



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Matawa First Nations Introduces Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Resource Centre***

**Thunder Bay, ON, March 31, 2011-** Today Matawa First Nations is proud to announce the official opening of the new Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen (KKETS) Resource Centre. The new department located at the Matawa First Nations Management office in Thunder Bay, Ontario, is committed to providing employment and training support services and programs to assist First Nations people.

In October of 2010, Matawa introduced the program services offered through KKETS, and staff has been working diligently over the last five months towards the opening of the new Resource Centre. At the centre, fully qualified career advisors are available to work with Matawa community members looking for assistance and guidance. KKETS Manager Morris Wapoose says; "Staff will guide them through the process, regardless of age or skill level. With access to computers, internet, on-line job research, fax machines, resume materials and referral to community services, this will help clients make a step in the right direction."

At today's grand opening event, attendees also got to hear first hand, from an Employment Community Coordinator of KKETS. Robinson Meshake from Aroland First Nation says; "KKETS offers plenty of opportunities for members of my community and it is very simple to get started. If you are looking to get on the right path towards a career, KKETS will assist you on getting on that path and it is a very welcoming environment that has encouraged several community members to move forward."

Currently very few Matawa members have the skills and training needed to participate in growing sectors, particularly the mineral exploration and development industry. Program Officer Beedahbin Buswa says; "Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen means "Teach, Knowledge". The academic level of most young people is below the high school level so it is crucial that we place a major



Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services

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emphasis on Matawa youth, to help them gain knowledge to better prepare them for these opportunities.”

KKETS is a division of Matawa First Nations Management Inc. and replaces Matawa Employment and Training (MET) that has been in place since 2005, through a third party agreement which limited Matawa First Nations ability to access additional resources.

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