

POLITICAL OFFICE:
Fort William First Nation
R.R. #4
Suite 101, 90 Anemki Drive
Fort William First Nation Office Complex
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7J 1A5
(807) 626-9339
(807) 626-9404 Fax



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE:
111 Peter Street, Suite 804
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 2H1
(416) 597-1266
Fax (416) 597-8365
1-877-517-6527
Website: www.chiefs-of-ontario.org

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FIRST NATIONS AND THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SHARE PROGRESS ON THE IPPERWASH INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGH THE 'DIBAAJIMOWIN' NEWSLETTER

TORONTO – July 19, 2010 – Working in partnership, First Nations and the Government of Ontario have developed Dibaajimowin, a joint newsletter outlining how Ontario and First Nation representatives are moving forward together to implement the Ipperwash Inquiry's recommendations.

Developing a joint newsletter was a commitment made by the Joint Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee (IIPAC). Since being established in the spring of 2008, IIPAC has worked to identify priorities and address the recommendations from the Report in a way that will effectively meet the needs of First Nation people and communities in Ontario.

More than 30,000 print copies of the first edition of Dibaajimowin, which means "to communicate" in Ojibwa, will be distributed to First Nation communities and the broader public throughout the summer. The newsletter is also available electronically at www.coo.org with links to contributing First Nations organizations and Ontario government ministries.

Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse, Chiefs of Ontario:

"The Ipperwash Inquiry Report has laid the foundation for First Nations and the Ontario government to repair their relationship through reconciliation.

Although some progress has been made we have much more work to do together. It is important to note that progress is not just about words it is about actions that lead to tangible and lasting change.

As the newsletter points out, the tragic events at Ipperwash Provincial Park could have been avoided had a more respectful relationship existed between First Nations and the Government of Ontario. It is my hope, that through a transparent process we can achieve true reconciliation honouring the memory of Sam and Dudley George."

Minister Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs:

"I am honoured to co-chair the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee (IIPAC) with Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse and pleased to launch the first edition of Dibaajimowin with him. Dibaajimowin, our IIPAC newsletter, will communicate our shared progress in responding to the recommendations of the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry."

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***For more information, please contact:
Andre Morriseau, Communications Officer, Chiefs of Ontario
1-877-517-6527
andre@coo.org***