



**Nishnawbe Aski Nation**

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**HEALING THE GENERATIONS  
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**

2002 CURRICULUM UPDATE

## **INFORMATION**

### **NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION THE PEOPLE AND THE LAND**

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (known as Grand Council Treaty No. 9 until 1983) was established in 1973. It represents the legitimate, socioeconomic, and political aspirations of its First Nation members of Northern Ontario to all levels of government in order to allow local self-determination while establishing spiritual, cultural, social, and economic independence. In 1977, Grand Council Treaty No. 9 made a public declaration of the rights and principles of Nishnawbe Aski.

NAN's objectives are:

- Implementing advocacy and policy directives from NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly.
- Advocating improving the quality of life for the people in areas of education, lands and resources, health, governance, and justice.
- Improving the awareness and sustainability of traditions, culture, and language of the people through unity and nationhood.
- Developing and implementing policies, which reflect the aspirations and betterment of the people.
- Developing strong partnerships with other organizations.

NAN is a political territorial organization representing 49 First Nation communities within northern Ontario with the total population of membership (on and off reserve) estimated around 45,000 people. These communities are grouped by Tribal Council (Windigo First Nations Council, Wabun Tribal Council, Shibogama First Nations Council, Mushkegowuk Council, Matawa First Nations, Keewaytinook Okimakanak, and Independent First Nations Alliance) according to region. Six of the 49 communities are not affiliated with a specific Tribal Council.

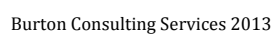
NAN encompasses James Bay Treaty No. 9 and Ontario's portion of Treaty No. 5, and has a total land-mass covering two-thirds of the province of Ontario spanning 210,000 square miles. The people traditionally speak three languages: Cree in the east, OjiCree in the west, and Ojibway in the central-south area.

NAN continues to work to improve the quality of life for the Nishnawbe Aski territory. Through existing partnerships and agreements with Treaty partners (governments of Canada and Ontario), NAN continues to advocate on behalf of the communities it represents for self-determination with functioning self-government.



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# NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION THE GREAT WHITE BEAR LOGO





Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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### NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION THE GREAT WHITE BEAR

The Great White Bear stands in the **circle**—the traditional symbol of life of the North American Indian.

The background is **red**—symbolic of the Red Man.

His feet are firmly planted on the **bottom line**—representing Earth.

His head touches the **top line**—symbolic of his relationship to the Heavens and to the Great Spirit.

He stands with feet stretched out to the **four smaller circles** which represent the North, East, South, and West—to show that he has nothing to hide.

The **circles joining** his rib cage represent our various communities.

The **lines** of the rib cage of the Great Bear symbolize the tradition, the culture, the songs, the legends, and the prayers of our Peoples that bind our communities together as one.

These **lines** are essential, for without the protection of the rib cage, the heart is open for anyone seeking to destroy that life.

**The Great White Bear is the Spirit of the NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION.**



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### NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION HEALING THE GENERATIONS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Special Projects department is one of several departments at NAN that advocates, as per excerpts from Articles 24.1 and 24.2 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, that “Indigenous individuals...have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services,” and “indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.”

NAN Chief’s in Assembly, through Chief’s resolutions, have initiated the following Programs that are currently within the Special Projects department:

- the Crisis Team Program (includes training and community development)
- **Residential School Program**
- Men’s Healing Initiative

NAN Special Projects Department assists in advocacy for sustainable funding for high quality programs and services for NAN First Nations. All Special Projects programs work to strengthen community capacity through training local workers using traditional and mainstream teaching tools and resources. At the same time we work to provide support and healing for those who have experienced all types of trauma.

The **Residential School Program** works on behalf of residential school Survivors in NAN territory to advocate for services on behalf of survivors as well as justice for survivors and those missing and deceased; maintain historical record of individuals and the Residential Schools; provide information on services available to survivors and their families; promote healing (both traditional and contemporary) opportunities for survivors and families; and, collaborate with organizations in other territories around similar issues.