

Dibaajimowin

Ipperwash Inquiry
Priorities and Action Committee

D I B A A J I M O W I N m e a n s t o C O M M U N I C A T E



iipac Dibaajimowin

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Ontario Regional
Chief Angus Toulouse,
Chiefs of Ontario

Ontario Minister
of Aboriginal Affairs,
Chris Bentley

Boozhoo · Ahneen · Wacheeya · Sago · Shekoli · He

First Nations and the Government of Ontario are sharing a path towards the reconciliation of our relationship. We have been on this path since the inquiry into the tragic death of Dudley George was announced in 2003.

As co-chairs of the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee we are pleased to provide this update about our progress carrying out the recommendations of the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry. Our commitment was strengthened by the roadmap laid out in the recommendations of the Report on May 31, 2007. This update marks the third anniversary of the Report's release.

Together, we envision a relationship that honours the memory of Dudley George and the tireless efforts of his brother Sam George to seek answers. Through the newsletter, we will continue to keep you informed as we work toward positive change for First Nations – change that addresses priorities such as: a Treaty Commission of Ontario; resource benefits/revenue sharing; policing; public awareness and education; and consultation and accommodation. We anticipate further progress as we develop tangible plans to implement the recommendations. It is our shared commitment and determination that carries us forward from the tragedy of Dudley George's death toward a new era of healing, reconciliation, peace, and a brighter future.

Angus Toulouse, Ontario Regional Chief, Chiefs of Ontario

Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Ontario

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As Chief Liz Cloud looks on, Justice Sidney Linden speaks to the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation community.



The Ipperwash Story:

Anthony O'Brien George, known as **Dudley George**, was a First Nation man whose family and ancestors were from Stoney Point First Nation. He and other unarmed First Nations men, women and children occupied Ipperwash Provincial Park on Labour Day, September 4, 1995, primarily to protest the federal government's refusal to return the Stoney Point land.

The federal government had appropriated the community's land as a military training site in 1942 under the War Measures Act. The training site became known as Camp Ipperwash. The federal government promised to return the land to the First Nation after World War II. The Chippewa First Nations repeatedly tried to get the land back. They stated that, besides being their ancestral homeland, the land contained a burial ground which had been destroyed when the military camp was built. More than 50 years had passed and the federal government had not returned the land.

In 1993, families from the Stoney Point First Nation began moving back onto their land, occupying the closed military base. Two years later additional members from the First Nation began occupying the nearby Ipperwash Provincial Park.

In September 1995, a confrontation occurred at the park between the Ontario Provincial Police and the First Nations people. Dudley George was shot by the police and died. He was 38 years old.

In the fall of 2003, the Ontario government commissioned Justice Sidney Linden to lead a public inquiry into the events that took place at Ipperwash Provincial Park in September 1995. Justice Linden was asked to inquire and report on the events surrounding the death of Dudley George. Hearings began in Forest, Ontario in July 2004 and ended in August 2006.

The Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry was released on May 31, 2007, providing 100 recommendations. Key themes include establishing a Treaty Commission of Ontario and improving relations between police and First Nations. Justice Linden's report also provides a roadmap to reconcile the relationship between Ontario and First Nations.

Read the full report at:

www.ontario.ca/ipperwash



"I was pleased to be a part of the process which deregulated Ipperwash Provincial Park, opening the door for the transfer of the former park grounds to the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. We continue to work closely with the First Nation, local communities and our federal partners to ultimately have the park returned to the First Nations. The transfer of Ipperwash Provincial Park is expected to bring important social and economic benefits, including employment and revenue generation opportunities, to the First Nation as well as local communities."

Linda Jeffrey,
Minister of Natural Resources

Transferring the Park

The Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry discussed transferring Ipperwash Provincial Park lands to the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point noting the benefits this transfer could bring to local communities. On May 28, 2009, an agreement was signed to transfer the park. It set out how the park land will be used until the land transfer is completed.

See the signing celebration at:

www.ontario.ca/ipperwash

Now, the transfer is another step closer to reality. On March 1, 2010 Ontario introduced legislation to deregulate the park lands. Deregulating the park lets the province convert the land to Crown Land that can then be transferred to the Government of Canada under its Additions to Reserve Policy. Through this policy the lands will, over time, be added to the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation.

