

SPEAKING NOTES

**To the Canadian Nuclear Association
Conference & Trade Show
Ottawa, Ontario**

February 27, 2009

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY.

(Traditional Greetings.)

Miigwetch and thank you for the invitation to speak at the annual Conference of the Canadian Nuclear Association. I'd like to thank Murray Elston, your President and CEO for this opportunity. I had the pleasure of meeting Murray at a network luncheon of the Ontario Energy Network and was excited about this opportunity to speak to you today.

I usually start my speeches by talking about the Anishinabek Nation. For it is this Nation that I do this work for, and who I am advocating for today.

The Anishinabek Nation incorporated the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) as its secretariat in 1949.

The UOI is a political advocate for 42 member First Nations across Ontario.

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.

The Anishinabek Nation territory encompasses First Nations along the north shore of Lake Superior and surrounding Lake Nipigon; the north shore of Lake Huron, Manitoulin Island, east to the Ottawa Valley; and through the south central part of Ontario to Sarnia.

For all intents and purposes, Anishinabek Nation territory is Ontario's portion of the Great Lakes basin.

Tribal groups represented within the Nation include Ojibway, Odawa, Pottawatomi, Chippewa, Algonquin, Mississauga, and Lene Lenapi (Delaware).

The Anishinabek Nation represents approximately 30% of the total First Nation population in Ontario and 7% of the total First Nation population in Canada.

The Anishinabek Nation is also part of the overall Political Confederacy of the Chiefs of Ontario, and the Assembly of First Nations.

For those who know me, I have just recently announced my candidacy for the office of National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Over the past few months, I have been approached by an overwhelming number of Chiefs and citizens from across Canada to consider running for the national leadership. Early in the new year, I went into the sweat lodge, asking for guidance from both the Spirit and our elders in ceremony to guide me to the decision I have made. But nothing has touched me more, or has inspired me with vision, than the encouragement of our young people.

If you look at First Nations demographics – the vast segment of our population is under the age of 30. This is our baby boom and that trend seems to be continuing.

I have a vision for a grass-roots movement spurred on by the youth and their call for unity, pride, and inspiration.

First Nations youth have spoken about the need for action – about their need for inclusion – to ascend from despair, disregard and indifference – to take their rightful place as holders of their own destiny.

It is this generation of First Nations youth that are looking for fundamental change. This will mean a change in the way that First Nations are represented, the way First Nations are perceived and the way First Nations are recognized within the fabric of Canadian society.

The way that First Nations are perceived and the way that First Nations want to be recognized will be through Nationhood. First Nations are not municipalities or banana-republics. First Nations are indeed Nations. We are Nations with a broad scope of recognized rights, our own laws, distinct forms of government, land, culture, language and most importantly, citizens.

This election, that will take place in Calgary in July will indeed be a watershed moment. The choice that the Chiefs will have to make will be between the status quo, with a focus on reparations of the past; OR the choice for fundamental change and leadership into the future.

As I embark on the road to the National Chief's Office, I humbly ask you for your continued support and hope that we can meet again soon in this enhanced capacity.

As an Anishinaabe man – an Ojibway – I have a deep respect for science and technology. Our traditional beliefs and teachings were actually quite advanced. Our traditional teachings told us in great detail of how the universe was created.

At the time of Creation, it is said that our Creator had conceived of all things within a single instant and sent his first "Thought" from his realm. It is said that this first Thought moved out from a central place and expanded in all four directions. It was in this point of Creation, that various reactions took place including the formation of space, time, matter, energy and all those things that created the theoretical and physical universe. But there are many things that we have yet to discover ourselves, that remains firmly and exclusively in the Creators realm.

It is within these traditional teachings that we also learn about nuclear science. Certainly, we did not have the detail that western science has provided us – aspects of the atom, protons, neutrons, electrons and nuclear forces. However, our teachings do provide us with the basic understanding that all things are related, all matter is made up of basic elements, and those elements are held together by incredible forces. Most of these incredible forces can be explained by science – taught and learned at university, applied for scientific and commercial gain. However, the one force that cannot be explained is the Spirit.

