



For Immediate Release

Anishinabek have voting ammunition

UOI OFFICES (October 4, 2011) – Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee says that Anishinabek Nation citizens have the information they need to make an informed choice in the October 6 Ontario Election.

“We developed a questionnaire for the parties and posted the responses we received – from Conservatives, Liberals and New Democrats – on our website. We wanted to know how they would deal with issues that are priorities for Anishinabek Nation citizens and communities – issues like education, resource benefit-sharing, health care, child welfare and governance. It is time for Ontario to have a more comprehensive and pro-active First Nations agenda.”

As part of the “First Peoples Vote –Beshaakbigek Anishinabek” strategy, Madahbee and Deputy Grand Chief Glen Hare created messages that have been posted on YouTube which encourage an estimated 20,000 eligible Anishinabek citizens to get informed and vote in the Oct. 6 provincial ballot.

“We need to scrutinize the candidates,” says the Grand Council Chief. “What do they know about First Nations issues? How are they going to serve our communities?” A Facebook page, First Peoples Vote – Beshaakbigek Anishinabek, was created to provide Anishinabek citizens information about federal and provincial elections as well as the opportunity to exchange opinions about the issues. The page has been updated daily with election-related news.

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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