



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday December 8, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAN WELCOMES FIRST PHASE OF NATIONAL INQUIRY

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum welcomes today's announcement by Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Dr. Carolyn Bennett for a consultation process with families as the first phase of a national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls:

"We are pleased that the Government of Canada is beginning this process by engaging with families who have lost their loved ones. The national inquiry must be family-focused and the needs of families must come first. They have expressed tremendous frustration that their voices have not been heard and we are encouraged with how Minister Bennett has reached out to families and communities. This shows respect, builds trust and lays a strong foundation for what this process may ultimately achieve. The families must be comfortable with the inquiry as it unfolds and be able to participate at every step along the way. We acknowledge their grief and know that this will be a difficult and painful process. We are prepared to participate in a process where the families are well supported, the appropriate resources are in place and the right people are at the table."

For more information please contact: Michael Heintzman, Director of Communications – Nishnawbe Aski Nation (807) 625-4965 or (807) 621-2790 mobile or by email mheintzman@nan.on.ca