Ipperwash Provincial Park lands consist of 56 acres on the southeast shore of Lake Huron.



"The 1995 shooting death of Dudley George at Ipperwash Provincial Park has a direct impact on Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory. There is urgency for land claims and land-related issues within our territory to be resolved to prevent an incident such as this from happening again. In order for beneficial working relationships to exist between all levels of government and First Nations, there must be a sincere effort in implementing our treaty rights. Full consultation, accommodation, and consent are required with First Nations in all aspects of their lives, especially in regards to resource development on our homelands. IIPAC is a good concept to ensure positive relations in the future, however there has to be an honest effort and a political will to make the concept meaningful."

**Grand Chief Stan Beardy,
Nishnawbe Aski Nation**

Addressing the Recommendations

In December 2007, after the recommendations were released, the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee (IIPAC) was formed. Its job is to prioritize and track the progress of work on the recommendations. It is co-chaired by the Ontario Regional Chief and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Membership includes political leadership from both First Nations and Ontario.

Based on the priorities identified by IIPAC, working groups were set up to explore ways of acting on the recommendations. These working groups include participation by First Nation representatives from Chiefs in Ontario, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Grand Council Treaty #3, Union of Ontario Indians (Anishinabek Nation), the Independent First Nations and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and other ministries as appropriate. As a number of recommendations are also directed to the federal government, Canada has been invited to participate as its involvement would benefit the efforts going forward.

GLOSSARY:

IIPAC: Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee

JITT: Joint Ipperwash Technical Table

FNITF: First Nation Ipperwash Task Force

IIPAC Priority Themes:

- Treaty Implementation
- First Nations Jurisdiction
- Land Rights and Interest
- Capacity Building

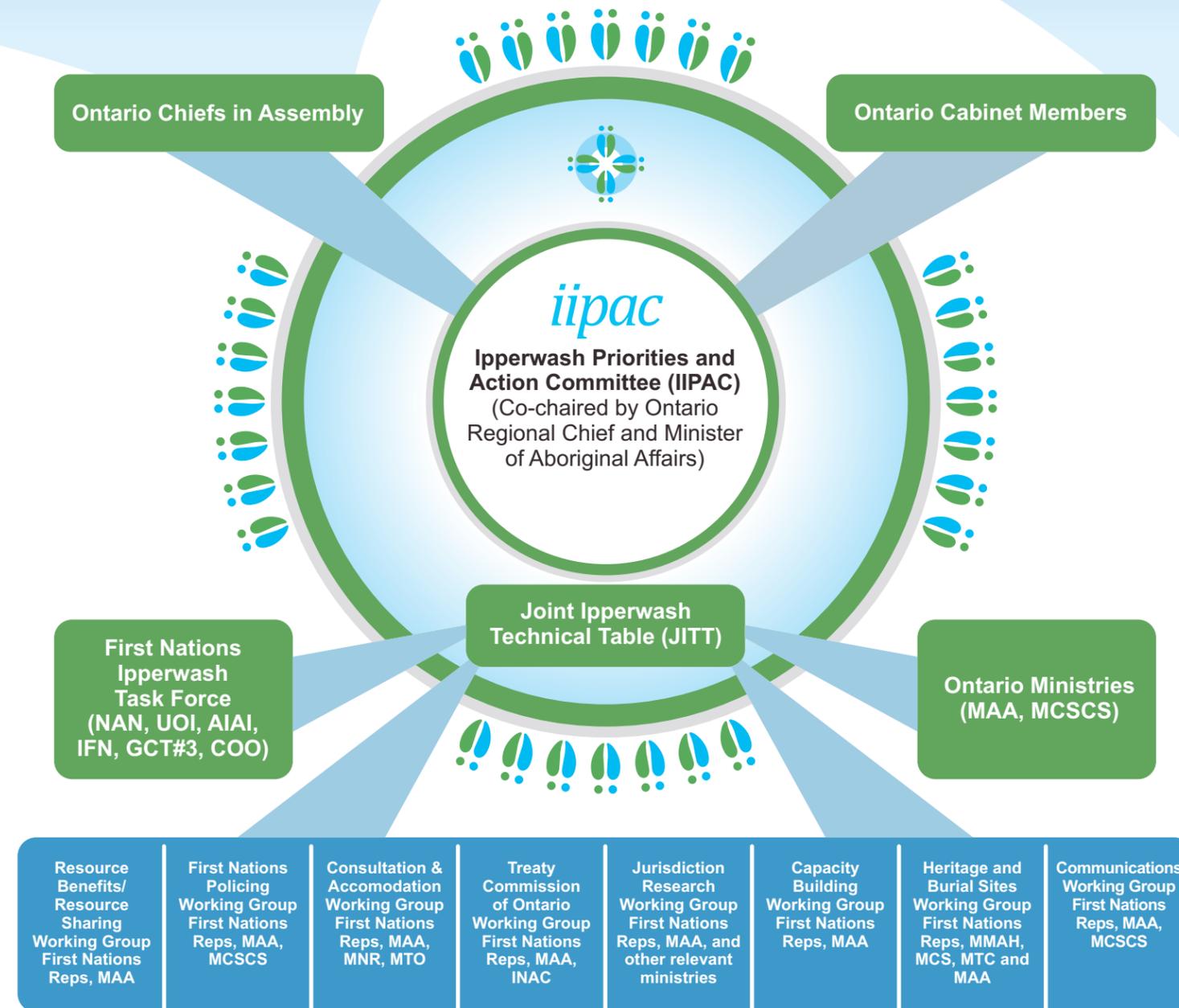
IIPAC Working Groups include:

