

# Briefing Note

---



**TO:** D/Grand Chief G. Kakegamic  
**FROM:** Chief of Police B.W. Luloff  
**SUBJECT:** Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service Re-Negotiations  
**DATE:** March 30, 2000

---

## Issue

Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service Agreement - Renegotiations

## Background

On December 7, 1999, at the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Chief's meeting in Thunder Bay, a resolution was passed to renegotiate the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services Agreement. One preliminary meeting was held with Canada, the Province, D/Grand Chief G. Kakegamic and the Chief of Police in Sioux Lookout on January 13, 2000. From that meeting correspondence was sent to Canada and the Province outlining our preliminary requests. The report is attached for your information. From that meeting it was determined that the representatives from Canada and the Province be given a quick tour of some of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation First Nations.

On March 28 - March 30, 2000, Ms. Bonnie Glancy, representative of Federal Solicitor General, Mr. Hugh Stevenson, representative of Provincial Solicitor General were given a short tour of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and visited the First Nations of Fort Albany, Eabametoong, Wunnumin Lake, Wapekeka and Keewaywin. Accompanying them were D/Grand Chief G. Kakegamic, Chief of Police B.W. Luloff, and two media reporters, Ms. Kimberly Hicks of the Chronicle Journal and Ms. Jody Porter of Wawatay.

The purpose of the trip was to show first hand to these representatives the conditions of the police facilities, housing shortages, and human resource issues that has been identified by the management of the Police Service, the Chiefs, and First Nation members.

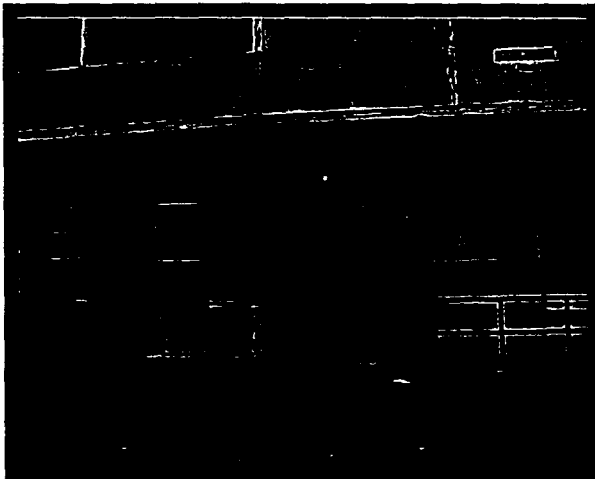
The selection of the First Nations to be visited were chosen by the Chief of Police to provide typical conditions within all our communities we police, and from each Tribal Council. Fort Albany First Nation of Mushkegowuk Council represented a larger Detachment with critical housing shortages, a Detachment building that is located in the old residential school and is destined for demolition. Eabametoong First Nation of Matawa Council represented a medium sized Detachment, and a police building that has been condemned for the past ten years. Eabametoong also represented a housing agreement between the First Nation and the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service that may serve as a

means of solving the housing situation in all our First Nations. Wunnumin Lake First Nation and Wapekeka First Nation of Shibogama Council represented small Detachments with housing shortages and a police buildings with no plumbing or water facilities. Keewaywin First Nation of Keewaytinook Okimakanak Council represented a First Nation with absolutely no Detachment and critical housing shortages.

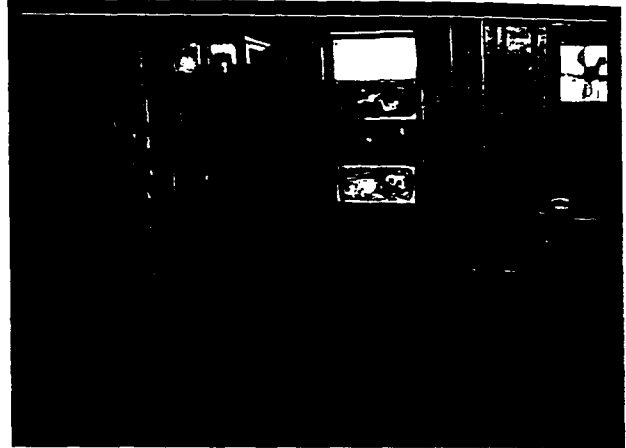
Kashechewan First Nation was also to have been visited, however due to weather which caused delays it had to be dropped from the itinerary. I attempted to include a sample of all Tribal Councils however geographical size of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and time prevented this.

