



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAN DAY OF PRAYER HONOURS STRENGTH, RESILIENCE OF FIRST NATION YOUTH

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy, together with NAN Elders Josias Fiddler and Freddie Kakegamic, honoured the strength and resilience of Nishnawbe Aski youth today at Dennis Franklin Cromarty high school in Thunder Bay.

An annual event, NAN Day of Prayer spans NAN territory through a live radio broadcast helping to connect the people of Nishnawbe Aski.

“By joining together spiritually, we support our young people to address their challenges with courage, strength and optimism,” said Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy. “It’s a time to focus on our youth – to celebrate their successes and their role in shaping our future.”

Included in today’s prayers were special thoughts for the family and friends of 17-year-old Kyle Morriveau of Keewaywin First Nation. Morriveau is the sixth youth from NAN territory to have died in Thunder Bay since 2000 while attending school.

“Tragically, many of our young people who must relocate for schooling do not have an adequate social support network, making it increasingly difficult to cope with an unfamiliar and sometimes hostile environment,” said Beardy. “By encouraging dialogue to increase cultural awareness and understanding among both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, we can better ensure our young people feel safe.”

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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