- Treaty Commission of Ontario
- Resource Benefits/Revenue Sharing
- First Nations Policing
- Consultation and Accommodation
- Jurisdiction Research
- Heritage and Burial Sites
- Capacity Building
- Communications



GLOSSARY

IIPAC Organizational Structure



ACRONYMS

COO Chiefs of Ontario
NAN Nishnawbe Aski Nation
UOI Union of Ontario Indians (Anishinabek Nation)
IFN Independent First Nations
AIAI Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
GCT#3 Grand Council Treaty #3

MAA Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
MCSCS Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
MTO Ministry of Transportation
MNR Ministry of Natural Resources
INAC Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
MMAH Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
MCS Ministry of Consumer Services
MTC Ministry of Tourism and Culture

Quoted from June 4, 2009, a Statement to the Legislature by the Honourable Brad Duguid (then) Minister of Aboriginal Affairs on the Death of Maynard Sam George.

“From the evening of September 6, 1995 when he got the terrible news that his brother Dudley had died at Ipperwash park, Sam asked only what happened and why? It was the question that launched the Ipperwash Inquiry – an examination of relationships far beyond those between the people and organizations present in the park that tragic night. Sam’s tireless efforts helped paint a new and brighter future for all of us in Ontario.”

A tribute to Sam George



The following is taken from a March 16, 2009 conversation between Sam George and a policy analyst with the Union of Ontario Indians concerning the work being undertaken by the Ipperwash Inquiry Planning and Action Committee.

“My thoughts would be for them to implement these, also to implement them very carefully. To put a lot of good thoughts into them, let people know and keep people informed as to where they are. People don’t know who IIPAC is, people don’t know who was involved with it. There should be some type of information or report to say this is where IIPAC is or something. This is what we’re doing and this is where we’re at. The progress of it is moving along and we’re probably going as quick as we can to make sure we do this right because we want to make sure it’s done right. I guess that would be my thoughts, is to make sure they do things right and to move them along as quick as they can, but not too quick that they miss some.

“Ipperwash was certainly a tragedy. We all agree on that part of it. Reconciliation? I don’t know if we’ve reached that point yet. It’s something that we can work towards – there is still a lot of work to be done in order to get there.

“I think there are some key recommendations. I know education and the Treaties are going to be an important part of it.

“What is a Treaty? Who is involved in a Treaty? Where are the Treaties? Are we all Treaty people? Yes, we are all Treaty people.

