of specific claims.

To learn more about these overall results, consult this graph showing progress made since 2007, or check out this statistical snapshot. Read these key definitions and Frequently Asked Questions or this process chart for information about how claims are resolved.

Results Since 2007

Since 2007, the Government of Canada has:

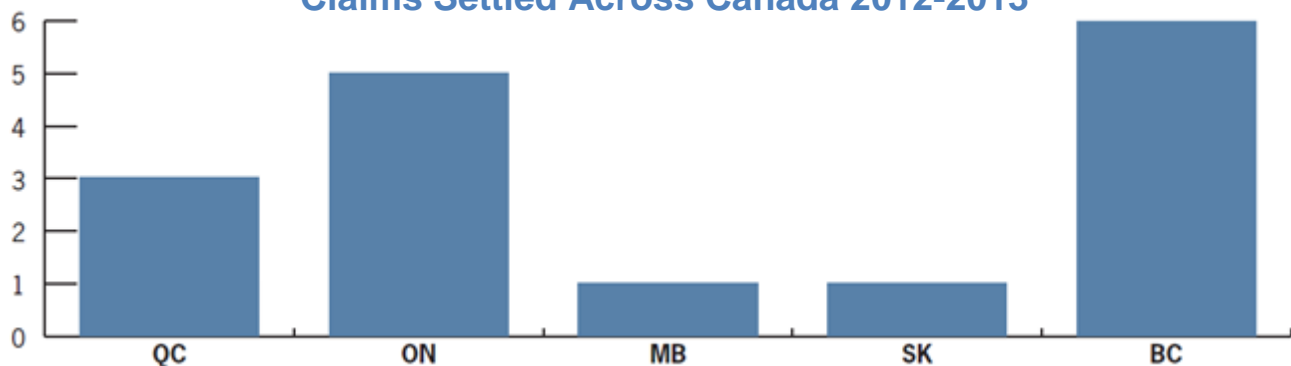
- delivered on all four of its *Justice At Last* commitments,
- cleared up a backlog of 541 claims at the assessment stage, and
- settled 95 claims through agreements totaling \$1.8 billion.

Results from April 1, 2012, to March 31, 2013

During this time, Canada settled 16 claims through negotiated agreements with First Nations, totaling approximately \$557 million.

- The 16 settlements ranged in value from \$50,000 to \$307 million, with an average value of \$35 million.
- A \$307 million settlement was concluded with four First Nations in Ontario. It is the largest settlement to date.
- As of March 2013, there were 106 claims under assessment and 231 claims in negotiation.

Claims Settled Across Canada 2012-2013



This graph shows the location of claims settled by region across Canada in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Compare these results with those from previous fiscal years: 2008–2009; 2009–2010; 2010–2011; and 2011–2012.



Progress was also achieved at the front end of the process, where claims are first assessed to determine whether negotiations will be undertaken. During the reporting period, Canada responded to a total of 109 specific claims across the country.

In keeping with the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act*, Canada continues to thoroughly assess new claims within a three-year period. The Government will also continue to make best efforts to negotiate settlements with First Nations within three years, wherever possible.

Achieving Results and Celebrating Success with Partners

A number of announcements were made and joint celebrations held over the past year:

- An additional improvement to the process was announced in March 2013 that has helped to accelerate progress at negotiating tables.
- Canada's Economic Action Plan 2013 included measures to continue to ensure specific claims are resolved fairly and in a timely manner.
- The Minister congratulated the five Saanich Nations in British Columbia on the Goldstream Specific Claim Settlement, which was concluded in March 2013.
- In October 2012, the Minister joined the Grand Chief of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to celebrate the Kawehnoke-Easterbrook Settlement Agreement.
- In July 2012, the community approval process was successfully concluded on the largest claim settlement achieved to date, which was later signed by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.



