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JUN 14 2002

File No. 5020-4- TD No. 304804

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE SOLICITOR GENERAL**

**NISHNAWBE-ASKI NATION (NAN) FLY-IN COMMUNITY VISITS**

(Information Only)

**SUMMARY**

- The Assistant Deputy Solicitor General (Kristine Burr) and two officials from the Department recently visited eight remote fly-in communities situated in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Territory located in Northern Ontario.

**Issue**

- To provide you with an update on the recent trip to eight NAN communities. The main purpose of the trip was to visit policing facilities, meet with members of these communities, and listen to their concerns with respect to various policing issues.

**Background**

- As you recall, we had an opportunity to meet with NAPS officials last year. As a result of our discussions during this meeting a commitment was made to visit a number of NAN communities. Kristine Burr and two officials from Aboriginal Policing Directorate (APD) represented the Department during a recent visit to the NAN Territory.
- On June 3-4, 2002, aboard the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service plane, the delegation visited the communities of Fort Albany, Kashechewan, Eabamatoong (Fort Hope), Webakeka, Kee-Way-Win, Deer Lake, Wunnumin, and Sachigo Lake. A map is attached for your reference.

- 2 -

- Departmental officials were accompanied by Goyce Kakegamik, Deputy Grand Chief, (NAN) and Wes Luloff, Chief of Police, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Police Service (NAPS).

### Observations

- These communities are accessible by air only, with limited road access during winter months. This remoteness leads to limited economic opportunity and the poverty level is evident immediately upon arrival. We are told that these poor living and economic conditions are consistent throughout many of the some 45 NAN communities.
- Despite the limited capital budget allocated to these communities and their competing priorities for education, health, and other facilities, the Department's representatives were encouraged to see that band councils are attempting to use what limited resources they have to maintain their police buildings although they still remain deficient in many respects.
- While some of these buildings could be easily repaired to an acceptable community standard, many will require a significant capital investment to address police safety issues and provide officers with a workplace that is functional, safe, and is representative of a professional police service.
- Another issue that was consistently raised by community leadership and police officers was the requirement for adequate housing. Due to limited housing resources in these communities, some officers are living in accommodations that are co-located with police buildings while others are sharing living space with either teachers or nursing staff in the interim until housing can be allocated to them. Unfortunately, the waiting list is long with many families waiting for houses.

### Strategic Considerations

- NAN has been made aware that the Quebec government recently proposed settlements with the Northern Quebec Cree that include a much higher support level for police services.

- 3 -

While the Cree have not yet approached DIAND for the federal portion of this package, we can expect pressure for considerably larger police budgets in both northern Quebec and Ontario.

- The NAPS agreement is due to expire in March 2003. They are pressuring the Department to begin negotiations in earnest (September 2002), as they believe the process will be lengthy and difficult. They believe their police service is in severe trouble on many levels and are looking to the new agreement to address many of these problems. We are expecting that NAN will begin applying pressure on various fronts in anticipation of these upcoming negotiations.

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DIAND officials are aware of the housing concerns being raised by NAN. Officials in that department are looking at possible strategies to designate housing for professionals (including police) to ensure retention in remote communities.

### Conclusion

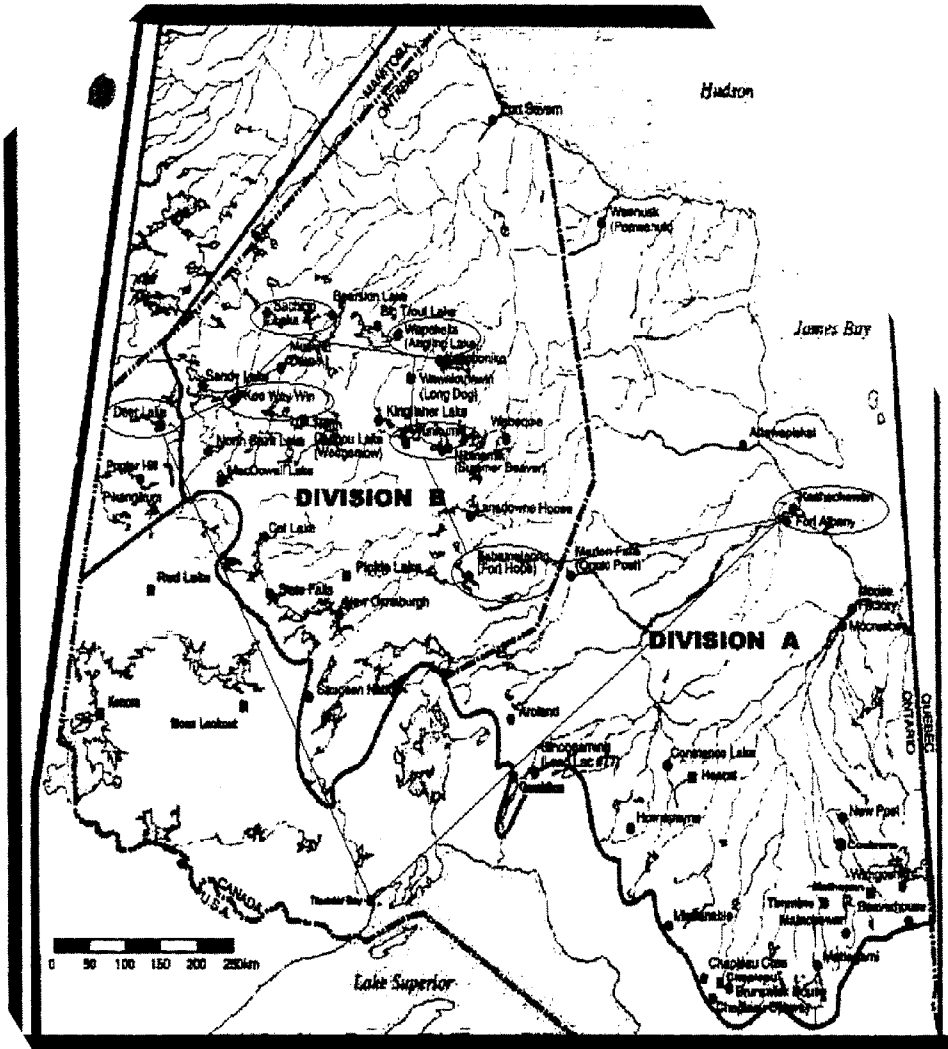
- The message delivered by Ms. Burr to these communities is that the government is aware of the problems with police facilities in communities with FNPP agreements and the Minister has asked the Department to develop options for a capital infrastructure strategy in concert with DIAND and provincial governments.
- I am available at your convenience to discuss this matter further.

Original signed by  
Original signé par  
Nicole Jauvin

Nicole Jauvin

Enclosure: (1)  
Ray Levesque

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# NISHNAWBE-ASKI POLICE SERVICE

## DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES

- First Nation Communities
- Non-Native Communities
- Treaty Boundary
- Police Divisions