



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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## NEWS RELEASE

Friday March 22, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NAN NEEDS INVESTMENTS TO STIMULATE ECONOMY AND CREATE JOBS**

**THUNDER BAY:** In response to Canada's Economic Action Plan 2013, and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's statement that 'infrastructure creates jobs' yesterday in the House of Commons, Grand Chief Harvey Yesno of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) released the following statements:

"NAN must begin to realize substantial economic and regional infrastructure investments to address the need for growth and to address the high cost of living faced by families, individuals and elders in NAN communities."

"NAN First Nations must have the opportunity to be partners, investors and owners of the significant resource based economy about to emerge from our treaty territories. The Chiefs of NAN have a long-term vision for prosperity and wealth creation from our lands; Canada can do better."

#### **MORE INVESTMENTS FOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT – NAN Deputy Grand Chief Les Louttit**

"After reviewing \$700 million + worth of federal funding announcements related to First Nations outlined in the budget across many federal departments – the only direct benefit to the forty-nine (49) First Nations of NAN is the announcement of \$4.4 million over three (3) years for the Ring of Fire communities."

#### **HOUSING FOR NAN FAMILIES – NAN Deputy Grand Chief Les Louttit**

"The lack of housing continues to be an issue for NAN families; Nunavut is fortunate for the \$100 million investment announced yesterday that will go towards providing homes. NAN First Nations also need the federal government to comprehensively address the housing situation and basic community infrastructure needs in our thirty-two (32) remote First Nations where housing is limited."

#### **REMOTE FIRST NATION FOOD SUBSIDY, RECREATION, YOUTH AND EDUCATION PRIORITIES – NAN Deputy Grand Chief Goyce Kakegamic**

"NAN First Nation communities have been ignored in this federal budget. There was no mention or funding increases of vital northern issues such as the Nutrition North Food Subsidy Program which NAN fully supports; the priorities of recreation, youth programs, and education are also keys to building a successful First Nation economy."

**ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF CANADA’S LARGEST FIRST NATIONS POLICE FORCE –  
NAN Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler**

“NAN is currently assessing the \$33 million over 2 years for First Nations policing on reserve. The Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) is Canada’s largest First Nations police organization and chronic underfunding is a concern for the safety of our communities and our police officers. The NAPS service requires funding on par with our provincial and federal counterparts.”

**INVESTMENTS IN FIRST NATIONS HEALTH – NAN Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler**

“Canada has announced major investments in the area of tele-health (\$48 million over 2 years), but only new funding of \$4 million over 2 years for mental health issues; there must be balance in investments and challenges faced by First Nations. Resources to address treatment programs in our communities would have been welcome announcement.”

*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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