



NAN applauded LaForme's appointment as chair of the Commission but has been critical of the process, especially LaForme's selection of Owen Young as Senior Counsel to the Commission. Young was Crown Counsel in the high-profile legal battle between Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation and junior exploration company Platinex Inc., and called for a "financial penalty that hurts" during proceedings against the KI leadership in Ontario Superior Court on January 25, 2008. Young has now resigned from the Commission.

Approximately 5,000 NAN members attended residential schools. Since 2005, NAN has publicly urged for a formal apology by the Prime Minister of Canada and the continuation of programs focused on individual and community healing for the 90 percent of NAN members who have been impacted by the residential school system.

"It is tragic that Justice LaForme lost sight of the goal of the Commission, which was the acknowledgement of injustice and the beginning of the healing process for residential school survivors and their families," said NAN Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler. "We urge the government to work with the parties to ensure that residential school Survivors secure the truth, justice and reconciliation they deserve."

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

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