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NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday May 26, 2009 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN URGES THUNDER BAY TO ADOPT RACISM REPORT

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy is urging Thunder Bay City Council to adopt the Thunder Bay Committee Against Racism and Discrimination's report titled "Overcoming Racism and Discrimination: A Plan for Action."

"NAN is very much in favour of working with the community's leadership as well as its members, groups, organizations and the public and private sectors to address the issues of racism and discrimination," said Grand Chief Stan Beardy after attending the committee's public release of the report. "There is great potential for ushering in real and meaningful change if we come together as community partners and take up the recommendations contained in this action plan and work together to implement them."

Tabled at a Committee of the Whole meeting in Thunder Bay last night, the 96-page report is intended to provide support and direction to city council and its partners toward a strategic plan of action against racism and discrimination. The report is also intended as a tool for community members, groups, organizations, and the public and private sectors to come together to continue to dialogue and to collaboratively address issues of racism and discrimination that thwart social cohesion within the city of Thunder Bay.

"The overarching goal of the report is for us to come together as partners and create a welcoming and inclusive community," Beardy said pointing out that the large number of students, families and individuals who come from the NAN communities to Thunder Bay to receive education, health care, employment or even to shop and visit family members would greatly benefit by such a project. "NAN welcomes the implementation strategy that was tabled and strongly urges city council to adopt the plan and make sure it is resourced."

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

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