

## **Submission to Anishinabek News - April 2010**

### **Ipperwash Park Transfer a Step Closer to Reality**

TORONTO --The transfer of Ipperwash Provincial Park land to the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation is one step closer to reality.

Ontario is moving to deregulate Ipperwash Provincial Park so that the land can be transferred to the federal government, which has the authority to add land to existing Indian reserves or create new Indian reserves.

This transfer will bring important social and economic benefits to the First Nation. It is just one step toward healing and reconciliation as outlined in the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry.

"We are very excited with the deregulation of Ipperwash Park as it brings us a step closer to having the park lands returned to our First Nation," said Chief Elizabeth Cloud, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. "In the memory of Dudley George, the First Nation and our provincial counterparts worked diligently for the past year and half to get the transfer to this significant point. We are elated."

Chris Bentley, Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, said the transfer of the 56-hectare park on the southeast shore of Lake Huron is "an important part" of the reconciliation process envisaged in the report of the two-year inquiry into the shooting death of unarmed protester Anthony Dudley George in Ipperwash Park on the night of Sept. 6, 1995.

The park transfer was one of 100 recommendations by Ipperwash Inquiry commissioner Justice Sidney Linden.