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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PGT WELCOMES COURT APPROVED WOODLANDS SETTLEMENT

VANCOUVER- The Public Guardian and Trustee welcomes the approval of the settlement in the Woodlands School class action lawsuit, which has now been approved in B.C. Supreme Court, Public Guardian and Trustee Jay Chalke, Q.C. announced.

“Former residents have been waiting a very long time for today,” said Chalke. “The process of submitting individual claims for adjudication can now begin. The Public Guardian and Trustee's role will be to advance claims for compensation for PGT clients and to help make other former residents aware of the settlement.”

Former residents who suffered abuse or injury at Woodlands prior to August 1, 1974 are not included in this settlement.

“We call on the provincial government to address this gap,” said Chalke, “and find a way to compensate all abused former Woodlands residents, regardless of when the abuse occurred.”

The Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia is not a party to the action. The parties are the B.C. government as defendant and W.H.M. as the plaintiff representative, but the PGT has a number of the clients who are part of the class action.

For more information on PGT involvement with the Woodlands action, log on to:
http://www.trustee.bc.ca/news_information/woodlands.htm

The Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia operates under provincial law to protect the legal rights and financial interests of children, to provide assistance to adults who need support for financial and personal decision making, and to administer the estates of deceased and missing persons where there is no one else able to do so.

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