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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lawyers for the families of six of the seven youth who were the subject of the First Nations Youth Inquest in Thunder Bay from October 2015 to June 2016 today issued a report card on the progress made towards meeting the inquest jury's 145 recommendations.

Jonathan Rudin and Caitlyn Kasper of Aboriginal Legal Services counsel for the families of Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper, Kyle Morrisseau, Paul Panacheese and Jordan Wabasse gave a grade of C+ for the efforts made in the first year to implement the jury's recommendations.

In addition to providing an overall grade; each of the parties were graded as well. The government of Canada received the lowest mark with a D. The highest grades were achieved by Northern Nishnawbe Education Council and Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School – A-; Matawa Learning Centre – A-; and Keewaytinook Okimakanak – A.

The other parties receiving grades were: The government of Ontario – C+; the City of Thunder Bay – C+; Nishnawbe Aski Nation – C+; and the Thunder Bay Police Services – B+:

All grades were based on reports filed by the parties with the Office of Chief Coroner with regard to their progress on meeting the recommendations. A mathematical formula was created to determine the grades. All the material used to compile the grades and the grade calculations can be found at www.aboriginallegal.ca/fny.

Of the grades Jonathan Rudin said: "It is very disappointing that after all the work that went into the inquest and all the time the jury spent crafting very thoughtful recommendations that the results in the first year are not very good. We will be back next year with another report card and I really hope that much more progress will be made."

Caitlyn Kasper, who has been in contact with the families, said: "The families remain very invested in seeing all the recommendations adopted. It is important

to them that what happened to their loved ones not happen to another First Nations student seeking a high school education in Northern Ontario.”

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