

urgent steps to repair its relationships with First Nations' governments to address head-on the problem of Aboriginal estrangement from the justice system.”

Background

NAN's efforts to secure a review of the jury roll followed revelations during the Coroner's Inquest into the Deaths of Jamie Goodwin and Ricardo Wesley (the Kashechewan Inquest) in 2008 that the Kenora Judicial District jury roll contained names of First Nations people from only 14 of NAN's 49 First Nations.

In 2009, NAN again raised this issue in the Inquest into the Death of Reggie Bushie. In March 2011, NAN and two First Nation families won a landmark Court of Appeal judgment recognizing that Coroner's juries were required to be representative of First Nations People. The Court ordered that the Coroner conduct an inquiry into the validity of the jury roll for the Thunder Bay Judicial District.

Pre-inquest hearings in the Bushie Inquest were held in July 2011 in Thunder Bay. In September 2011, the Coroner ruled that the 2011 jury roll for the Judicial District of Thunder Bay was not representative of First Nation reserve community residents, and that the inquest could not proceed.

The Hon. Frank Iacobucci was appointed to report on First Nation representation on Ontario jury rolls in August, 2011 following court decisions questioning the validity of Ontario jury rolls with respect to representation by First Nations. His report, *First Nations Representation on Ontario Juries*, was released on February 26, 2013. It included 17 recommendations to ensure enhanced representation on the jury roll.

The decision is available on the Court of Appeal for Ontario's website: www.ontariocourts.ca/decisions_index/en/

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political territorial organization representing 49 First Nation communities in James Bay Treaty No. 9 and Ontario portions of Treaty No. 5 – an area covering two thirds of the province of Ontario in Canada.

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