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NEWS RELEASE

Friday June 21, 2013 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN CONGRATULATES AWARD-WINNING PARTNERSHIP

THUNDER BAY: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Harvey Yesno expressed congratulations to a partnership to promote Aboriginal journalism between Wawatay Native Communications Society and Journalists for Human Rights that will receive the Canadian Ethnic Media Association's 2013 Innovation Award on National Aboriginal Day.

"The goal of this initiative is to develop a network of First Nation writers who can tell the stories from their communities in their own words and through their own experiences to ensure the First Nation perspective is reflected in mainstream media," said NAN Grand Chief Harvey Yesno. "This partnership will help equip community-based reporters with the skills to share stories not only within Nishnawbe Aski territory but with a much larger audience across the country and beyond."

The Northern Ontario Initiative will teach local freelance journalists how to research, produce, and sell radio and print news stories about their communities. Beginning in July, two expert trainers will spend three months training up to 30 local journalists in six First Nation communities: Fort Severn, Weagomow, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Attawapiskat, Moose Cree and Constance Lake. Workshops will also be held in Thunder Bay.

Established in 1974, Wawatay Native Communications Society serves the communication needs of First Nations people and communities of NAN through the distribution of a weekly newspaper, daily radio programming, television production services and a multimedia website that seeks to preserve and enhance indigenous languages and cultures of Aboriginal people in Northern Ontario.

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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