



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

Friday, February 1, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ON THE PASSING OF ELDER PETER BARKMAN

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) offered its condolences to the family and community of Sachigo Lake First Nation on the passing of Elder Peter Barkman. He passed away yesterday at the Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre in Sioux Lookout, Ontario.

Elder Peter served his home community of Sachigo Lake First Nation as a Councillor for many years until his retirement in 2005. Peter also attended the Moosonee Bible School Training (1955-1958) and served in pastoral duties in Northern Manitoba and Ontario.

Peter was very active in many organizations serving as a current member of the Wawatay Board of Directors (Elder) and a radio broadcaster for Wawatay from the 1970s to the 1990s.

Peter also was a current member of the Elders Council for the Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre in Sioux Lookout; providing direction and guidance to the traditional healing, medicines, foods and supports program. He served as Advisors to the Windigo First Nations Council, and the G10 and 4 Nations processes on lands and resources. He also participated at the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council meetings and was a former Board Member of Tikinagan Child & Family Services.

“It is with saddened hearts that we mourn the loss of Elder Peter,” said NAN Grand Chief Harvey Yesno. “Peter dedicated his life to the betterment of his people through his active life, and his loss will be felt across NAN territory. May God watch over his family as they grieve during this difficult time.”

Visitation will take place at the Sioux Lookout Funeral Home on 128 Front Street tonight from 6:30-8:30pm. Tomorrow, Peter will be transported to Sachigo Lake First Nation. On Monday, a funeral will be held at 1:00pm at the Pentecostal Church in Sachigo Lake First Nation.

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 in Canada.

For more information please contact: Christina Filazzola, Communications Officer – Nishnawbe Aski Nation (807) 625-4928 or cell (807) 251-6386 or by email cfilazzola@nan.on.ca