



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **FIRST-EVER INDIGENOUS-LED SUMMIT TO FOCUS ON MOVING PAST THE INDIAN ACT**

**THUNDER BAY, ON:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and Osgoode Hall Law School Dean Lorne Sossin announced today that they will bring together leaders to create a plan for moving beyond the *Indian Act*.

"Creating a new relationship with our federal Treaty partner is complex and is missing a clear path forward," said Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler. "The summit will seek to address this challenge by creating a framework for change from an Indigenous perspective."

The *determiNATION: Moving Beyond the Indian Act Conference* will be Indigenous-led and will create a venue for a broad range of voices including Indigenous youth, women, leaders, Elders, legal and scholarly experts, keepers of traditional Indigenous knowledge, as well as representatives from the Government of Canada.

"The systems we need to change are complex and our work needs to be informed by Indigenous legal traditions and customs if we want this new relationship to succeed," said Lorne Sossin, Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School. "We look forward to bringing a diversity of voices and viewpoints together to begin this important work."

"The *Indian Act* has been in place for more than 140 years, bringing about a legacy of poverty, marginalization, and mistreatment of First Nations," said Fiddler. "Undoing this work through decolonization will require a fundamental rethink of Canada's legal framework."

The event will cover principles that underlie the Indigenous-government relationship and include a diverse range of delegates, presenters, and other special guests. Working together, participants will contribute to a concrete, actionable solution for overcoming barriers to decolonize the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Government of Canada.

Registration opens today for *determiNATION*, which will be held on May 23-24, 2018, on the traditional and unceded territories of the Algonquin Nation (Ottawa).

Register and learn more about this first-ever event by visiting [determinationsummit.ca](http://determinationsummit.ca).

**For more information please contact:**

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