Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

January 19, 2010 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN GRAND CHIEF RESPONDS TO CABINET SHUFFLE

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy is expressing frustration about yesterday's provincial cabinet shuffle by Premier Dalton McGuinty.

"We are disappointed that the Premier doesn't see Aboriginal issues worthy of having a stand-alone minister," said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy.

The Aboriginal Affairs portfolio now falls under Attorney General Chris Bentley – a move which Beardy says is a step backwards.

"The aboriginal population is the fastest growing population in Canadian society," said Beardy. "An effort has to be made in order to have strong levels of communication between our people and the government. I think it's important for Aboriginal Affairs to have its own ministry in order to continue building a strong working relationship."

Former Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid now holds the Energy and Infrastructure portfolio. Michael Gravelle remains Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry. Donna Cansfield has been replaced by Linda Jeffrey as Minister of Natural Resources.

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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