Spirit is present in all things. It is present within you and me. We can breathe, metabolize, reproduce, and function biologically... but we are all individuals, with consciousness, intellect, freewill and the ability to make decisions and have a strong will to live. The incredible force that makes that happen is our Spirit.

However, Spirit can also be found in the water, the Earth, the air we breathe as well as in the plants and animal-life. It can also be found in the rocks and minerals.

Some elements, as we were told hundreds of years ago in our teachings, can hold incredible energy and in some cases can even revert back to the form of their original elements. These are special minerals that must be respected... as they indeed have Spirit.

It is those things that have Spirit, that our teachings are explicit. They must be respected. As people, we were given a special gift of awareness, freewill and intellect, in order to be stewards of Mother Earth and look after all those things that have Spirit.

I am pleased to be able to bring this message to you and ask that you use your own special gifts to look after our precious natural resources, our environment and our only home, Mother Earth.

I have a great respect for nuclear science and the nuclear industry. My respect comes from these basic teachings as well as my own fascination with nuclear energy.

It is an exciting time for First Nations in Canada when it comes to energy.

We have been exploring a number of opportunities in various energy sectors, especially: (1) Wind Energy; and (2) Transmission and Distribution across our traditional territory.

Despite the downturn in the economy and the fact that we are in a recession, there still remains a significant need for new and cleaner energy. This provides an excellent opportunity for First Nations to be a part of energy development in Ontario.

In the United States, Indian Tribes have developed their jurisdiction in gaming and established Casinos as a means of supporting sovereignty. Indian Casinos are a multi-billion dollar industry and has been a win-fall for many Tribal Governments across the U.S.

For First Nations in Canada, energy can be our win-fall.

First Nations can be a major player in clean energy -- and be a major contributor to the overall supply of power in Canada.

In Ontario, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy George Smitherman made an announcement asking the Ontario Power Authority to look into First Nation opportunities under the Integrated Power System Plan or IPSP.

There is tremendous potential under the IPSP to engage the Anishinabek Nation and other First Nations in Ontario in renewable power generation, conservation initiatives and transmission investments.

In December, we approached the Deputy Premier with a proposal that directs any prescribed investments in energy, (whether it is generation, conservation or transmission) to require First Nation involvement through consultation, engagement and partnerships.

Specifically, we proposed a formula-based arrangement where government contracts for energy purchasing, crown land developments, tendering and contracting give substantial advantage to projects that have First Nations involvement.

Under our proposal, companies will be required to invest in First Nation communities through community consultation and engagement of local leadership and citizens.

Resource-benefit sharing opportunities will also be a consideration under the formula. Such provisions could include employment, training, community investment and profit sharing.

Above all, substantial preference would be given to companies and initiatives that actively pursue First Nations as partners through general partnerships and joint ventures.

Although these measures have yet to be responded to, and likely will take a back-seat to the Minister's Green Energy Act – we remain committed to developing the full potential of energy partnerships. It is only through direct engagement of First Nations, and their involvement in all aspects of energy development – will we truly see a cooperative and integrated economy that benefit all Canadians.

First Nations can no longer be considered minor players in business and resource development.

We have substantial business interests, expertise and goals.

Years ago, a First Nation would be pleased with a 10 per cent interest stake in a project of this type. Today, we seek controlling interest and active management capacity.

We are putting our assets on the line when seeking investment capital. More and more, First Nations are coming to the table interested in investments of up to, and over, 51 per cent.

Our immediate interest is in community-based, renewable power generation.

We have been advocating for our member First Nations to take advantage of our strategic locations along the Great Lakes.

Our First Nations are situated in prime areas for wind generation potential in Ontario. Most being in the top 20 percentile, while others are in the top 5 percentile.