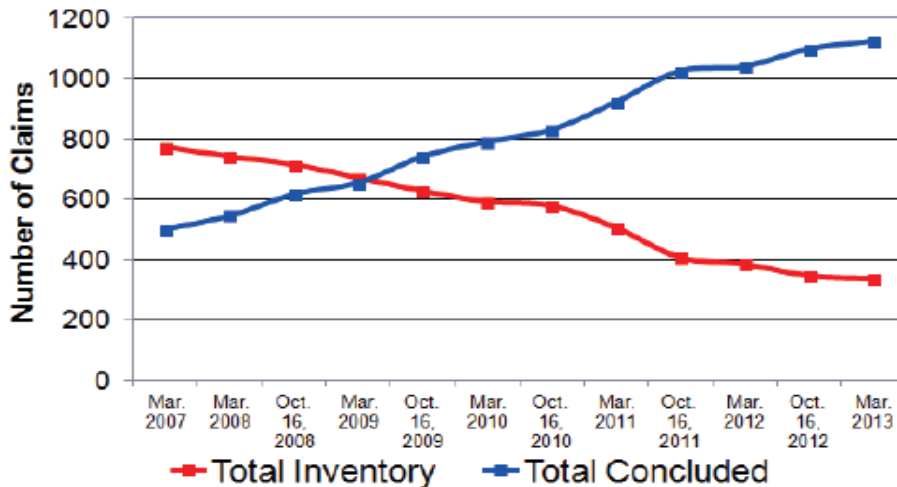
Chief Ivan W. Morris (Tsartlip) holding Canada's gift to the Saanich First Nations in celebration of the conclusion of the Goldstream Specific Claim (print by Coast Salish artist Maynard Johnny Jr. symbolizing a "journey"). Vancouver, B.C. April 5, 2013.

Success Videos



To learn more about specific claim settlements and the benefits they bring to First Nation communities, check out these video stories.

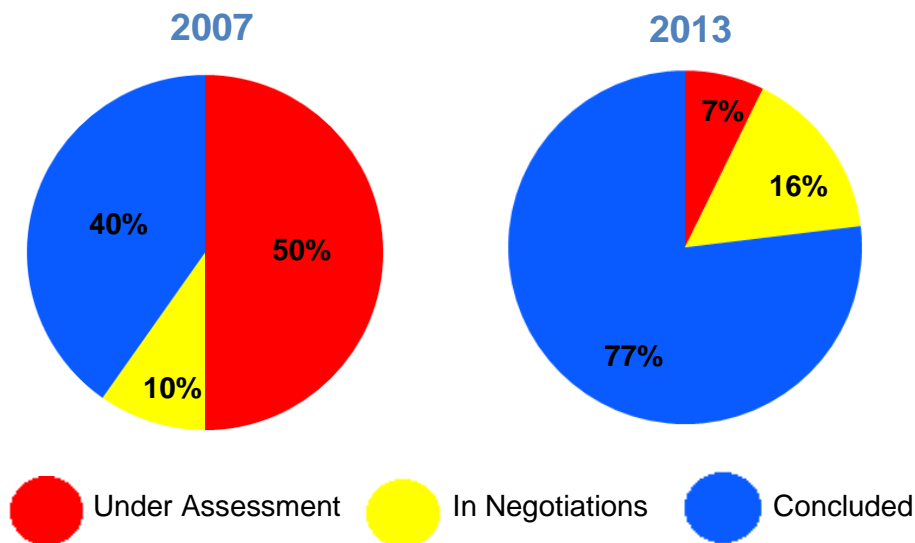
Progress Since 2007



This graph shows how the overall federal inventory of claims (shown in red) is decreasing and the number of concluded claims (shown in blue) is increasing. These results were tracked at key points from March 31, 2007, to March 31, 2013.

Then and Now: A statistical snapshot

Compare some statistics on the status of claims from 2007 with the present day.



These pie charts compare claim statistics from 2007 and 2013, showing how the number of claims under assessment (shown in red) has decreased significantly, while the number of claims in negotiations (shown in yellow) and the number of claims concluded (shown in blue) have increased.

Online Progress Tracking Tools

View the online tools the Government of Canada has put in place for all Canadians to learn how the government is delivering on its commitment to resolve outstanding specific claims.



Search the status report to track the progress of individual claims and explore this interactive map or search the settlement report to learn about claims resolved through negotiations between 1973 and the present day.

Definitions

Specific claims

Specific claims deal with the past grievances of First Nations. These grievances relate to Canada's obligations under historic treaties or the way it managed First Nation funds or assets.

Inventory

Claims within the federal inventory are claims that are still being processed by the government and have not yet been resolved. This includes both claims that are under assessment and claims in negotiations.

Settled claims

These claims have been resolved through a negotiated settlement between the First Nation and Canada, and where applicable, the relevant provincial or territorial government. Once the settlement is signed by the parties, implementation proceeds, including the payment of compensation.

Concluded claims

This category includes settled claims as well as claims that have been dealt with in ways other than a negotiated settlement. This includes when Canada has not accepted a claim for negotiation and the First Nation has taken no further action on the claim. Claims also fall into this category when the claim has been resolved through a binding decision of the Specific Claims Tribunal or it has been dealt with through other means, such as file closure.