Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday July 29, 2009 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN CLOSER TO OWN JURISDICTION OVER EDUCATION, GOVERNANCE

TIMMINS, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Stan Beardy, together with representatives of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, initialed two Agreements in Principle today that will allow NAN's negotiators to move to the next phase of negotiations towards self governance and jurisdiction over education under the federal government's Inherent Rights Policy.

"These negotiations, hopefully, will bring real meaning and substance to the prime minister's apology to survivors regarding the residential schools by having greater control over jurisdiction and education," said Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Stan Beardy. "It is the first step to getting out from under the Indian Act in specific areas, namely governance and education."

Negotiations between Canada and Nishnawbe Aski Nation began in 1997. A framework agreement, which was a commitment to negotiate, was signed in 1999. Negotiations for an agreement-in-principle began after a period of preparation.

"The impacts of this process will benefit First Nations education by placing the First Nations people in a position of more jurisdiction, improving standard of education as well as cultural incorporation into the curriculum," said Dr. Emily Faries, lead negotiator of the education jurisdiction negotiation table.

"It is good to reach this stage of the discussions with Canada on these negotiations, now the real exciting part begins, engaging our people's creative energy on building their communities to be self-governing in thw way they see fit," said Doug Semple, lead negotiator of the governance jurisdiction negotiation table.

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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