Some are located on:

- The lakehead and northshore of Lake Superior;
- The western shores of Lake Nipigon;
- The north shore of Lake Huron;
- Manitoulin Island;
- Georgian Bay;
- Lake Simcoe;
- and the Lambton Shores and Bluewater areas.

We have had a number of First Nations undertake small wind projects, mostly to study wind potential on reserve land. We have had some First Nations develop partnerships with energy companies, mostly on the Georgian Bay and Manitoulin Island.

The *First Nations Energy Alliance*, is an association of First Nations formed in recent years to take advantage of opportunities in generation and distribution.

The Anishinabek Nation is keenly interested in the proposed *Clean Energy Transfer Initiative*, and in particular proposals for a new transmission corridor between northern Manitoba and southern Ontario. In 2005, the Province of Ontario signed a deal with the Government of Manitoba to transfer \$500 million of hydroelectric power to Ontario, with the possibility of further expansion of the deal in the future. This would bring new power to Ontario through the proposed Conawapa hydro electric facility on the Nelson River in Northeastern Manitoba, through northern Ontario, to Sudbury.

There are four proposed corridors that have been studied:

- a **Direct** route, between Conawapa and Sudbury;
- a **Thunder Bay** route, between Conawapa to Thunder Bay to Sudbury.
- a **Winnipeg** route; Conawapa to Winnipeg to Thunder Bay to Sudbury.
- a **Far North** route, Conawapa to James Bay to Sudbury.

Obviously, we are interested in advocating for a new transmission option that would provide maximum benefit for our First Nations. Both the Thunder Bay route and the Winnipeg would ensure the transmission corridor travels through two of our largest regions, Northern Superior and the Lake Huron territories.

Both of these options also ensure serviceability along the entire route. Most of this route will already be accessible by road and rail.

Regardless of what option is chosen, there is a definite need to upgrade transmission and distribution infrastructure in and around the Sudbury transfer station and the transmission corridor from Sudbury to southern Ontario.

There is a need for new enabler lines to bring in additional renewable power from Manitoulin Island, the North Shore, and the Lower Mattagami. In addition, the corridor between Sudbury and Barrie is already up to capacity. Of course, the new transmission line between Bruce Peninsula and Milton has already been identified as absolutely necessary linking the Bruce "A" Nuclear Generating Station and the tremendous need in Southern Ontario.

The nuclear industry is also in a position to take advantage of opportunities in energy, based on the need, both within Canada, and across North America. Nuclear energy is a clean and safe source of energy, that, for the most part, has a low impact on the environment.

First Nations can play a role in nuclear power. We have already seen both Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation increase their efforts in developing relationships with First Nations within their traditional territories. Respect has been shown to our people, despite having to deal with some long-standing issues arising.

The nuclear industry must continue to work with First Nations and provide them with opportunities -- joint ventures and partnerships; revenue sharing opportunities based on the use of the traditional territory; human resource agreements with a focus on providing jobs; and training. These are all ways that each and every member of the Canadian Nuclear Association can reach out to First Nations.

It is essential that the First Nations be engaged as treaty right holders, governments, and indeed, as business partners.

What is our strategy for involvement in energy development?

- We want to open up a dialogue with major players, potential partners, regulators and government.
- We want to develop capacity as well as independent advice, and begin forming general partnerships and corporations.
- We wish to negotiate agreements, obtaining capital, loan guarantees, etc.
- We want to take a leadership role in land tenure, purchases and rights-of-way.
- Finally, we want to develop a comprehensive labour and skills development strategy, as well as participate in building, construction and maintenance of energy infrastructure in Canada.

This energy development strategy is a key component of the Anishinabek Nation Economic Blueprint.

In April 2008, I had the pleasure of introducing the Anishinabek Nation Economic Blueprint, our 10-year plan to establish local and regional economies.

