

Female Assembly of First Nations may be forming

*By Lynda Powless
Editor*

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont.- Anishnabek women may be leading the way to the future formation of female version of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

Over 200 women attending the Mnaa-gaazwat Kweok Celebration of Women elected their own representatives to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Union of Indians and agreed, if they are not accepted by the Chiefs, they will form their own Anishnabek Women's Coalition.

"I think its time for aboriginal women to look at joining together to form our organizations based on nationhood and look to forming our own Confederacy of Nations," said Susan Hare, a lawyer who was elected as one of the eight women directors.

Keynote speaker for the weekend conference, she said it was

time for women to gather together. Hare, from West Bay First Nation, disagreed with Assembly of First Nations, Phil Fontaines call for a

women's advisory body.

She said advisory councils "are meaningless when those who will

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