

Attention News Editors:

Ipperwash Inquiry to hold consultation on Aboriginal Burial and other Sacred Sites in Toronto on December 8, 2005

TORONTO, Dec. 5 /CNW/ - The Ipperwash Inquiry will hold a consultation about aboriginal burial and other sacred sites in Ontario on Thursday, December 8, 2005, in Toronto.

The event will be held at the Metropolitan Hotel, 108 Chestnut Street, Toronto, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

The Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario to inquire into and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George who was shot and killed by an Ontario Provincial Police officer in 1995 during a protest at Ipperwash Provincial Park.

The Inquiry also has a mandate to make recommendations directed at avoiding violence in similar circumstances. It is holding evidentiary hearings in Forest dealing with the circumstances of the incident. In order to fulfill the second part of its mandate, it has commissioned a number of research papers and has held a number of meetings and symposia. Details are available on the Inquiry's web page www.ipperwashinquiry.ca.

At the consultation on December 8, Professor Darlene Johnston of the University of Toronto will give a brief overview of her paper, Aboriginal Burial and Other Sacred Sites in Ontario, commissioned by the Inquiry. Professor Johnston is a member of the Inquiry's advisory panel.

The meeting will feature two panels. One will provide a broad overview of the issues, the second will consider specific examples. The panelists who have been scheduled include:

- Elder Fred Plain. Fred Plain is from Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Mr. Plain is the Elder for the Chiefs of Ontario, and is a former chief of his community;
- Ron Williamson, Chief Archaeologist and Managing Partner of Archaeological Services Inc.;
- Chief Franklin Paibomsai, Chief of Whitefish River First Nation, representing the Chiefs of Ontario
- David Donnelly, counsel to the Huron-Wendat First Nation in the recent discovery of an Aboriginal ossuary in York Region;
- Paul Jones, Band Councillor, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation
- Mark Frawley, Chair of the Niagara Escarpment Commission
- Frances Sanderson, a former member of the First Nations Burial Committee of Toronto and was involved in drafting the 1998 guideline, entitled "Discovery of Human Remains - Best Practices."

The Inquiry is particularly interested in identifying best practices and policies that lead to peaceful and constructive resolutions of potential conflicts.

Media are invited to cover the event but space is limited.

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