



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday February 1, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAN FIRST NATIONS, CANADA AND LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY COME TOGETHER FOR HISTORIC TREATY SYMPOSIUM

THUNDER BAY, ON: The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)/Canada Treaty Discussion Forum, in partnership with Lakehead University's Aboriginal Initiatives, will host an historic Treaty Symposium this month. The Symposium will showcase presentations on Treaty No. 5 and Treaty No. 9 by First Nations, Elders, and leading academics, and the treaty relationship between NAN and the British Crown as represented by Canada and Ontario.

The two-day event will also provide an opportunity for discussion with students, youth and the general public on the information being presented. In addition, the Symposium will include a 'Panorama' of historical landmarks in the Treaty relationship with the Crown.

"The Treaties that make up NAN territory (Treaty No. 9 and Treaty No. 5) are international covenants and form integral parts of the history of Ontario and Canada. It is essential for the good of all Canadians to have an accurate understanding of what these Treaties mean and how they are relevant today," said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy.

The NAN/Canada Treaty Discussion Forum provides an opportunity for First Nations of NAN and Canada to work cooperatively to honour the Treaty relationship and work towards building a shared understanding on the different perspectives of Treaty from the written document of the Treaty and the oral history from the Elders.

The NAN/Canada Treaty Discussion Forum Symposium will take place February 23-24, 2011, at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, ON.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political territorial organization representing 49 First Nation communities in James Bay Treaty No. 9 and Ontario portions of Treaty No. 5 – an area covering two thirds of the province of Ontario.

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