Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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100 Back Street, Unit 200, Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1L2
Tel: (807) 623-8228 Fax: (807) 623-7730 www.nan.on.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Friday July 24, 2009 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN GRAND CHIEF AND FIRST NATIONS LAUNCH TREATY 5 COMMEMORATION

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy, together with representatives of NAN Treaty 5 First Nations, unveiled a painting depicting the historic signing of Treaty 5 to launch the centennial commemoration of the Treaty in Thunder Bay today.

"Our Elders see the Treaty as a sacred document and it is significant that we are moving into the 100th anniversary since the signing of that document," said Sandy Lake First Nation Chief Adam Fiddler, a descendent of Robert Fiddler, the Chief who signed Treaty 5 in 1910 on behalf of the 1910 Adhesion communities. "By hosting this event with the descendents of the people who signed the Treaty back in 1910 our federal Treaty partner, the Government of Canada, can see first-hand the accomplishments we have made over the past 100 years as well as the challenges we still face today. We haven't forgotten the commitments that were made at the time of the signing – Treaty implementation is key to the development of a solid foundation for the future of our people."

A Journey to Remember/Honouring our Treaty is the theme of the Treaty 5 commemoration. The commemorative event will be held June 9, 2010 in Sandy Lake First Nation in recognition of its status as the signatory community of the Treaty 5 Adhesion in 1910.

Other NAN Treaty 5 communities including Deer Lake First Nation, MacDowell Lake First Nation, Keewaywin First Nation, Koocheching First Nation, North Spirit Lake First Nation will participate in events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Adhesion signing in Sandy Lake First Nation as they are beneficiaries to the 1910 Treaty 5 Adhesion.

"Commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the Treaty 5 adhesions gives the people of Nishnawbe Aski the opportunity to reflect on the past 100 years and re-evaluate their goals while acknowledging current deficiencies in our Treaty relationship with the Government of Canada and the intent to work together to improve this relationship," said Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy. "Today we reinforce our support of Treaty 5 communities and we reaffirm our Treaty relationship by ensuring that mutual benefits come from of this relationship to all signatories based on the original spirit and intent of the Treaty."

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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For more information please contact *Michael Heintzman, Media Relations Officer – Nishnawbe Aski Nation (807) 625 4906 or (807) 621 2790 mobile.*

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BACKGROUNDER

TREATY 5

- Treaty 5 was signed in September 1875 between the Dominion and the Saulteaux and Swampy Cree Nations of Beren's River and Norway House.

- Treaty 5 originally covered an area of 100,000 square miles in what is now the Province of Ontario and the Province of Manitoba.

- Adhesions to the Treaty were taken in 1876, 1909 and 1910, eventually covering an area of 133,400 square miles.

- The Adhesion of 1910 included Northern Manitoba bands as well as the people at Deer Lake. Deer Lake was absorbed into Ontario two years later under the Ontario Boundary Extension Act of 1912. Since the signing with the people at Deer Lake, the communities of Sandy Lake, Deer Lake, MacDowell Lake, Keewaywin, Koocheching and North Spirit Lake First Nations have sprung out of that signing and are therefore beneficiaries of the Treaty 5 1910 Adhesions.

- The terms of the Treaty included the annual provision of agricultural and farming implements, farming and carpenter tools, farm animals, annuity payments of five dollars per head, ammunition and twine and nets, reserves to consist of 160 acres for a family of five (subject to the government's right to sell or lease reserve lands), protection against liquor trade, right to pursue their vocations of hunting and fishing, Her Majesty to take annual census, annual salary of $25.00 for Chief and $15.00 for Councilors, clothing every three years for Chief and Council, including flag and medal, assist in the administration of law and justice, $500.00 in lieu of ammunition and twine, and the maintenance of schools on reserves.

- For the First Nations, the Treaty represented a binding commitment that their traditional lifestyle would be protected while agreeing to share their traditional territories.

- The Government of Ontario did not participate in the making of Treaty 5 but was later involved in the selection of reserve lands for NAN Treaty 5 First Nations.