Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Monday November 14, 2011 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN PROMOTES COMMUNITY WELLNESS THROUGH ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy together with other NAN leadership, special guests, Elders and Youth today participated in the annual NAN Day of Prayer in Thunder Bay.

A gathering was held at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School in Thunder Bay which included special messages from NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy, City of Thunder Bay Mayor Keith Hobbs, Dennis Franklin Cromarty Principal Jonathan Kakegamic and Abe Kakapetum. Elder Louie Waswa opened the event with a prayer along with Thomas Fiddler who performed an Honour Song and featured a performance by the Medicine Wheel Spirit Singers. The event was broadcast live on the Wawatay Radio Network.

"The Nishnawbe Aski people have shown incredible resilience over this past year and have much to be proud of and thankful for. The forest fires which caused evacuations in the North imposed a real burden on many families and communities. It's important that we acknowledge the strength, resiliency and gifts of the Nishnawbe Aski people and we thank the Creator for helping us overcome those challenges," said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy.

The NAN Day of Prayer was declared in 2002 by the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly setting aside one day annually for community healing. The NAN Day of Prayer coincides with National Addictions Awareness Week which encourages and promotes a lifestyle free of addictions among individuals, families and communities.

"There is much to be thankful for but there is still more to do. As NAN leaders, we continue to advocate on behalf of the Nishnawbe Aski people for long-term assistance from both levels of government in hopes of improving our current situation," said Beardy.

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. www.nan.on.ca

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