



**Nishnawbe Aski Nation**

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## NEWS RELEASE

**Wednesday January 16, 2008**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### NAN LAUNCHES FIRST NATION POLICING DOCUMENTARY IN ANTICIPATION OF TREASURY BOARD BUDGETARY PLAN

**THUNDER BAY, ON:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief RoseAnne Archibald together with Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) Chief Paul Trivett and NAPS Board Chair Mike Metatawabin today hosted the first public screening of a video documentary comparing First Nation police services and provincial police services in Ontario during a news conference at Lakehead University's ATAC.

"As much as the film is a depiction of the realities of the working conditions of NAPS detachments, it's equally a human story," said Deputy Grand Chief RoseAnne Archibald who produced and directed the film. "NAPS police officers heroically provide security and safety to NAN community members, often times when their own safety and basic life standards aren't being met. The personal consequences to NAPS officers are complex and far-reaching."

*Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service: A Sacred Calling* is an 18 minute video documentary portraying the deplorable working and living conditions of NAPS officers and detachments, resulting from an accumulation of severe provincial and federal funding shortages.

"No other police service in Ontario has the same infrastructure challenges as experienced by NAPS," said NAPS Police Chief Paul Trivett, adding the police service has been in negotiations to address these challenges with provincial and federal representatives since its 1994 inception. "Even in isolated communities, municipal police services, the O.P.P., and RCMP are provided with safe, quality facilities for their officers to work out of, while very few of the 35 NAPS detachments meet minimum national building code standards."

This first public screening anticipates a five year budget plan by the Treasury Board of Canada expected this month.

"Our treaty partners Canada and Ontario are ultimately responsible not only for meeting the basic needs of NAPS officers, but also the fall-out when that's not upheld, including a 2005 detachment fire in Kashechewan where two prisoners died and one NAPS officer was badly burned.," said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy.

A new police detachment meeting minimum national building code standards would cost approximately \$1 million. Currently NAPS has 13 modular detachments (trailers) as a temporary solution. Each trailer costs approximately \$400,000 including set up and installation.

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NAPS has proposed a five year budgetary plan to negotiators for the governments of Canada and Ontario that will satisfy detachment needs on a priority basis.

NAPS serves 37 of Nishnawbe Aski Nation's (NAN) 49 First Nation communities – a territory covering two-thirds of the province of Ontario.

*Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service: A Sacred Calling* is written, produced, and directed by filmmaker/NAN Deputy Grand Chief RoseAnne Archibald. Associate producers include NAPS Chief of Police Paul Trivett, NAPS Board of Directors, and NAPS Board Liaison Fabian Batise.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political organization representing 49 First Nation communities within James Bay Treaty 9 territory.

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