



In March 2011, NAN and two First Nation families won a landmark Court of Appeal judgment recognizing their right to conduct inquiries into the validity of the juries empanelled in the Thunder Bay Judicial District. The appeals followed the refusals by the presiding coroners at the Inquest into the Death of Reggie Bushie and the Inquest into the Death of Jacy Pierre to summons the court official responsible for assembling the Thunder Bay jury roll, to give evidence as to whether First Nations people were adequately represented.

The Court found that the District of Kenora jury roll was “manifestly unrepresentative” and that “there is no reason to think that the unrepresentativeness of the jury roll in the District of Kenora is unique.” The Court also found that “court officials did very little to obtain other records” and that there is little reason to believe the situation is better in Thunder Bay.

“The truth about First Nation’s underrepresentation on jury rolls only became public following revelations at the Kashechewan Inquest,” said Waboose. “For far too long our questions have gone unanswered, and we have had to rely on court orders and summonses to get answers on behalf of our First Nations.”

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.

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