



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### ***Re: First Nations not at hearing***

In his article (“First Nations not at hearing,”) dated August 19, Jim Kelly once again offers an example of his bias and presumptuous journalistic talent.

It seems to me that the only person not present at Monday’s hearing regarding the Mining Act was Jim Kelly, reporter from the Chronicle Journal. Either that or we must have been at two different meetings because the consultation session that I attended on Monday had good representation from First Nations, their advisors and Aboriginal organizations. Point of note for Mr. Kelly; not all First Nation’s advisors are of First Nation descent.

Most importantly, the actual meeting itself did not start until well after the media event featuring Minister Michael Gravelle had ended. Mr. Kelly obviously did not take the time to stick around for the *real* event, which is a shame as he may have actually come away with a productive story to tell. Who knows, maybe Mr. Kelly may have really learned something about the consultation process and what First Nations and industry had to say during the meeting.

What saddens me the most is that these kinds of headlines only serve to promote animosity and discriminatory feelings against First Nations people. I can only speak on behalf of the nine Matawa First Nations, but I would like to clarify for the general public that our Matawa First Nations were present, well represented by their Chiefs and council members, Tribal Council and various advisors. We were present and engaged because we have vital interests in the outcomes of these consultation processes and we will continue to work collaboratively with other parties towards a win-win-win solution for First Nations, industry and government.

If Jim Kelly is interested in reporting the actual outcomes of Monday’s meeting rather than just fluffy background information and non-factual assumptions, I am sure that any of the Matawa First Nations would be happy to provide their feedback.





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