

“We opposed the National Panel process because it may recommend legislation that will enable the federal government to govern First Nation education,” said Waboose. “This amounts to a backdoor revision of the Indian Act, and has the potential to arbitrarily define and diminish our Treaty right to education while holding little prospect of improving the quality of education our children deserve.”

Instead of passing legislation that will strip First Nations of their Treaty right to education, NAN is calling on the Government of Canada to provide fair and adequate funding for much-needed improvements in education facilities, support services, special education, teacher salaries and curriculum education outcomes that will ensure that First Nation students receive a quality education on par with students across Canada.

NAN has also participated in a joint panel report with the First Nations Education Council of Quebec and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, *Report on Priority Actions in View of Improving First Nations Education* another independent report separate from the National Panel process that was released in November 2011. Further to this NAN has participated in the development of the Chiefs of Ontario report titled *Our Children, Our Future, Our Vision: First Nations Jurisdiction over First Nations Education in Ontario*, which will be released the same day as the National Panel report on First Nations Elementary and Secondary Education.

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.

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