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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday September 28, 2011 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN SUPPORTS KI FIRST NATION IN CALL FOR MINING ACTIVITY TO STOP AND PREMIER OF ONTARIO TO INTERVENE

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy supports Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation in the community's call for the Premier of Ontario to step in to halt mining activity within their traditional territory.

"Ontario must take action to preserve its relationship with the First Nations in Ontario's far north," said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy. "Ontario must respect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, supported by Canada, which states that free, prior, and informed consent is required from First Nations. This province is failing to recognize First Nation jurisdiction over our homelands."

On September 26, 2011, KI Chief Donny Morris urgently called on Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty to intervene on the mining activity occurring on sacred KI ancestral burial sites. A mining exploration company has staked new claims in violation of KI's well publicized moratorium.

In 2008, KI leaders (referred to as 'KI6') were sentenced to six months in jail for civil contempt of court after disobeying a court order allowing the junior mining company Platinex Inc. to access KI traditional territory, without the consent of the community.

"First Nation leaders have the right to exercise their jurisdiction by protecting their homelands. They should not have to lose their freedom because of the government of Ontario's failure to properly consult and accommodate First Nations," said Beardy. "NAN urges Ontario to take this call by KI very seriously to allow for peaceful coexistence, and we support the community's actions on this issue."

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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