



**Nishnawbe Aski Nation**  
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## NEWS RELEASE

Thursday July 23, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **STATEMENT FROM NAN GRAND CHIEF ON THE ELECTION OF SHAWN ATLEO AS AFN NATIONAL CHIEF**

**CALGARY, AB:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy, on behalf of the NAN Executive Council, expressed congratulations to Shawn Atleo on his election as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) by Canadian First Nation leaders during the AFN 35th Annual General Assembly in Calgary today:

On behalf of NAN First Nations I congratulate Shawn Atleo on his election as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. As AFN Regional Chief for British Columbia he has demonstrated an ability to build bridges between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and we look to him to renew the vision of the AFN and build on the momentum that has been made towards reconciliation and establishing a new relationship with the Government of Canada. I am confident that he will be a strong advocate for First Nations as our national representative with our federal Treaty partner.

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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