## Fort Albany First Nation

A meeting was held in the First Nation Council Boardroom. Chief Mike Metatawabin, D/Chief L. Kataquapit and Councillor A. Linklater who holds the policing portfolio made presentations to Canada and the Province. Identified were the problems of housing for officers, and not enough police officers. Fort Albany had been reduced from five officers to four as a result of a Police Service Board decision to allocate human resources to other locations that had a greater need. Chief Metatawabin advised that Indian and Northern Affairs had made a commitment to the First Nation to provide the same facilities that are



] housed in the old residential school prior to demolition. This would include the police office that is presently located there. Councillor A. Linklater stated that due to the housing shortage, police officers are forced to live with relatives or friends. When they have completed a night shift and go home to rest this is at times difficult as the rest of the family is up. There is no privacy. The police office is one big room. There is no place to properly conduct interviews or obtain statements from complainants or witness's. A complainant may wish some autonomy when reporting an incident to the police. A tour of the police facilities and the First Nation was provided to the representatives.



There are only two cells in the Detachment and at times as many as fourteen in a cell. There is no guard station, poor lighting and ventilation. Mattresses from the cell block may be seen in hanging over the railing to air out.

## **Eabametoong First Nation**

A meeting was held at the Band office. Chief C. Nate, and two or his Councillors made a presentation. Chief Nate stated that his First Nation had developed designs and blueprints for a police office and housing for the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service. The Police Service have advised him that there is no capital money available for him to proceed to build a new police office. The housing was developed by the First Nation and an agreement was made with the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service and the First Nation with the housing. This is one option that should be analysed further to alleviate the housing situation in all First Nations. It does come at some cost that will have to be considered during negotiations. Chief Nate also expressed the need for additional officers in the Division Headquarters in a support role. Chief C. Nate is very supportive of the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service and has stated that even though he now knows the deficiencies in the Agreement, he still would have voted in favour of accepting the Agreement. This was an important statement for the representatives to hear.

The police facilities were shown to the representatives by Cst. Paul Holcroft. The building is owned by the Ontario Realty Corporation and to my knowledge has been condemned. There are two cells in the building. There is plumbing in the building but it freezes up in the winter. Only one cell had a functioning toilet, the other had been torn out of the wall by an irate prisoner some time ago. When the plumbing is frozen the prisoners are taken to an outhouse at the rear of the building. The floor is rotten and there is virtually no crawl space under it to accommodate any insulation. There was a hole in the floor in the bathroom, from rotting wood. The lights did not work in the cells. The electrical panel box did not have the cover on and bare electrical wiring was exposed.

I was unable to obtain photographs of the police office or police housing as it was dark when the tour was made.

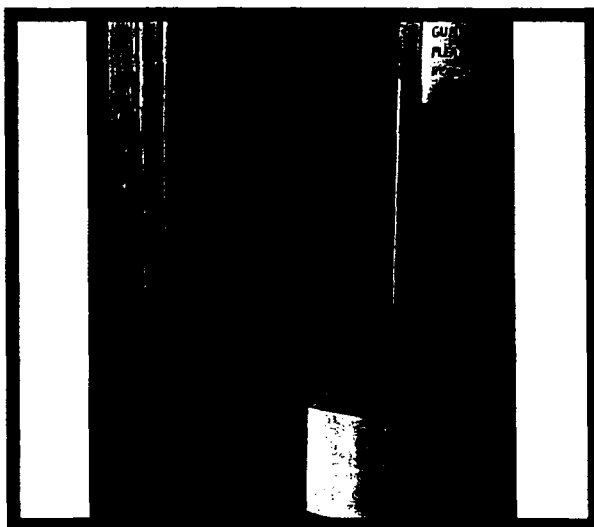
## Wunnumin Lake First Nation

Wunnumin Lake Detachment was shown to the representatives by Police Services Board member Mr. Zack Mamakwa and Cst. Jackie George.



