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NEWS RELEASE

Monday May 30, 2016 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAN ACKNOWLEDGES GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO'S COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler acknowledged a commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples made today by Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne.

"I acknowledge the Premier's apology for Ontario's role in the Indian Residential School system and her recognition of the intergenerational injustices the legacy of this abuse has inflicted on our people, many of whom are still suffering today," said NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, who attended the announcement at Queen's Park this morning. "The final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission includes many excellent recommendations to repair the relationship between Indigenous people and the rest of Canada and we welcome this government's commitment to their implementation. I am encouraged by the Premier's commitment to reconciliation and hope this represents a starting point for a new relationship to bring about meaningful improvements in the quality of life for our people.

Released in 2015, the final report of the TRC calls on all of Canada to confront the 'cultural genocide' of the Indian Residential School system and move from 'apology to action' for reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples. It includes 94 Calls to Action and recommends new and revised legislation for education, health care, child welfare and aboriginal language that will protect children, strengthen families, restore traditional languages and allow First Nations to reconnect with their culture and traditional ways of life.

NAN looks to its provincial Treaty partner for immediate action to improve living conditions in all of NAN's 49 First Nation communities including access to clean drinking water, safe housing and investments in other vital infrastructure to begin to close the gap in quality of life between First Nations people and the rest of Ontario.

Approximately 5,000 NAN members attended Indian Residential Schools. NAN continues to advocate for programs to help individuals and communities and launched the NAN Residential School Curriculum in 2013 to educate youth on the history and impacts of the Residential School system.

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