



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
ᐱᓄᓂᓗᓐᓂᓗ ᐱᓂᓂᓗᓂᓗ



NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday May 6, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST NATION POLICE SERVICES RESPOND TO AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON FIRST NATION POLICING

OTTAWA: The two largest First Nation police services in Ontario, Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) and Anishinabek Police Service (APS), have come together to address the release of today's report by the Auditor General of Canada on the First Nations Policing Program. In addition to the comments below, NAPS and APS will hold a joint press conference tomorrow to address the Report as well as recent developments with respect to the Government of Canada's approach First Nation policing.

DATE: Wednesday May 7, 2014
TIME: 12 p.m. (noon)
LOCATION: Canadian Parliamentary Press Gallery
607-150 Wellington Street, Ottawa

"The inevitable conclusion of the Auditor General's report is that First Nation communities in Ontario do not receive the same level of policing that rest of the province does," said Nishnawbe Aski Nation Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, who holds the justice portfolio. "This report shows that First Nations have been set up for failure and the federal approach to First Nation policing is seriously flawed."

The report by Auditor General Michael Ferguson concludes that:

- First Nation police services lack the protection of a legislative framework like other police services;
- the program is not accessible or transparent to First Nations;
- there is no meaningful input by First Nations into the negotiation of policing agreements; and
- First Nations are constantly presented with final agreements and told they would not receive funding unless they sign.

"The instability of policing in First Nation communities is exacerbated by the government's failure to legislate a regulatory framework. As a result, provincial standards that apply to the

Ontario Provincial Police and municipal police forces to not apply to First Nation police services, leaving our detachments chronically underfunded and under-resourced,” said Doug Chevrier, Chairperson of the Police Governing Authority for the Anishinabek Police Service.

“The lack of legal and financial security is a major barrier the recruitment and retention of officers and impairs the forces’ ability to secure facilities that meet provincial standards for the safety of our officers and community members,” said Shawn Batise, Chairperson of the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service.

Unlike all other policing institutions in Canada, First Nation police services are not governed by legislation. NAPS and APS are not mandated police services, but are funded as programs through agreements with the federal and provincial government that can be cancelled at any time. There is no funding for permanent detachments or residences, or other vital infrastructure to ensure the safety of officers and community members.

For more information please contact: Michael Heintzman, Director of Communications – Nishnawbe Aski Nation (807) 621-2790 or by email mheintzman@nan.on.ca



Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service

Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) is the largest First Nations police service in Canada and the second largest First Nations police service in North America, employing more than 134 uniform officers and 30 civilians. Based in Thunder Bay, NAPS polices 35 communities across NAN territory, which encompasses nearly two-thirds of the Province of Ontario.



Anishinabek Police Service

Anishinabek Police Service (APS) provides policing services to 16 First Nation communities across nearly two-thirds of Ontario, from Kettle & Stony Point First Nation in the south to Fort William First Nation in the north. Headquartered in Garden River First Nation near Sault Ste. Marie, APS operates 12 detachments with 62 sworn officers and 21 civilian members.



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) 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.