



Ipperwash returns to natives

By **ANTONELLA ARTUSO**

Last Updated: 28th May 2009, 3:15am

Ipperwash Provincial Park -- the site of the police shooting death of aboriginal activist Dudley George -- will be officially handed over today to his First Nation band.

Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid will participate in the signing with Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Chief Elizabeth Cloud.

"This is like a watershed event in many ways," Duguid said yesterday.

"It's like putting the past to the past."

The Ontario government first announced in December 2007 that it would be honouring the request of George's brother to transfer the park to the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation.

George was shot to death during a botched OPP raid on the park on Sept. 6, 1995.

Duguid said yesterday that relations between the Ontario government and the Aboriginal and Metis communities hit a low point at the time, but have since improved tremendously.

"There are a lot of issues to work on but we're working together," Duguid said. "And that's the key."

The park, located near Grand Bend, has been closed to the public since 1995.