“I think First Nations themselves can be starting to do a little bit of education on our Treaties, especially about the Treaties in their areas for their own people. We need to listen a lot to what the Elders are saying about where things were over time because I think sometimes we tend to not pay attention until something gets going and then we scramble to find the right information. The important part is we need to start doing that education ourselves in our own communities.

continued

A T R I B U T E T O S A M G E O R G E

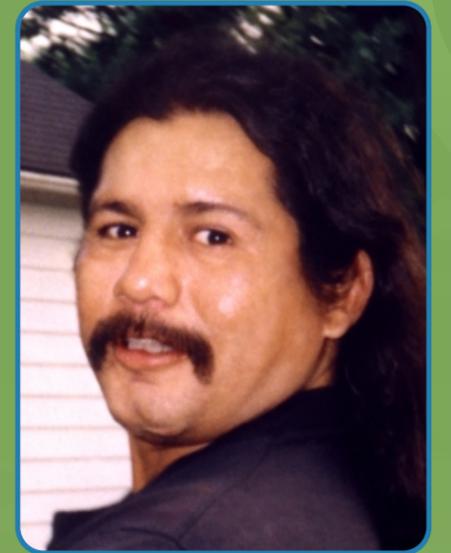
“We can learn to work together. One of the lessons I learned through this process is that if and when you go out and ask for help, help is there. I most certainly learned that working together was a big thing of it. There are people interested in who we are. There are people who care very much about First Nations people. I know sometimes it feels like we are always being discriminated against but if the people don’t know what we are talking about they certainly can’t respond to it. So that’s why I come to the education part of it.

“We need to get out to the general public who we are. This is important. The most important part is that they have to take us seriously as people because we are people. We are Nations. We are First Nations people. We do have voices. When we ask questions, they need to take it more seriously. Most of all they have to start providing answers to us. Could you imagine what would happen if they said ‘Okay, we will get you some answers to the questions you guys are asking – just give us 24 hours’?

“I think the Ontario people learned that what we were saying and what we were asking really had some truth to it. But in order for them to start to believe that they also have to start having to hear their government paying attention to what’s going on. Once the government starts to say ‘Yes it’s important to the people of Ontario,’ I think that is very helpful.

“The easiest way for me to do a presentation to students is to, first of all, introduce them to who my brother was and have them understand that Dudley was a real person and he belonged to the people. He did have brothers, he did have sisters, he had a mom and dad. He was a member of the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. He was very much interested in his people, the lands and the Treaties. He was a person who was very much interested in just general everyday things that happened. He liked to learn and he liked to read. That’s my main thing – to get them to believe that he was just a person.

“Some of our favourite memories are our family gatherings. We lost our parents fairly young. Dudley was always around with the kids. I used to like to just sit and watch him interact with the kids. That was pretty good to watch him do that. With my grandsons, he would always be teasing them. Just stuff like that. Playing road hockey. He just brought life to whatever he was around.”



Dudley George

A tribute to Sam George



"I believe that Resource Benefits and Resource Sharing is an important step for the Ontario government and First Nations. While our First Nations (in Northeastern Ontario) have been somewhat successful in negotiating resource development agreements with companies, it is important that the government acknowledges their responsibility in the sharing of the wealth of our natural resources. Let's face it, not all First Nations have a DeBeers or a major hydro-electric project in their backyard. That doesn't mean they shouldn't share in the broad benefits of resource development in the way their ancestors envisioned at the time of treaty."

**Shawn Batisse,
Resource Benefits Sharing
Working Group Representative
for Nishnawbe Aski Nation**

Resource Benefits / Revenue Sharing

The Ipperwash Inquiry recommended that the Government of Ontario continue to work to develop co-management arrangements and resource sharing initiatives in partnership with First Nations.

Highlights

In July 2008, the Premier's Far North announcement included a commitment to create a new system of resource benefits/revenue sharing.

In February 2009, various provincial ministries and First Nation technical representatives participated in an information sharing session on Crown natural resource revenues covering areas such as mining, forestry, water power, aggregates and petroleum resources.

In April 2009, the Ontario government demonstrated its good faith toward reaching a resource benefits sharing plan with First Nations communities by committing \$30 million towards this initiative.

Currently, the working group is exploring options, preferences and methods to develop a resource benefits sharing model. Activities have included sharing information on various natural resource sectors in Ontario and reviewing models across Canada. Engagement sessions began in March 2010 and are being conducted by the Grand Councils and Political Territorial Organizations.



"I am honoured to be co-chair of the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee (IIPAC) and pleased with the progress being made in responding to the recommendations of the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry. Building stronger relationships with First Nations is a key priority for my ministry and the Ontario government. As well as participating in and supporting IIPAC processes, our government recognizes the socio-economic disparities between First Nations people and other Ontarians and continues to take steps in support of stronger First Nations communities. In addition to IIPAC's efforts on building capacity, the province announced a New Relationship Fund to assist in engaging with the private sector and governments. This investment has already created needed jobs within First Nations communities – positions that allow First Nations to address numerous consultation and engagement requests on projects that will benefit both First Nations and industry."

