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CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Chiefs in Ontario

CC: Political Confederacy
First Nations HST Committee

FROM: Regional Chief Angus Toulouse

DATE: December 14, 2009

RE: **HST UPDATE**

I will be presenting to the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance on December 14, 2009 at 11:45am in regards to *Bill C-62 - Provincial Choice Tax Framework Act*. This Bill is the legislation that must be passed in order to implement the Harmonized Sales Tax in Ontario, along with other tax measures.

Please note that I, along with Grand Chief Randall Phillips, Chief Laurie Carr, Chief Greg Peters and Chief Randall Kahgee, met with Michael Ignatieff, Official Leader of the Opposition, on December 10, 2009 to discuss *Bill C-62*, and the amendment that First Nations are proposing in an effort to preserve the continuance of the First Nations point-of-sale tax exemption.

I explained the First Nations position to Mr. Ignatieff and asked for his support on the proposed First Nations amendment to *Bill C-62*. I asked Mr. Ignatieff if he would speak with Liberal Senators about supporting the amendment and revising *Bill C-62*. Mr. Ignatieff indicated that he would review and consider the proposed amendment and committed to speak with the Liberal leader in the Senate, Senator Jim Cowan about the possibility of a senate amendment strategy.

The members of the First Nations HST Committee will be meeting on Monday, December 14, 2009 to discuss follow-up activity in connection with the Action Plan.

I will ensure that more information is shared with all of you as this issue develops.