This 10-year Economic Strategy will develop a practical and measurable “master plan” or “blueprint” for Anishinabek Nation Economic Development.

The Blueprint involves roles and objectives for all our member communities, Tribal Councils, Economic Development Officers, Economic Development Corporations, Business Development Corporations, the Human Resource sector, key sector private and public partners and government.

It looks at the economy from the perspective of our entire Anishinabek Nation territory - a birds-eye view of the full potential of our First Nations economy.

Our Economic Strategy was led by true leaders and economic professionals through an innovative “Think Tank” component. This included our Chairpersons Dawn Madahbee, and Ray Martin, Chief Clarence Louie, Bernd Christmas, David Tuccaroo, Dr. Jack Burrows among others.

The final strategy outlines 21 key recommendations utilizing a *First Nations Progression Model* under three themes: **Step One** - Building local capacity in financial and quality management; **Step Two** – Preparing for Economic Development; and **Step Three** – Pursuing Economic Development.

In essence, this Blueprint puts us all on the same page, working on the same plan and working toward the same goal: building sustainable, self-sufficient First Nations economies.

This Economic Strategy is a practical, living, breathing entity. A strategy consisting of principles, best practices, networking opportunities, key objectives, deliverables, tasks, and momentum, but most importantly of all, people.

It is our sincere hope, that the energy industry and these opportunities in energy will become a major component of economic development and wealth-generation for the Anishinabek Nation.

We cannot underestimate the value of treaties when discussing energy, developing our natural resources and establishing self-sufficient economies. The treaties are a key factor in First Nations economic development and the re-establishment of our Nations.

For First Nations people – the spirit and intent of the Treaty and honour of the Crown are what was important. **Treaties were considered sacred.** They weren’t concluded with a simple signature, they were concluded and witnessed by the Spirit through the smoking of the Sacred Pipe.

For First Nations, there was no concept of land ownership or land surrender. The Treaties meant that the land would be shared. That in return, full use and benefit from the traditional use of the territory would continue forever. First Nations expected to share in the wealth of development, forestry, fishing, mining, and agriculture.

For our people, we have always felt the Treaties were not documents to surrender our territories, but an affirmation that our Nations would share in the benefit of the Treaties.

We fully expected to share in the wealth of development, to establish true Nation-to-Nation relationships.

More and more, the Supreme Court, lower courts and public opinion are moving towards equality in the legal rights of First Nations people under the Treaty. Canadians are demanding reparations, fairness and improvements in the social issues that face all aboriginal people.

The Anishinabek Nation is currently working on an initiative to restore the balance in the Treaties. The Anishinabek Nation is calling for the establishment of **a new modern Treaty Implementation Process** for Ontario.

Our Five Point proposal includes:

A Treaty Enabling Framework, negotiated between Canada, Ontario and First Nations on a Treaty-by-Treaty basis, to look at all aspects of the Treaties to negotiate its modern interpretation and implementation. This doesn't mean re-negotiation of Treaties, but working towards discussion and negotiation of full implementation of the treaty clauses.

Establishing **Treaty Enabling Legislation**, that will ensure adherence to the Treaties, include Treaty enabling language in all development agreements; and entrench legislated requirements for consultation, accommodation and engagement of First Nations in all development and land transactions.

(Speak about treaty enabling clause vs. non-derogation clause...)

Enabling **Resource Benefit Sharing**, which would include the negotiation of an Ontario-wide Revenue Sharing Agreement, similar to the Ontario-First Nations Gaming Agreement; this would also include negotiation of a Treaty-Based Revenue Sharing Framework.

Establishing a **Treaty Commission of Ontario**, as recommended by Justice Linden in his Ipperwash Final Report. This would consist of Treaty Commissioners, and an Office of the Treaty Commission appointed from every Treaty region in Ontario. Roles for the Treaty Commission would include Treaty administration, natural resources management, licensing, coordination of consultation, regulatory authority and enforcement.

