

- Protected areas - Protected areas must be defined with First Nations consent and in a manner consistent with First Nations understandings, and put under First Nation management.
- Past grievances - There is a long and often painful legacy in First Nations' dealings with Ontario's conservation officers. A process is needed to address these past grievances.
- Plan development, approval and implementation - The development, approval and implementation of the land use plans must enable control by First Nations, support Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and not compromise community autonomy.
- Inherent rights - First Nations have a relationship with the Creator, and a responsibility and an obligation to care for the land. Our inherent rights will never be legislated because that is who we are and we will remain.
- Treaty and Aboriginal rights - Land was not surrendered by First Nations under Treaty 9 and Treaty 5. First Nations will exercise their Treaty and Aboriginal rights in all of NAN territory. First Nations will not agree to anything that will jeopardize or compromise their rights.

In March 2009, NAN's 49 Chiefs passed a resolution against the Government of Ontario's unilateral goal of establishing 225,000 square kilometres of protected areas in the NAN homelands, as announced by the Far North Planning Initiative in July 2008. In that resolution, they directed that the NAN First Nations work with Ontario to discuss, develop and implement First Nation-led land planning and governance decisions.

“We are not against resource development, but we will continue to insist upon a mechanism through which NAN First Nations will be consulted and will have meaningful input into the decision-making process, and we hope that all of our recommendations will be given full consideration at that point,” said Beardy. “We welcome the opportunity to work together, but our gauge of the success this process will ultimately be reflected by how much of our input is reflected in this legislation.”

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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