



For Immediate Release

Anishinabek salute warriors

UOI OFFICES (Nipissing FN) November 10, 2011 -- Anishinabek will be paying tribute on Remembrance Day to generations of warriors who have put their lives at risk in defence of their First Nations and Canada.

"Going back to great leaders like Pontiac, the Anishinabek can point to a proud heritage of warriors who protected our citizens from their enemies," said Glen Hare, Deputy Grand Chief of the Anishinabek Nation.

"The last traditional chief at Alderville-- John Shawundais (Sunday) -- was one of many warriors who joined Tecumseh's confederacy to help the British successfully fend off American invaders in the War of 1812. In World War I, Francis Pegahmagabow of Wasauksing won the Military Medal three times for battlefield heroism - no other enlisted Canadian soldier has ever done that."

Hare said each of the 39 member communities of the Anishinabek Nation can name citizens who have honoured the 1764 Treaty of Niagara and fought for the Crown in international conflicts in which Canada has been involved.

"The list goes on – Clifford George from Stoney Point and Daisia Nebenionquit from Atikameksheng Anishnawbek served with distinction in World War II. Right now Anishinabek are defending their homelands in Canadian uniforms around the world.

"We also remember those left behind. Beatrice Faubert Whiteduck of Nipissing First Nation is a perennial Silver Cross Mother. At the age of 31 she was left widowed to raise nine children when her husband Lawrence was killed in action August 8, 1944 in France.

"There are many others we could name from all across Anishinabek territory.

The Deputy Grand Council Chief said it is appropriate to remember these brave men and women on the first anniversary of Canada's endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"We call on Canada to respect our rights and to live up to the promises made to us by the Crown at Niagara in 1764. We were told we would be treated on a nation-to-nation basis, that our lands would be inviolable, and that we would never be poor.

"We are still waiting for Canada to keep its word."

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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