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NEWS RELEASE

Monday August 9, 2010 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN RECOGNIZES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy together with the NAN Executive Council are recognizing the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. Beardy says this is an important day that should be acknowledged by not only the world's Indigenous peoples but all human beings.

"Indigenous Peoples around the world, in most cases, are marginalized which rings true in Canada," said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy. "While Canada is a wealthy country, First Nations live well below the poverty line. Our treaties with the Crown have not been implemented at the political level. As well, government policies and legislation such as Canada's Indian Act have also had a negative impact on our people. Today we recognize these hardships and work to move forward in hopes of bettering our quality of life."

The International Day of the World's Indigenous People was declared in 1994 and is observed on August 9. The date marks the day of the first meeting in 1982 of the Working Group of Indigenous Populations of the Sub-commission, on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights.

In March 2010, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted a resolution calling on the Government of Canada to endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) – Canada being one of 2 countries in the world who have not adopted it (the other being the United States of America).

"We are deeply concerned that Canada has not adopted the UNDRIP – considering First Nations are the fastest growing population in the country," said Beardy. "It's essential that the Government of Canada live up to its international and national obligations by immediately adopting the UNDRIP as it recognizes our economic, social, cultural, political, spiritual and environmental rights."

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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