Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday March 24, 2010 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN STATEMENT ON ONTARIO'S PROMISE OF 'NO TAX HIKES'

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy issued the following statement in response to the Harmonized Sales Tax and Premier Dalton McGuinty's promise of 'no tax increases or new taxes' in this week's provincial budget.

"NAN communities face an extremely high cost of living. Everyday items that some people may take for granted such as milk and bread are roughly three times more expensive in our communities. The Premier (McGuinty) has said there will be no tax hikes in this year's budget however the harmonization of the Provincial Sales Tax with the federal Goods and Services Tax will increase the costs of already expensive staples and will cost First Nation communities more at the counter. We currently have a point-of-sale exemption which seems to offset the high prices for goods slightly but the exemption will be non-existent when the Harmonized Sales Tax comes into effect in July. So, where the average person may see a twenty-five per cent increase in tax spending through the year, First Nations will see a one-hundred per cent increase. The point-of-sale exemption is our Treaty right and we have yet to hear anything from the province to honor that."

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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