

For Immediate Release  
June 21, 2006

## **NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY**

*McGuinty Government Sends Greetings to Aboriginal Peoples in Ontario*

QUEEN'S PARK — The McGuinty government is extending warm wishes to all First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples who live in Ontario on the occasion of National Aboriginal Day.

"This important day provides an opportunity for us to acknowledge the unique contributions of Aboriginal peoples," said David Ramsay, Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. "Our government is pleased to extend warm wishes to First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples who live in Ontario on the occasion of National Aboriginal Day."

Ontarians are encouraged to take part in the many cultural events hosted by First Nations, Métis and other Aboriginal organizations across Ontario to celebrate the day. Participation in powwows, traditional drumming and dancing, musical and theatrical performances, cultural workshops and other activities in Aboriginal communities will help Ontarians gain a better understanding of the unique cultures of Aboriginal peoples in Ontario. Ontario has the largest Aboriginal population of any province in Canada.

"Aboriginal peoples have a diverse and vital presence in the culture and social fabric of our province," said Ramsay. "Please join me in showing our appreciation to all First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples on National Aboriginal Day."

Last year, the Ontario government launched a new approach to build relationships with Aboriginal peoples living in Ontario. The new relationship is based on co-operation and mutual respect.

- 30 -

Contacts:

Anne-Marie Flanagan  
*Minister Ramsay's Office*  
416-327-0654

Flavia Mussio  
Communications Branch  
416-326-4778

*Disponible en français*