Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Friday June 1, 2007 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN GRAND CHIEF SUPPORTS RECOMMENDATIONS OF IPPERWASH REPORT TO CONSULT AND ACCOMMODATE

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy welcomes the recommendations made by Ipperwash Inquiry Commissioner Sidney Linden as outlined in the four volume report released yesterday morning in Forest, Ontario and looks forward to working with Ontario and Canada on a nation-to-nation basis to implement recommendations for governments to promote and respect understanding of the duty to consult and accommodate.

"This is an excellent report and a great start to improving the relationship between First Nation people, governments, and all Ontarians, but what we need now is action by all parties to implement the recommendations – the provincial and federal governments and First Nation leaders," said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy who addressed the family of Dudley George, general public, and media during a news conference following the report's release. "Until the issue of land ownership and resource development is settled in fairly and justly by all parties, similar events like those that took place in Ipperwash and today in Treaty 9 community Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug will continue."

The report, which offers 90 recommendations for improved relations between Aboriginal people, governments and police services, follows a public inquiry into actions and issues involved in the September 1995 death of Dudley George – an Aazhoodena (Kettle and Stony Point) First Nation man shot and killed by an Ontario Provincial Police officer during a peaceful protest at Ipperwash Provincial Park.

The report specifically references the unique treaty relationship between First Nation people and the Crown, citing the need to respect and promote the duty to consult and accommodate and recommends both provincial and federal governments to work together with Aboriginal leadership to settle land claims, develop a Treaty Commission, and Aboriginal Ministry.

"The only way these recommendations will work is if the unique status of the nation-to-nation relationship between NAN First Nations and the Crown, identified in the Canadian Constitution, is implemented," said Beardy, adding that with public education - one of the Justice Linden's recommendations – not only Ontarians, but industry will better understand this relationship and be open to the prospect of meaningful working relationships and partnerships with First Nations. "With development across NAN territory pending, it's essential we work together with governments to ensure my people begin to benefit from the treaty relationship agreed upon 100 years ago."

Other notable recommendations include improved policies and procedures in terms of policing, including the need for communication and negotiation strategies, and native awareness training, and resourcing of Aboriginal police services.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political organization representing 49 First Nation communities across James Bay Treaty 9 territory and the Ontario communities of Treaty 5.

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