



**Nishnawbe Aski Nation**

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100 Back Street, Unit 200, Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1L2  
Tel: (807) 623-8228 Fax: (807) 623-7730 www.nan.on.ca

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Wednesday April 18, 2007**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### NAN LEADERSHIP SIGN POLITICAL AGREEMENT FOR BILATERAL WITH ONTARIO

**THUNDER BAY, ON:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy together with members of the Northern Table NAN Chiefs steering committee signed a letter of political agreement with Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs David Ramsay to continue exploratory discussions with the Government of Ontario this morning at Queen's Park.

“NAN leadership has high expectations that the Northern Table will assist in developing a meaningful relationship with the Government of Ontario reflective of our understanding of treaties 9 and 5 signed 100 years ago,” said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy. “Our intent is through changes in policy and legislation to allow active participation by First Nation people in the economy, revenue-sharing, and proper implementation of Aboriginal and Treaty rights as outlined in the Canadian Constitution and recent Supreme Court rulings, this forum will provide a good basis for a better future for the people of Nishnawbe Aski.”

The letter commits NAN Chiefs and the Government of Ontario to a 90 day interim period to finalize exploratory discussions related to revenue-sharing, Ontario *Parks Act*, Ontario *Mining Act*, impact benefits agreements, and land use planning.

The Northern Table was originally announced March 2006 with the intent to provide a forum to address the unique challenges specific to NAN First Nation communities, while addressing the gap in socioeconomic status between the residents of NAN territory (an area covering two-thirds of Ontario) and non-Aboriginal Ontarians.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political organization representing 49 First Nation communities in the territory of James Bay Treaty 9 and Ontario portion of Treaty 5 – an area covering two-thirds of the province.

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**For more information please contact:**

**Jenna Young**

**Director of Communications**

**Nishnawbe Aski Nation**

**(807) 625 4952 OR (807) 628 3953 (mobile)**