



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONFERENCE EXPLORES ROLES OF WOMEN THROUGH PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

THUNDER BAY: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Les Louttit joined members of the NAN Women's Council today as they launched a three-day conference that is aimed to strengthen and empower the women of Nishnawbe Aski by exploring the roles of women in NAN First Nations through the past, present and future.

"Women embody the strength and integrity of our communities," said NAN Deputy Grand Chief Les Louttit, who delivered opening remarks. "I am encouraged to see that positive change is happening and that NAN women are sharing their gifts with our communities both as caregivers and as leaders."

The conference "Exploring our Past, Present & Future: Supporting the Women of the Nation" will be held March 15-17 at the Best Western Plus Nor'Wester Hotel & Conference Centre in Thunder Bay. Day 1 will focus on the past, the contact experience, and will include a variety of traditional cultural activities at Fort William Historical Park. Day 2 will focus on the present, the post-colonial experience, and will examine the rolls of women through gender equality and leadership. Day 3 will focus on the future including healing, the revitalization of culture, and planning for the next seven generations.

"First Nation women have played a very important role in the growth of their families and communities, and it is critical that there is support for the current and future generations of women as they work to carry on that proud tradition," said NAN Women's Council spokesperson Jackie Fletcher, a member of Missanabie Cree First Nation. "By working, healing and growing together the women of Nishnawbe Aski are rebuilding our confidence, pride and self-esteem."

The NAN Women's Council supports women and families as they work to achieve and maintain healthy and fulfilling lives. The Women's Council advocates for much-needed programs, activities and services to support and empower women in NAN First Nations.

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 in Canada.

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