Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday May 24, 2011 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN HOSTS FOURTH ANNUAL EDUCATION AWARENESS WEEK

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose together with education staff and officials, students and parents this week will participate in NAN's annual Education Awareness Week, an event created to address education inequities such as chronic underfunding for students across NAN territory.

"We are very pleased to once again be hosting NAN Education Awareness Week, as education helps to provide a solid foundation for youth in building and shaping their future," said NAN Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose, who holds NAN's education portfolio.

Education shortfalls for First Nations can be seen through the inadequate funding for students on-reserve, compared to their provincial counterparts, which directly affects access to a well-rounded education and proper educational facilities across NAN territory. Many secondary students also deal with the reality of being forced to leave their communities to pursue higher education, leaving behind their support systems.

NAN Education Awareness Week includes a variety of workshops focusing on issues affecting education such as governance, jurisdiction and residential schools, and eLearning - a valuable option for remote communities. There will also be a panel discussion on the lack of resourcing available for off-reserve high school students.

"Education is a Treaty right, and as such is a tool for change," said Waboose. "First Nation students like all other students have the right to all levels and forms of educational opportunities without discrimination as stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Our youth represent our future.""

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.

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