



**Nishnawbe Aski Nation**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Friday March 23, 2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NAN, WOMEN'S COUNCIL, WELCOMES DELEGATES**

**THUNDER BAY, ON:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum and the NAN Women's Council (NANWC) will welcome more than 100 delegates from across NAN territory for a Women's Gathering in Thunder Bay.

"I welcome all of the delegates as we support one another in our journey as leaders. This gathering will enhance and provide opportunities to return to our traditional values, learn about family safety, and promote self-care," said Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum. "I support all women in their willingness to lift one another in their roles as caregivers, teachers, professionals and leaders. Through this experience, women from across NAN will be provided the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with one another."

Breakout sessions for the three-day gathering (March 23-25) will provide delegates the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of strength-based initiatives and approaches to community and family safety, approaches to nurture and restore family and community, and explore leadership. These elements are linked to the overall theme of "Honouring our Gifts".

"As Cree, Ojibway, and Oji-Cree women, we hold the sacred gift of being mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and aunts in our communities," said Bertha Sutherland, a member of Moose Cree First Nation. "Part of honouring our gifts includes accepting our roles and responsibilities. Our gathering will provide a space for us to embrace our roles and acknowledge the importance of sharing and learning from each other."

An interactive panel discussion will be held and feature current and former women Chiefs and will highlight their unique experiences in their leadership positions.

The NANWC represents women and families in the governance of NAN. The primary purpose of this leadership role is to ensure that women's issues, family issues, concerns, priorities, and needs are identified and addressed within NAN.

Events will be held at the Best Western Plus Nor'Wester Hotel and Conference Centre on Highway 61.

**Note to Media:** Media are welcome to attend opening ceremonies at 9 a.m. Saturday, the Leadership Panel at 9 a.m. Sunday, and closing ceremonies at 3:45 p.m. Sunday.

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