



Aboriginal communities to evaluate the use of community-based investigators in place of coroners. Community-based solutions are desperately needed to address the ongoing failure of the Coroner's Office to investigate deaths in First Nation communities," said Muskrat Dam First Nation Chief Vernon Morris.

Justice Goudge was asked to make recommendations to improve and restore public confidence in the system that scrutinizes child deaths in Ontario. The five month long Goudge Inquiry held hearings in Northern Ontario to hear directly from First Nation communities and organizations.

The commission of inquiry was set up by the Province of Ontario after a coroner's review found child pathologist Dr. Charles Smith erred in 20 of 45 autopsies conducted from 1981 to 2001. In 13 of those cases, people were convicted of crimes, including killing their own children.

The rate of infant and preschooler deaths within Aboriginal communities is 4 to 5 times higher than in non-Aboriginal communities. Aboriginal infants are three times more likely to die of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome than non-Aboriginal infants.

NAN and ALST represent the diverse interests of Aboriginal people and communities, combining the perspectives of on-reserve and off-reserve, northern and southern, urban and rural, political/territorial and service providers within the Aboriginal community of Ontario.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political territorial organization representing 49 First Nation communities across two-thirds of the province of Ontario.

Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto is a multi-service legal agency providing services to First Nation communities across the province.

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