



Moose Cree First Nation

MOOSE CREE FIRST NATION EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR NISHNAWBE-ASKI POLICE SERVICE OFFICERS IN SECURING FAIR PAY AND SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS

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Moose Factory, ON – The Moose Cree First Nation Chief and Council and Moose Factory Police Council today expressed support for Nishnawbe-Aski Police Officers in their ongoing effort to secure fair pay and safe working conditions. “The NAPS Officers that provide service in our community are dedicated to ensuring our safety and security despite the fact that they are underpaid and are not provided with the full complement of equipment to do their job as effectively as possible,” stated Chief Norm Hardisty.

It is a well-known fact that the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service has been under-funded since inception, which has resulted in lower officer salary levels, inadequate and unsafe detachments and a lack of appropriate equipment. NAPS Police Chief Terry Armstrong has publicly stated that the NAPS needs to boost its officer complement to 205 from 130 and requires a 40% budget increase in order to address the real needs in the First Nation communities they serve.

NAPS Officers are considering strike action in order to push both the federal and provincial governments to address the under-funding. Both levels of government have known for years that the NAPS is grossly under-funded in comparison to other police forces in Ontario. “It is unacceptable that this has been allowed to continue and to escalate to the point where the NAPS officers see no other alternative other than to go on strike,” said Deputy Chief Earl Cheechoo. “This issue is about fairness to the officers that serve our communities as well as about ensuring safety and security in our community and the other First Nation communities served by NAPS”.

The Moose Cree First Nation leadership and the Moose Factory Police Council call on both the federal and provincial governments to work with the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and NAPS Board to resolve this critical issue as quickly as possible. “For years First Nations have recognized the value of the NAPS in our communities and we call on both levels of government to recognize NAPS as an essential service and to finally fund it appropriately”, stated Chief Hardisty.

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