



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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## NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday March 9, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NAN WELCOMES SACHIGO LAKE WALKERS AT COMPLETION OF "JOURNEY TO NEW BEGINNINGS III"**

**THUNDER BAY, ON:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox welcomed walkers from the Sachigo Lake First Nation on the completion of 'Journey of New Beginnings III', a 1,000-kilometre journey to raise funds for the proposed Dennis Franklin Cromarty Living Centre in Thunder Bay.

"We applaud the courage and dedication the walkers have shown while striving to raise awareness and improve the lives and safety of students who have to move away from home to attend high school," said Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox, who holds the education portfolio. "The need for awareness on the issues youth face while living away from home is paramount in creating a safer environment for learning and growing."

The walkers ended their journey at the Thunder Bay Courthouse to commemorate the seven NAN youth who have died since 2000 while attending school in Thunder Bay.

This is the third walk members of Sachigo Lake First Nation has completed to raise funds for a student residence for NAN students living in Thunder Bay while attending high school.

The proposed Student Living Centre will provide a safe, home away from home environment for students from northern communities traveling to Thunder Bay to receive their high school education. The centre will embrace the needs of the First Nation students by celebrating their culture and heritage in a structured, secure and welcoming environment. It will be designed to be a community within a community.

A closing ceremony will be held at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School at 3 p.m. today.

#### **Fundraising Link:**

<https://www.gofundme.com/DFClivingcenter>

*For more information please contact: Roxann Shapwaykeesic, Communications Officer – Nishnawbe Aski Nation (807) 625-4906 or (807) 251-6876 mobile or by email [rshapwaykeesic@nan.on.ca](mailto:rshapwaykeesic@nan.on.ca)*