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## 'We're hopeful'

By Jodi Lundmark, [tbnewswatch.com](http://tbnewswatch.com)



Leith Dunick, [tbnewswatch.com](http://tbnewswatch.com)  
FILE -- Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Stan Beardy.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Stan Beardy said the ruling in the Reggie Bushie pre-inquest confirms his concerns about a lack of First Nations representation on Northern Ontario jury rolls.

In July, a pre-inquest was held to determine whether First Nations were adequately represented on jury rolls. Dr. David Eden released his ruling Friday. His findings state the 2011 jury roll for the Judicial District of Thunder Bay is not representative and does not comply with the Juries Act.

The inquest into the death of 15-year-old Bushie cannot proceed until the jury roll is representative.

Beardy said hopefully this is the first step in ensuring the justice system works for everyone.

"We're hopeful the problem will be addressed," he said. "It'll be documented and corrected over time."

Regional supervising coroner Michael Wilson said while Eden's ruling does not agree that First Nations were systemically excluded from the jury rolls, it does say that court services has not done enough to make sure they are represented.

"The result of this was that court services are directed to make greater efforts to make sure

the jury rolls is representative," Wilson said. "Assuming they are able to get to that within the next half of the year or year, there should be nothing further to slow things down."

The year-long review of the jury system by former Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci is still underway.

It was announced by the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General in August.