



Chiefs of Ontario Lend Full Support to the First Nation Student Death Inquest

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CHIEFS OF ONTARIO (http://nationtalk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/coo_logo.png)

Chiefs of Ontario Lend Full Support to the First Nation Student Death Inquest – COO

TORONTO (Oct 7, 2015) — Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day is lending his full support to the student inquest currently being held in Thunder Bay that seeks to find answers to the tragic deaths of seven youth over the past 10 years.

After a three-year wait, an inquest into the mysterious deaths of seven First Nations youth from remote communities across northern Ontario that lost their lives as they attended high school in Thunder Bay began on Monday.

“The long-awaited inquest was made possible due to the tenacity and determination of Nishnawbe Aski Nation leaders who refused to let go of questions that must be answered as to why the numbers of lost lives in that region of Ontario are youth from northern First Nation communities,” Regional Chief Day said. “I commend Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and all others who would not relent.

“This process is important because it will not only give answers, but ask questions that will provide guidance to governments on reasons why they need to get to work on solutions to prevent this tragic trend. The Chiefs of Ontario will be engaged in phase two of the inquest, and are fully supportive to our First Nations who seek answers through this inquest.”

It is expected to last until March 2016, hear from 200 witnesses and will be broken into three phases.

Phase one includes evidence about the circumstances of each death and will likely last until December. Phase two will start in the new year and deal with the evidence related to policy and context. Phase three will provide information for jurors on potential recommendations.

Four women and a man make up the jury of what is one of Ontario’s largest inquests, which

started Monday.

Six males and one female lost their lives between 2000 and 2011. Reggie Bushie, Jethro Anderson and Jordan Wabasse were only 15 years old. The other students were Curran Strang, 18, Paul Panacheese, 21, Robyn Harper, 18, and Kyle Morrisseau, 17.

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