



For Immediate Release

Partnership with McGuinty and Anishinabek to move in positive direction

UOI OFFICES (Nipissing First Nation) October 7, 2011 – “On behalf of the Anishinabek Nation I wish to extend my congratulations out to Premier Dalton McGuinty and his re-election,” says Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee. “As our respective governments move into the future we each have responsibilities to uphold. First Nations and the Province of Ontario have a unique legal history in this country, and as such, developing a better understanding of this relationship is integral to both our governments moving forward in a positive direction. I would like to assure Premier McGuinty that the Anishinabek Nation remains open and flexible to moving in a positive direction, but we need willing partners who stand behind their words with concrete solutions.

“We hope to see a continued effort on Ontario’s part to implement the recommendations of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report. Although First Nation priorities have not received a great deal of attention by the federal or provincial governments in the past, I am hopeful that Premier McGuinty will change that.

“The Anishinabek Nation has many areas that require immediate attention and some that are more long-term. Education, health and child welfare are longstanding issues where First Nations have legitimate concerns for their citizens in the present and into the future. Economic development is key to helping our First Nation communities in becoming self-sustaining. Moreover, resource revenue sharing is a complex issue that requires committed partners. I remain hopeful that Ontario will work with us to find common ground on First Nation priorities. I look forward to our continued work the Liberal Government on the challenges that face our citizens.”

The Anishinabek Nation established the Union of Ontario Indians as its secretariat in 1949. The UOI is a political advocate for 39 member communities across Ontario, representing approximately 55,000 people. The Union of Ontario Indians is the oldest political organization in Ontario and can trace its roots back to the Confederacy of Three Fires, which existed long before European contact.

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