This police building does not have any plumbing or running water. It has a small entrance, one large room used as an office and two cells. When prisoners are lodged the police officers put a pail in the cells to use if they have to go to the washroom. Up until a few months ago the building was heated by an oil burning space heater but has been replaced by electric heat. The electrical wiring was stapled to the existing wall and would not meet any building code requirements. The front window was broken and cold air was blowing in. The space heater was too small to heat the building and run hot. In the photo to the right melted floor tiles can be seen that were under the old heater.





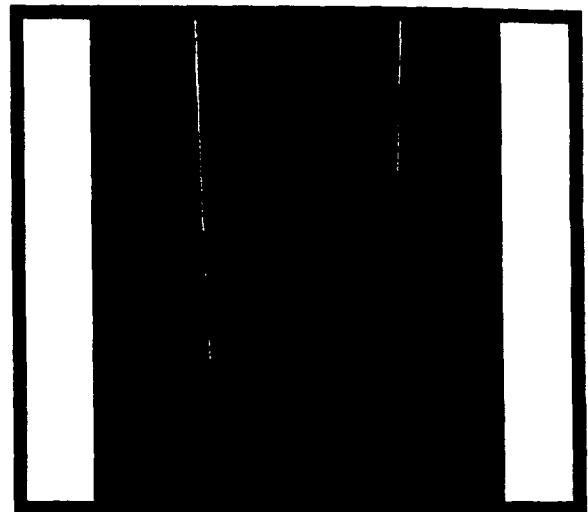
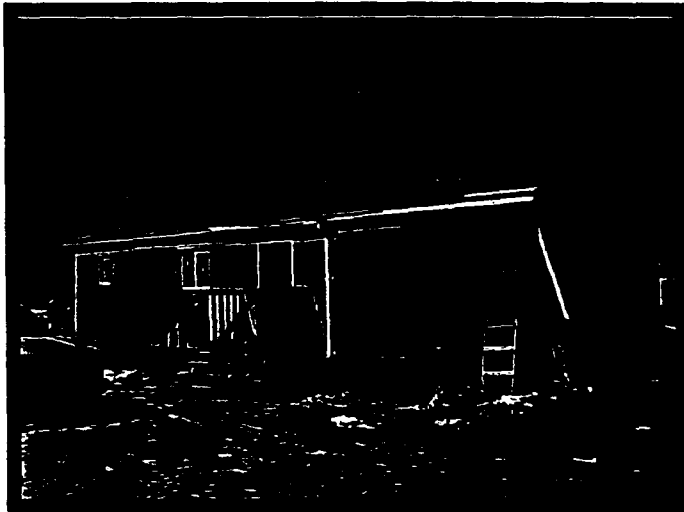
## Wapekeka First Nation

A meeting was held at the First Nation Band office. Chief N. Brown and the Band Manager made a presentation. Wapekeka has a housing shortage and it has been very difficult in the past three years to keep the two person Detachment staffed. Chief Brown also stressed the need to have support staff at the Division Headquarters to assist with proper coaching of young officers and to provide the First Nation with additional help when only one officer is in the community.

The police office was shown to the representatives by Cst. Joseph Winter.

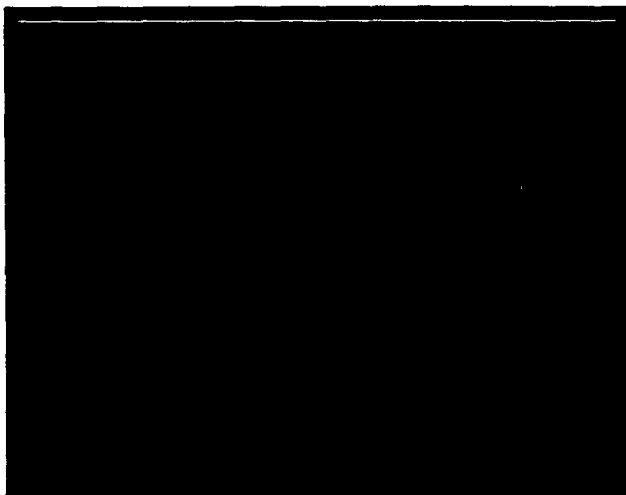
The police office in Wapekeka has officer accommodation attached to it, but requires extensive renovations. The police office has three cells, but only two are functional as the third cell is used by the police officers as an office. There is absolutely no privacy to

conduct any interviews, or to prepare reports when prisoners are in custody. The cells do not have any plumbing. A washroom is located outside the cell, but freezes up



during the winter.

