

“Nurses are deeply concerned about the thousands of people whose suffering will only increase if they cannot get proper access to treatment. Opiate addiction is a health problem. This has the potential to become a serious public health issue if we fail to take action immediately. First Nations people need compassion, support and treatment to overcome their addiction. I implore Deb Matthews and her federal counterpart to do everything in their power to ensure First Nations people get the help they need and deserve,” said Doris Grinspun, Executive Director of the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario (RNAO).

NAN continues to demand the implementation of a more culturally-relevant and community-based treatment which would help reduce the demand for drugs through effective prevention. NAN also requires land-based and other programming to work on root causes of addiction along with the improvement of security to reduce the supply of drugs coming into First Nation communities.

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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