Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Thursday July 21, 2011 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF ENCOURAGES ALL FAMILY MEMBERS OF FOREST FIRE EVACUEES TO REACH CANADIAN RED CROSS

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin is encouraging all family members of evacuees threatened by the forest fires raging across Northwestern Ontario who are trying to reach relatives to call the Canadian Red Cross Registration and Inquiry Bureau (866) 356-3645 ext.236.

"In light of this situation, many family members are trying to reach loved ones affected by the forest fires threatening NAN communities in Northwestern Ontario," said Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin. "They don't know who or where to call to locate family members who have been displaced to many different towns and cities all across Ontario. People are growing concerned because they don't know where their family members are or if they are okay."

The more than 100 forest fires, burning across approximately 254,000 hectares, have threatened and caused the evacuations of Sandy Lake, Wunnumin Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Cat Lake, Koocheching, Kee-Way-Win, Eabametoong, and North Spirit Lake. Many other First Nations are currently on stand-by for evacuation. The Canadian Red Cross is working to register and provide personal services to the evacuees.

"This is one of the biggest forest fire threats NAN has witnessed in a long time and people aren't sure what to do or where to go when their loved ones are threatened." said Metatawabin. "The Canadian Red Cross is working to record which community each evacuee is from and which host community they have been relocated to and where they can be reached."

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.