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NEWS RELEASE

Thursday May 9, 2013 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES FOLLOWING TRAGIC FIRE

THUNDER BAY: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Harvey Yesno on behalf of the NAN Executive Council expressed condolences to the families and community of Wunnumin Lake First Nation following the tragic deaths of three people in a house fire Wednesday morning.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends who have lost their loved ones, and our hearts go out to the community at this difficult time as they grieve this terrible loss," said NAN Grand Chief Harvey Yesno. "We do not yet know the circumstances around this devastating fire but this tragedy shows how ill-equipped many of our communities are to deal with these emergencies and how vulnerable our families and their children are."

Three people, two children and one adult, died in the fire, which is now under investigation. Crisis support workers have been mobilized to assist in the community.

The remote fly-in community is located in northwestern Ontario approximately 360 kilometres northeast of Sioux Lookout and has a population of approximately 600.

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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