Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Friday November 28, 2008 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN CONGRATULATES WRITING AWARD WINNERS

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy together with NAN Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose and Deputy Grand Chief RoseAnne Archibald congratulate two NAN youth who will be among the recipients of the first James Bartleman Aboriginal Youth Creative Writing Award at a ceremony at Queen's Park today.

Sarah Remus, 12, from Bearskin Lake First Nation, and Cheyanne Sainnawap, 14, from Wunnumin Lake First Nation are among the six young Aboriginal writers from across Ontario to receive the award.

"We are very excited that two NAN youth will be recognized with this prestigious award and it is my pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of these young writers," said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy. "Encouraging our young people to express themselves initiates dialogue, helps foster understanding, and instills a sense of hope in our young people."

The awards will be presented by the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Ontario's former lieutenant governor James K. Bartleman, and Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Michael Chan. Recipients will receive $2,500 and a trip to the Canadian Aboriginal Festival in Toronto.

"I have had the pleasure of working closely with Ontario's Lieutenant Governor on several literacy initiatives in our communities and I believe that with the proper education and support, anyone in Ontario and Canada can grow to become anything they want to be," said Beardy, noting the success of the 2008 Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Summer Reading Camps program for improving literacy and education in NAN communities.

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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