**Chris Bentley,
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs**

Consultation and Accommodation

The Ipperwash Inquiry recommended that the provincial government develop policies regarding how the government can meet its duty to consult with and accommodate First Nations and incorporate these policies into provincial legislation, regulations, and other relevant government policies as appropriate. It went further to state that the provincial government should promote respect and understanding of the duty to consult and accommodate First Nations within relevant provincial agencies and Ontario municipalities.

A working group was formalized in March 2010. This working group is currently developing terms of reference as well as a work plan which reflects current priorities. Deliverables will include preparing common principles for good consultation practice, as well as practical, on the ground tools for industry and First Nations.

Capacity Building

A working group is examining recommendations regarding capacity building for First Nations in Ontario. This would enhance First Nations ability to participate in the many land claim, treaty, policy and consultation processes in the province.

The Ipperwash Inquiry Report recognizes that First Nations in Ontario will need the resources and skills to effectively participate in the new processes and institutions recommended in the Report. In addition, the Report advises that the provincial government commit to significantly improving the administrative and governance capacity of First Nations.



"The Ontario Treaty Commission must have a strong enough foundation to be inclusive of the multi-patchwork treaty dynamic across Ontario. The Ontario Treaty Commission must also be versatile enough to streamline the distinct differences and interests that transcend from pre-confederation through to the numbered treaties. These challenges will only be addressed by returning to the original Spirit and Intent of the treaties where our people extended the effort to answer to the sacred obligation of sharing and expected nothing less from our treaty partners."

**Chief Isadore Day,
Wiindawtegowinini,
Serpent River First Nation**

Treaty Commission of Ontario

The establishment of a Treaty Commission of Ontario (TCO) – a cornerstone recommendation of the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry – is being explored collaboratively under the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee.

The report recommends a Treaty commission as a permanent, independent and impartial body to facilitate and oversee the land claim process to ensure effectiveness, transparency and fairness in the settling of land and Treaty claims in Ontario. It also recommended that the commission be established and operated through a tripartite process, including First Nations, Canada and Ontario.

As the Ipperwash Inquiry Report calls for a tripartite commission, Canada was invited and agreed to participate in the work of the TCO working group.

Highlights:

A Treaty Commission Information Sharing Forum was hosted by Kettle and Stony Point First Nation from July 28 to July 30, 2009. The purpose of the forum was to initiate discussions with First Nations, federal and provincial leadership, to hear from experts and to exchange information, views and ideas relating to a TCO.

A background paper was also prepared by a jointly selected consultant to provide information to forum participants on context and issues for consideration relating to the establishment of a TCO.

In December 2009, First Nations leadership directed that engagement on a TCO should be undertaken by Treaty area. To assist First Nations technicians who will be assisting in the coordination of engagement, a Chiefs Advisory Committee is being established to provide advice and direction.

The TCO working group and the Chiefs Advisory Committee will be working together to prepare Treaty areas for engagement, which is scheduled to begin in the fall/winter 2010.



"Sam George always said that education is the key to preventing the type of circumstances that led to the death of his brother Dudley at Ipperwash. Students in Ontario schools need to learn more about the treaties we made with Canada and the role First Nations have played in the development of this country. That chapter has been missing from our textbooks."

**Grand Council Chief
Patrick Madahbee,
Anishinabek Nation**

Jurisdiction Research

Although there are no specific recommendations on First Nations jurisdiction within the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry, it is one of the four priorities identified by IIPAC.

Recognition of First Nations' jurisdiction is a pervasive issue that First Nations view as a key aspect of reconciliation. As a starting point, the First Nations working group will undertake background work to effectively engage in work with Ontario. This background work will include research and the development of a think tank.

Heritage and Burial Sites

First Nation representative organizations and Grand Councils have identified representation for this working group and have commenced their initial meeting in April 2010. The next step will be for the joint working group to begin reviewing the Ipperwash recommendations in relation to Heritage and Burial sites. The purpose of this working group will be to jointly explore the specific recommendations in the Ipperwash Inquiry Report and report to leadership for implementation.