Cst. Winter stated that when he is alone in the community, and there is more than one person in custody it is dangerous to have to remove just one person from the cell to use the washroom. The exterior of the Detachment requires renovations. The bottom step was loose and the D/Grand Chief just about fell when exiting the building. Security is a problem at this Detachment as can be seen in the photograph below. The door had been pried at one time and the electrical lock was broken. There were no outside plug ins for the police vehicle and a hole had been drilled through the wall and an extension cord plugged in.



## Keewaywin First Nation

A meeting was held in the Band office. Chief Stan McKay and Councillor Kakegamic made a presentation. It has always been difficult to keep police officers in the First Nation of Keewaywin. Housing is a problem as well as this First Nation not even having a police building. Renovation had been started on an older building to be used as a police office but was not completed due to lack of funds.

Until the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service was established Keewaywin First Nation did not have police officers and were policed from Sandy Lake. There still is no court in Keewaywin and people have to attend court in Sandy Lake at a considerable cost to themselves.



A tour of the present and propose police facilities was given by Cst's T. Kakepetum and K. Kakegamic.

Chief McKay stated that cell facilities are badly needed. The Constables have to literally babysit the prisoners in an office used by the police in the Band office. Evidence was clear that scuffles had taken place in this office in an attempt to control the prisoners by the police. At one time in the band office there was a bar that the police officers used to handcuff the prisoners to. Chief McKay and Councillor Kakegamic both stressed the need for additional support officers at the Division Headquarters to provide assistance when one officer is away from the First Nation and to provide coaching and supervision to the officers in the communities.

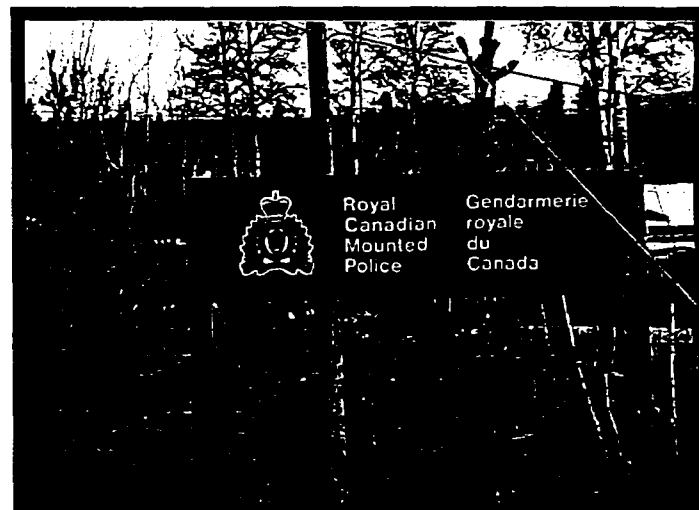
This concluded our visits to the Nishnawbe-Aski First Nations. Interviews were conducted with the police officers, community members, Chief's and Councillors by the media present.

It should be noted that despite the problems encountered by the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, our officers displayed professionalism. It was quite apparent that there was pride in wearing the uniform of the Nishnawbe-Aski Police. The police offices were neat and tidy given the limitations of the buildings. Office furniture and equipment was well taken care of and being put to good use. Our officers are to be commended for this.

The next part of the tour was just to the west of Sandy Lake First Nation in the Province of Manitoba. We visited the First Nation of Little Grand Rapids which is policed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Little Grand Rapids was chosen as it closely represents the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. It is remote and only accessible by air, although it does have a winter road connecting to the south similar to Sandy Lake. Little Grand Detachment also polices another First Nation to the west approximately fifteen miles away. It is accessible by winter road, water in the summer or fly in during break up and freezing. This would have been similar to the policing of Sandy Lake and Keewaywin. Little Grand Rapids is strictly First Nation and the R.C.M.P. Detachment is located on reserve land.

