



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAN GRAND CHIEF SAYS HISTORIC U.S. ELECTION SENDS MESSAGE OF HOPE

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy says the election of Barack Obama as the first African-American president of the United States sends a message of hope to people around the world.

“Senator Obama’s historic win sends a message to the world that by living in a democracy with unlimited opportunity, anyone can grow to become anything they want to be. What happened in America Tuesday night will have a ripple effect around the world,” said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy. “The election of the first African-American president was immediately felt across NAN, and has brought a sense of hope and confidence to the people of Nishnawbe Aski that a better future will dawn for all people.”

Obama, a Democratic senator from Illinois, won a decisive victory over Republican Senator John McCain in the November 4 presidential election, winning both the Electoral College tally and the popular vote.

Beardy said Obama’s election shows how far African-Americans have come in their struggle against discrimination, intolerance and injustice, and shows that people of different races are able to overcome their differences to work for a better future for their children. Beardy is hopeful that Nishnawbe Aski Nation can make progress with the Government of Canada to implement rights for First Nations guaranteed under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution.

“By electing the first African-American president the people of the United States are showing the world it is possible to close a dark chapter of history and move beyond racial and cultural divides. This is a great message for Canada – that our differences can become our strengths when we unite to work for a better tomorrow,” said Beardy. “NAN is ready to move forward with government-to-government relationships that will lay the foundation for a strong, healthy, and prosperous future for all Canadians.”

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

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