

# Ottawa ordered to pay for court delay

by Lynda Powless - Editor

**ST CATHARINES** - In a precedent setting court decision Ottawa has been ordered to pay \$5,000 to aboriginal groups that spent the past eight months in a legal battle with the federal government only to have a judge rule they were in the wrong court.

The Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board, Niagara Regional Native Centre and Mizweeik, an aboriginal employment agency in Toronto, will begin their legal fight all over again in Federal Court in Toronto after a St. Catharines judge concluded last week he had no authority to hear their discrimination case.

"This is a setback but it's not going to stop us from fighting," Vince Hill, head of the Niagara board, said outside the court.

"This has been the (federal government's) approach all along to dealing with aboriginal issues, to just drag things out and hope they (aboriginals) will forget about it.

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