



Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
ᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ

100 Back Street, Unit 200 Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1L2  
Tel: (807) 623-8228 Fax: (807) 623-7730

## NEWS RELEASE

Monday January 9, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NAN MOURNS PASSING OF ATTAWAPISKAT ELDER JAMES CARPENTER**

**THUNDER BAY, ON:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, on behalf of the Executive Council, expressed condolences following the loss of James Carpenter, a highly respected Elder from Attawapiskat First Nation who passed away Sunday evening at 92 years of age:

“The passing of James Carpenter is a tremendous loss for our Nation and our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and the Mushkegowuk People at this difficult time. An active and long-serving member of the Canadian Rangers, James was highly regarded for his service as a community leader who was committed to improving the lives of our people. He shared his love and wisdom in equal measures and devoted his time to counselling, promoting culture and many community activities. James was raised living off the land and passed down the teachings and traditional ways of our people to younger generations. He touched many lives in many meaningful ways and will be fondly remembered.”

Born in his father’s traditional hunting grounds at Wetiko Creek near Attawapiskat with the traditional name ‘Wawatay Eninew’, James Carpenter was raised with a deep respect for the land he loved. He was very active throughout his long life not only in Attawapiskat but in the Mushkegowuk communities along the James Bay coast.

He was featured in the 1999 book *In the Words of the Elders: Aboriginal Cultures in Transition*, where he shared insightful reflections on his connection to the land, the legacy of Indian Residential Schools and spirituality through vivid stories and images of life in the North.

**For more information please contact:** Michael Heintzman, Director of Communications – (807) 625-4965 or cell (807) 621-2790 or by email [mheintzman@nan.on.ca](mailto:mheintzman@nan.on.ca)