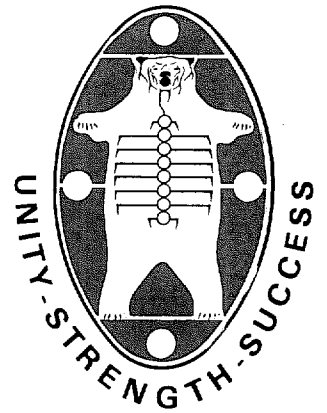


# NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION

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## Announcement

**To:** Chief Murray Ray, Flying Post First Nation  
Chief Ronald Roundhead, Mishkeegogamang First Nation  
Chief Randy Kapashesit, Mocrebec Council of the Cree Nation  
Chief Ennis Fiddler, Sandy Lake First Nation  
Chief Abraham Hunter, Weenusk First Nation  
Geordie Kakepetum, Executive Director, Keewaytinook Okimakanak  
Grace Teskey, General Manager, Independent First Nations Alliance  
Bentley Cheechoo, Council Chair/Acting CEO, Matawa First Nations  
Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council  
Wally McKay, Council Chair, Windigo First Nations Council  
Ignace Gull, Grand Chief, Mushkegowuk Council  
Luc McKay, Executive Director, Shibogama First Nations Council

**From:** David Paul Achneepineskum, Executive Director

**Date:** January 30, 2002

**Subject:** First Nations Connect Conference

This is to inform you that there will be a First Nations Connect Conference to be held on February 11, 12, 13, 14, 2002, in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The location of the conference will be the Valhalla Inn. Nishnawbe Aski Nation is proud to co-host this event in partnership with Keewaytinook Okimakanak.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation recognizes that broadband access to the Internet and advanced communication networks, combined with information and communication technologies (ICTs), are becoming increasingly important tools in Nation building and creating healthy communities. We also recognize that now is an opportune time to bring together all regions of Nishnawbe Aski Nation to help establish a NAN-wide ICT strategy – an understanding and a direction to be followed in connecting all NAN First Nations, Tribal Councils and organizations to the best quality of sustainable broadband communications infrastructure and services now and into the future.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is inviting delegates from each tribal area and Independent First Nation to attend the conference. It is hoped that each tribal/community area will actively participate in the panel discussions as we share local and regional ICT initiatives and undertakings, development strategies, success stories, lessons learned and best

practices. Your participation will help to ensure that NAN has the appropriate overview of information, communications strategy and trust on the part of Tribal Councils, First Nations and their organizations to be able to lobby in all areas to meet First Nation needs.

**CONFIRMATIONS OF ATTENDANCE:**

Nishnawbe Aski Nation will pay the travel expenses and provide per diems for up to four (4) delegates from each tribal area and one (1) delegate from each Independent First Nation.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**

Nishnawbe Aski Nation encourages each Tribal Council Chairman to attend on behalf of the interests of the Tribal Council and its member First Nations and/or to identify and send a leading tribal/community area ICT champion. We also encourage each Tribal Council to identify and send an Elder, woman and youth representative.

Please submit the names and departing locations of your delegates to the Nishnawbe Aski Nation office no later than Wednesday, February 6, 2002.

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS:**

As required by the Finance Committee, the most economic arrangements will be made to keep the overall costs to a minimum. Travel arrangements will be made for delegates for travel to Thunder Bay on Monday, February 11, 2002, and travel from Thunder Bay on Friday, February 15, 2002.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Accommodations will be 4 nights stay at the Valhalla Inn.

If you require additional information or require clarification, please contact Gordon Kakegamic or myself at 623-8228 or 1-800-465-9952.

Meegwetch.