

Political leaders attend NAN chiefs meeting in Thunder Bay

Pearl Wenjack and Mike Downie will also participate

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THUNDER BAY -- Ontario's premier, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and other high-profile politicians will attend the Nishnawbe Aski Nation chiefs meeting this week in Thunder Bay.

National Chief Perry Bellegarde and Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day will deliver speeches on the opening day of the three-day NAN chiefs Winter Assembly on Tuesday.

Premier Kathleen Wynne and David Zimmer, the provincial minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, are both scheduled to speak on Wednesday morning.

Also Wednesday, former national chief Ovide Mercredi will provide an update on his work in leading efforts to make what NAN has described as broad-ranging changes to the health care system in NAN communities across northern Ontario.

On Thursday, the chiefs will hear from Community Safety Minister Marie-France Lalonde about new legislation affecting policing, from Grand Council Treaty # 3 Ojichidaa Francis Kavanaugh, and from Ontario Chief Coroner Dr. Dirk Huyer with respect to his review on Children in Care.

Tuesday will also see Pearl Wenjack, sister of Chanie (Charlie) Wenjack, and Mike Downie, brother of the late Gord Downie, attend a naming event for the Oshki-Pimache-O-Win Education and Training Institute.