"We are committed to fostering relationships with First Nations, including engagement in the preservation of First Nations heritage."

"This is a much-needed table to build awareness and consideration of First Nation communities' concerns."

**Michael Chan,
Minister of Tourism and Culture**

First Nations Policing

The Ipperwash Inquiry Report called for a secure legal foundation and increased resources for First Nations policing in Ontario. In all, the report made six recommendations to address the long term sustainability of First Nations police services and suggested the following:

- Policy reform by the federal government to recognize First Nation police services as essential services within their communities;
- Development of long range plans for First Nation policing in Ontario;
- Development of a secure legislative basis for First Nation police services;
- Establishment of an Ontario First Nation Chiefs of Police Association;
- Increased capital and operational funding from Crown governments for First Nation police services secured by renewable five-year agreements.

Highlights:

In May 2009, a First Nations Policing Experts Forum was held in Toronto. The forum was well received and attended by representatives of First Nations, Ontario and Canada. The policing working group has just completed a discussion paper to reflect the outcomes of the forum.

The next priority in the discussion on policing will be to explore options for providing a secure legislative foundation for First Nation police services.

"There is a general perception that an 'Inquiry' is about assessing culpability. However, having had the opportunity to make a presentation on the existing state of First Nation Policing and act as a technical support advisor to the IIPAC working group. I can say with confidence that you will not find a more dedicated working group of individuals working together to provide sound policy options and recommendations to correct the inequities in First Nation policing as a result of this unfortunate incident."

H.C. (Conrad) DeLaronde,
Chief of Police,
Treaty #3 Police Service



"IIPAC has set a path for the Government of Ontario and First Nations to move forward on critical issues of mutual concern.

Ontario is dedicated to working closely with First Nation communities to build modern and sustainable policing services. We have supported this commitment by putting more police officers on the street and investing in the modernization of essential policing infrastructure.

As Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, I will continue to work closely with Ontario's First Nations policing partners to build on our relationship and prevent the tragedy of September 7, 1995 from occurring again."

Rick Bartolucci,
Minister of Community
Safety and Correctional Services.



"The challenges of providing essential policing services in First Nations communities were recognized by Justice Linden after months of hearing evidence in relation to the tragedy of Dudley George. Dudley lost his life in 1995 and the Inquiry recommendations were released three years ago. The Ontario government has provided Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service with funding for infrastructure renewal and 11 new police officers under the Police Officer Recruitment Fund. This is a positive sign of its commitment to tackling the issues identified by Justice Linden and finding solutions. Left unresolved, the public and officer safety concerns continue to rise. Working together, we need to set timelines for the implementation of the recommendations and ensure that those goals are met."

Robin P. Jones,
Acting Chief of Police,
Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service



"As a member of the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee (IIPAC) and First Nations technical working group, I have mixed feelings about the progress we've made after the Ipperwash Inquiry. Justice Linden set a clear direction for effectively dealing with issues related to policing. Progress has been made but there is still work to do together to make improvements. We need to see government and First Nations holding discussions together. If this practice doesn't happen – if First Nations are still on the outside looking in regarding issues and decisions that affect their daily lives; then we have indeed missed the purpose and intent of the Inquiry; something Sam George entrusted us all to ensure would never happen again."

Grand Chief Randall Phillips,
Association of Iroquois and
Allied Indians

Looking Ahead — Next Issue



A look at Kettle and Stony Point Today

On September 6, 1995, Dudley George, a member of the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, was fatally shot during a land protest at Ipperwash Provincial Park. We'll visit this First Nation community to see where they are 15 years later.



The Ring of Fire

It's the new buzz word in northern Ontario, in fact, across the country and beyond. What is it, where is it, and what significance does it hold for First Nations peoples, northern Ontario and Canada? Find out in the next issue.



Looking Ahead - Next Issue

Find out what is happening in the realm of First Nations Policing and Resource Benefits / Revenue Sharing.

Members of Joint Ipperwash Technical Table bid farewell at the close of a meeting at Oneida Nation of the Thames.



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Contact Information

Jonathan Lebi (JITT Co-Chair)
Acting Director of Special Projects
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
416-327-4274
jonathan.lebi@ontario.ca



Nathan Wright (JITT Co-Chair)
Justice Coordinator
Chiefs of Ontario
416-597-1266
nathan@coo.org