Finally, we are calling for a significant **Treaty Education mandate**. This would include Public Education for all people in Ontario on Treaties as well as formal curriculum in the Ontario School System.

This fundamental unfairness and ignorance of the Treaties must come to an end in order for First Nations to overcome poverty, establish self-sufficient economies, and thrive under self-governing Nationhood.

Our *Anishinabek Nation Economic Blueprint*, and our 5-point plan to establish a new, modern *Treaty Implementation Process* are instrumental in our overall goal to eliminate Anishinabek Nation poverty in 20 years.

First Nations are entitled to their historical, modern and future share of the wealth generated from the Treaties through the sharing of our traditional territories.

But that wealth must not come at the expense of the environment and must not compromise our traditional role as stewards of the land.

I spoke earlier about the respect we must maintain for Mother Earth and the environment. As energy proponents, we must always be mindful of what we take from the Earth and what we put back in the environment.

The issue of nuclear waste continues to be of great concern for First Nations.

It is quite obvious that a permanent solution needs to be developed. The residents of Darlington, Pickering, Bruce and all communities that host a nuclear facility have concerns with the storage of radioactive nuclear waste on site, and in their backyard. The same goes for a permanent solution. I'm sure the residents of Toronto, Montreal, Oshawa, Ottawa, London... you name the town... they wouldn't want to see that permanent solution be housed in their backyard.

We have heard for years that the solution is to find a permanent site, deep within the rock of the Canadian Shield that is a significant distance away from dense population.

For all intents and purposes, that means implementing that permanent solution for radioactive nuclear waste in *MY* backyard.

The areas identified for nuclear waste sites and disposal won't be close to any populated municipality, it will be in the traditional territory of First Nations people.

I certainly would not purport to speak for local First Nations who have the autonomy to make their own decisions on this matter. Personally, I have great concern with burying nuclear waste in our territories, "out of sight and out of mind". For the Anishinabe people who have used the whole territory for traditional purposes, this is not out of sight, nor out of mind. For the rock, the water, the trees, the plantlife, the fishlife, the four-leggeds, the bird life, for the Earth... These all have a Spirit. For them, it is not out of sight, nor out of mind.

I'd like to commend the Nuclear Waste Management Organization for the ongoing dialogue that has been taking place with First Nations across Canada. I would recommend that this discussion be expanded greatly, to not only include First Nations leadership and our civil service. We need

to engage at the grass-roots level and involve our youth and the Elders in our communities. The Government of Canada needs to become more involved in this discussion to address the outstanding issues of land claims, Treaties and future land use planning and development.

The recent reported spills at the Chalk River laboratories is of great concern to my people, especially the First Nations residents of that area. Chalk River, and most of the Ottawa River valley is under claim and is the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. No matter how significant or insignificant a spill may be. No matter how quickly such a situation is addressed. Any spill or incident of any kind involving a nuclear facility has a profound effect on the public and is a great cause of concern for the safety of Canadians. It's not necessarily about the scope of the incident that causes the concern – it's the confidence that our citizens have in the system.

I am calling for the Government of Canada, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to engage the Algonquin Nation in a broader discussion on the ongoing operation of the Chalk River Laboratories. First Nations need to be assured that whatever circumstances have caused these leaks are being addressed. As proponents of the nuclear industry, you also need to hold the Government and the AECL to a high standard – and encourage this new dialogue to take place with First Nations.

CONCLUSION

My final message to you is this: First Nations are open for business.

The Anishinabek Nation, unlike other First Nations interests across Canada, are not interested in stifling development or holding industry and government for ransom. We are not interested in hand-outs or furthering our dependence on government and others.

We are interested in pursuing self-sufficient business opportunities in the natural resource sector. We are interested in taking advantage of the current opportunities in the energy sector, to ensure First Nations obtain benefit while preserving Mother Earth for future generations.

I look forward to working with you now and in the future.

Thank you. Miigwetch.