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NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday October 4, 2011 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN SUPPORTS SHOAL LAKE #39 FIRST NATION WALK FOR WATER RIGHTS

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose today expressed support for Iskatewizaagegan (Shoal Lake) #39 First Nation as a delegation from the community began a walk to Winnipeg this week to raise awareness and support for First Nation water rights in their traditional territory.

"It was a privilege to join Chief Eli Mandamin and members of Iskatewizaagegan #39 First Nation who are standing up to protect their water rights," said NAN Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose, who attended the commencement of the walk on Monday. "The rights of the Anishinaabe of Iskatewizaagegan are being violated by the continued extraction of water from Shoal Lake without their consent, and yet their legitimate concerns continue to be ignored."

For years the community has fought against the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba's extraction of water from Iskatewizaagegan territory without consent. Walkers began a four-day trek of more than 300 kilometres to the Legislative Building in Winnipeg on the historic anniversary of the signing of Treaty 3.

"First Nations demand free, prior and informed consent before any decisions can be made by outside governments regarding the use or development of natural resources in traditional territory," said Waboose. "We are proud to support Iskatewizaagegan as they assert their authority to exercise their rights."

Iskatewizaagegan #39 First Nation is located at the east end of Indian Bay, a section of Shoal Lake that straddles the Manitoba-Ontario border.

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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