



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

Friday February 9, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NAN, OSHKAATISAK COUNCIL WELCOME YOUTH DELEGATES

**THUNDER BAY, ON:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum and the Oshkaatisak (All Young People's) Council will welcome more than 100 youth delegates from across NAN territory to the annual Youth Gathering in Thunder Bay today.

"Hope is the theme of the gathering and I am proud of the Oshkaatisak Council for their tremendous efforts to coordinate this event to empower and support the youth of our Nation," said Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum. "The NAN Youth Gathering will provide opportunities for expression of talents, personal growth and leadership development. Their time here will give them a place to learn, grow and connect with their fellow young people."

Breakout sessions for the three-day gathering (February 9-11) will focus on providing youth with the opportunity to learn about healthy expression, leadership skills and cultural teachings. These elements are linked the overall theme of the gathering which is "To Have Hope".

"We are honoured to be hosting this gathering and recognize the importance of coming together as a community," said Oshkaatisak Council member Jordan Loon. "We have created an agenda that reflects the importance of culture, embracing one another, and building character. It is our goal that everyone who attends will leave with high spirits, new friendships and a new sense of hope."

Day three of the gathering will feature a presentation by the Oshkaatisk Council and Ottawa Youth Delegation. These leaders will highlight their meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and their work on the NAN Youth Declaration in 2016. This presentation aims to encourage youth participants to seek leadership roles in their communities.

The Youth Gathering is being held at the Best Western Plus Nor'Wester and Conference Centre.

**For more information please contact:** Wayland Moonias, Communications Assistant – (807) 625-4952 or cell (807) 356-4301 or by email [wmoonias@nan.on.ca](mailto:wmoonias@nan.on.ca)