



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAN SUPPORTS LANDMARK HUMAN RIGHTS CASE

THUNDER BAY: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Harvey Yesno joined First Nation leaders, children and First Nation citizens from across Ontario and Canada for closing arguments at a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal in a landmark First Nations child welfare case.

“This case marks the first full public hearing to determine if the Government of Canada is discriminating against First Nations children on the basis of race and ethnic origin,” said Grand Chief Harvey Yesno. “The implications of this case go beyond child welfare, and may set a precedent for addressing inequitable federal service delivery to First Nations people in education, housing and health services.”

On February 27, 2007, the Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada took the historic step of holding the federal government accountable for its treatment of First Nations children to the Canadian Human Rights Commission. The complaint alleges that the federal government has a longstanding pattern of underfunding child welfare services for First Nations children on reserves.

After more than a year of hearings, the Tribunal will hear closing arguments all week.

“The inequalities in First Nations child welfare funding are longstanding and well documented,” said Yesno. “The federal government’s approach to First Nations child and family services are flawed and inequitable, and there is significant evidence to suggest that record numbers of our children are being removed from their families as a result.”

More information and a livestream of the hearings is available at www.fncaresociety.ca/i-am-witness

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