Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday January 20, 2009 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

STATEMENT FROM NAN GRAND CHIEF STAN BEARDY ON THE INAUGURATION OF BARACK OBAMA

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy made the following statement on today's inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America:

> Just as the historic election of Barack Obama as the first African-American president of the United States sent a message of hope across Nishnawbe Aski, today's inauguration will be felt around the world as America closes a dark chapter of its history and moves beyond racial and cultural divides.
>
> The swearing in of president-elect Obama shows how far African-Americans have come in their struggle against discrimination, intolerance and injustice. It shows that people of different races are able to overcome their differences to work for a better future for their children. I am hopeful that the people of Nishnawbe Aski Nation can make similar progress with the Government of Canada, and that we can move forward with government-to-government relationships that will lay the foundation for a strong, healthy, and prosperous future for all Canadians.
>
> Today's inauguration shows that by living in a democracy with unlimited opportunity, anyone can grow to become anything they want to be. This is a great message for Canada and its First Nations peoples – that our differences can become our strengths when we unite to work for a better tomorrow.

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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