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NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday March 3, 2009 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF TO ATTEND UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief RoseAnne Archibald is one of two indigenous women selected from across Canada for the Canadian delegation to the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations headquarters in New York March 2-13, 2009.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me to provide insight into women's issues from a First Nations perspective. Although the forum is international in nature, I am pleased to be able to present the view of the women of Nishnawbe Aski," said Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief RoseAnne Archibald, who will serve as non-governmental organization advisor to the head of the Canadian delegation. "I am honoured to have been selected to be part of this delegation."

The 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be attended by representatives of member states, UN entities and non-governmental organizations from all regions of the world. The Canadian delegation is headed by the Hon. Helena Guergis, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

The Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1946 as a mechanism to promote, report on and monitor issues relating to the political, economic, civil, social and educational rights of women.

"As First Nation leaders we have to work to rebuild the role of our First Nations women as decision-makers and positive contributors to the development of our communities. One method is to balance the roles between men and women in our systems of government," said Archibald, who was selected for the Canadian delegation through her work with the Assembly of First Nations Women's Council. "I'm also looking forward to hearing from other indigenous women from around the world on what they are doing to ensure thriving and strong communities for their people and their children."

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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