



“Events are unfolding in a way that is creating a great deal of instability. The community is in jeopardy without a police officer if something happens. The service, in some communities is hanging by a thread,” said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy.

Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service: A Sacred Calling is an 18 minute documentary short film portraying the deplorable working and living conditions of NAPS officers and detachments, resulting from an accumulation of severe provincial and federal funding shortages. The documentary was written and directed by filmmaker and NAN Deputy Grand Chief RoseAnne Archibald. It can be screened at [www.nan.on.ca](http://www.nan.on.ca).

\*\*\*

For more information please contact:

Colleen Berry  
Communications Assistant  
Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
(807) 625-4913

## FACT SHEET – NISHNAWBE ASKI POLICE SERVICE

- WHO** Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) is the largest First Nation's Police force in Canada and the second largest in North America. NAPS employs 135 uniformed police officers and 30 civilians. NAPS provides service to 35,000 people in 37 First Nation communities located across the remote north of Ontario.
- WHAT** Severe federal and provincial under funding to date, has created crumbling and unsafe detachments, no housing for police officers, officer shortages, substandard equipment, unhealthy stress levels and officer burnout. First Nations want to see increased funding levels that will result in a stable, quality police service where officers provide communities with a safe environment and further, officers are actively involved in the healthy development of the communities that they serve.
- WHEN** NAPS was established in 1994 through the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services Agreement which is an "agreement in principle" negotiated between the Government of Canada; the Government of Ontario and the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. In 2004, NAPS faced a similar crisis with infrastructure and officer shortages. The federal and provincial governments provided a temporary "band aid" solution of installing portable trailers as interim detachments and increasing the operating budget from \$9 million to \$14 million. Currently, NAPS requires an operating budget of \$35 million to provide a proper policing services
- WHERE** NAPS provides policing services to 37 First Nation communities in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) territory which covers two third of the province of Ontario, or 210,000 square miles. It's a landmass, approximately the size of France that stretches north to south from Hudson's and James Bay to North Bay and Kenora and east to west from the Quebec border to the Manitoba border.
- WHY** NAPS wants to be afforded the same treatment as any other police service in Ontario and Canada. All NAPS Officers receive the same training as other provincial and municipal police officers at the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ontario. NAPS officers are sworn Constables with authority throughout the Province of Ontario; however, it's Police Services Board is run as an Ontario business corporation.

NAPS WEBSITE: <http://www.naps-net.org>