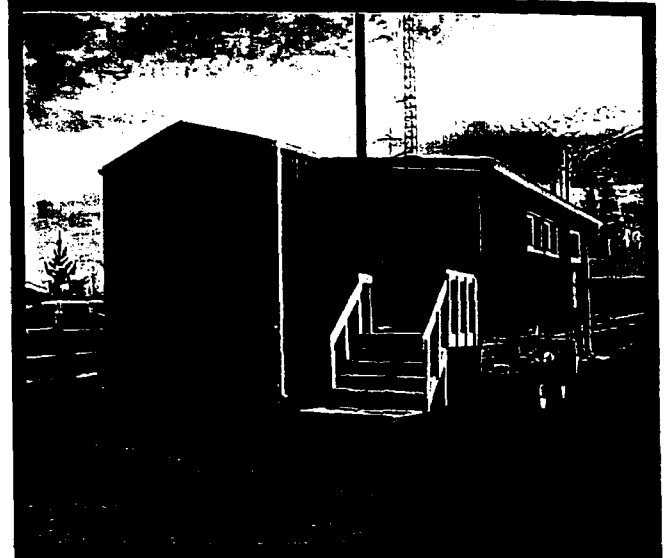
The Little Grand Detachment polices a population of approximately 1200. It handles approximately 1000 occurrences, and has approximately a prisoner count of 300 per year. There are four police officers stationed there. Little Grand would be comparable in policing to the First Nations of Fort Albany, Kashechewan, Eabametoong or Mishkeegogamang.

The policing facilities and housing provided to the police officers is in stark comparison to what is provided to the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation.

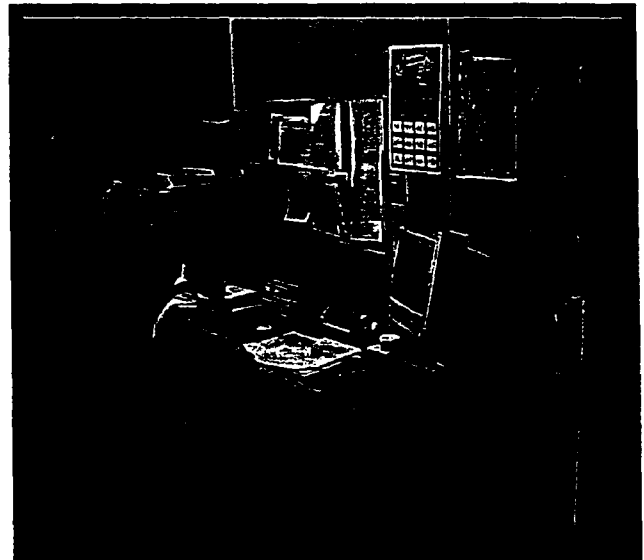


**Little Grand Rapids, Manitoba**

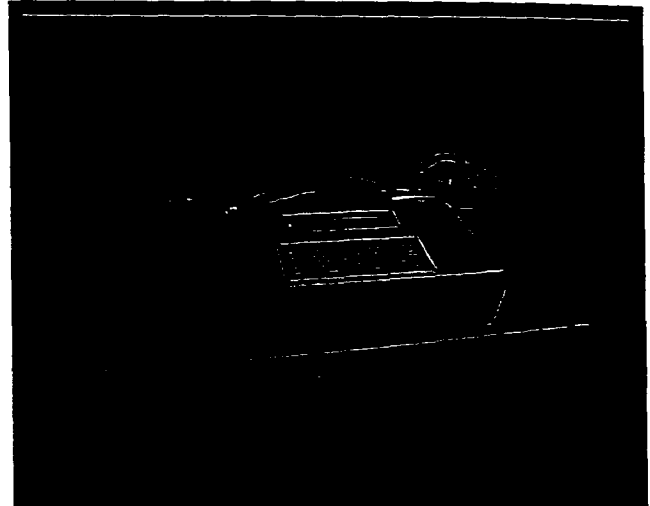
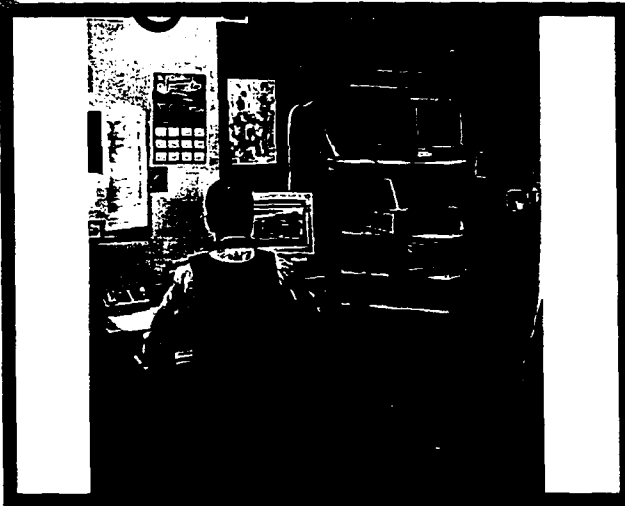




