



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAN RESPONSE TO 2010 FEDERAL BUDGET

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy is concerned following the release of the Government of Canada's 2010 budget on Thursday. Beardy says there is not enough support for First Nations infrastructure.

“Although there are some positive aspects of this year’s budget, we were hoping for more financial support in capital infrastructure to help our communities,” said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy. “We have roughly five-thousand homes in NAN territory alone that need to be built or renovated. Improvements also need to be made to many of our schools and roads. Any federal funding will be spread among First Nation communities across Canada therefore our infrastructure crisis won’t begin to be addressed.”

NAN communities also face several ongoing issues affecting their quality of life including high unemployment rates, lack of adequate health care, high suicide rates and lack of quality education. Beardy says the budget will not address those issues either.

“We understand that Canada is dealing with tough economic times however, even in the best of times First Nations are living in third-world conditions,” said Beardy. “It seems we are always at the bottom of the federal government’s priorities as we constantly feel the brunt of financial cutbacks. This budget will do little to close the gap between our First Nations and the Canadian society.”

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.

For more information please contact *Amy Harris, Media Relations Officer – Nishnawbe Aski Nation (807) 625 4906 or (807) 252-2806 mobile or by email aharris@nan.on.ca*