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CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

March 16, 2011

Dr. Paul Chris, O.D.
Executive Director
Vision Institute of Canada
16 York Mills Road, Suite 110,
Toronto, Ontario M2P 2E5

Dear Dr. Chris:

We are pleased to offer support for the Vision Institute of Canada in declaring 2011 *Aboriginal Vision Health Awareness Year*. With diabetes affecting so many of our citizens, at increasingly younger ages, the issue of preventable vision loss due to complications of diabetes has not received the attention it requires.

The comprehensive education strategy outlined in this initiative will assist us in increasing awareness of the need for early detection and treatment at all levels. One such initiative has been sharing the ***Aboriginal Vision Health DVD Lecture Series***, which was provided to the Chiefs of Ontario at our recent health forum for distribution to all communities in Ontario. This increased recognition and awareness will also support our advocacy efforts with policy makers regarding the need for adequate funding to support vision health promotion and care. These measures will assist First Nations in achieving their goals in education and employment, leading to increased overall mental, physical, and spiritual health of all First Nations citizens.

We look forward to continuing to work together to advance initiatives such as this, and we wish you continued success in raising awareness of the importance of vision health for all.

Sincerely,

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

Angus Toulouse
Ontario Regional Chief