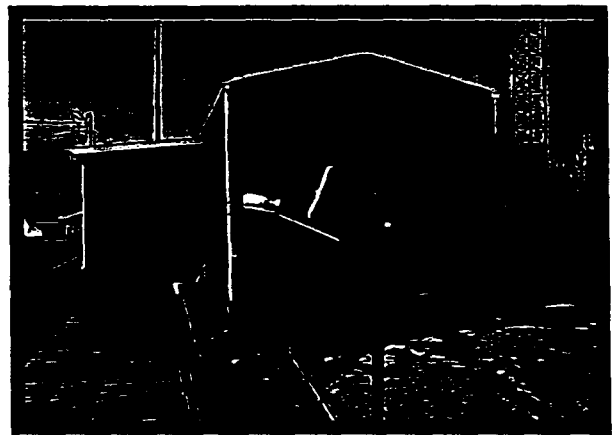
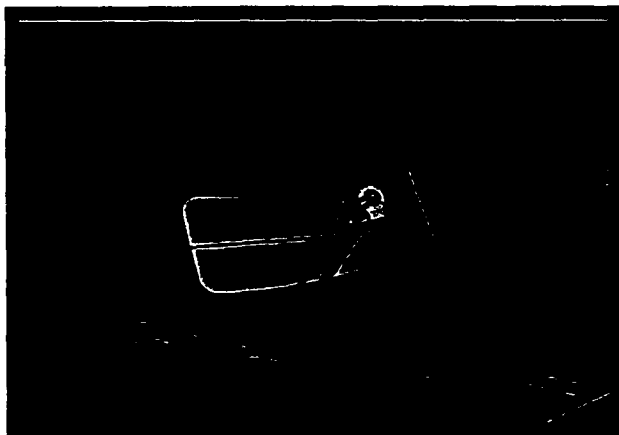
The Little Grand Detachment is modular unit. It was brought in on the winter road in 1992 .Plans and who built it is obtainable from the Property Management Unit of the R.C.M.P.



Two views of a work station inside the Detachment. The supervisor office is in the background of the picture to the right. The picture to the left shows the workstation as seen from the front entrance.



The photo on the left shows the bank of computer equipment which is the C.P.I.C. (Canadian Information Police Centre) and a P.I.R.S. (Police Information Retrieval System). The C.P.I.C. is used to conduct criminal records checks, charged persons, stolen property etc. It is a central data base and maintained by the R.C.M.P. in Ottawa. Most Police Services including the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service have this. The difference is that we only have two terminals, one in each Division, and the R.C.M.P. have them in every Detachment. The P.I.R.S. terminal is a central data base and is used to store police records electronically. The Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service is presently negotiating to obtain this data base from the R.C.M.P. Again the difference is that the R.C.M.P. have them at every Detachment and we will only be able to obtain it at a Division level. These units are both linked to satellites. The photo on the right is a computerized Breathalyzer called a Data Master. The price tag to this is approximately \$7000.00 . The Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service does not have a budget for this equipment and not even for an older model 900 Breathalyzer



Photo's of the satellite linkup for C.P.I.C. and P.I.R.S.





