



Prepared for the 22nd Annual General Meeting | July 27th-29th, 2010
Hosted by Neskantaga First Nation



Neskantaga
First Nation



1.0 MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The 2009-2010 AGM report is all about our successes - the success of Matawa First Nations people, our communities, and our organization.

Over the last year, Matawa First Nations have seen a huge amount of success as we continue to move forward and achieve objectives and goals from our regional strategic plan. Success for Matawa First Nations has been a series of major and minor accomplishments, highlighted by partnerships, development and a shared willingness to move forward.

One of our greatest accomplishments is the release of the draft Matawa First Nations Interim Mineral Measures process (IMMP). This is a true success as all of our First Nations worked in unity to create a document that will open the door to opportunity but at the same time preserve our beliefs and ensure our First Nations people, as caretakers of the land, benefit from any sort of development happening within our territory. The IMMP received national attention, as we had the opportunity to present the document at not only the very first Matawa First Nations Mineral Symposium, but also introduced the process at the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada Convention.

I can report to you at this year's 22nd Annual General Meeting that our people are being invited

to participate in the process of development. I see it as a new trend that is the direct result of our Chiefs and leadership lobbying both levels of government and industry to have their voices heard for the last several years.

These meaningful partnerships being created are the foundation for success and over the last year, our First Nations have built partnerships between our First Nations, with government and industry. Building partnerships stimulates economic growth for our communities and brings us closer to our goal of being economically self-sufficient and healthy in all ways - physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally.

From these partnerships and development, there are great things ahead for our people and our communities. I envision our people and communities really benefiting; obtaining good jobs, decent pay and being trained for the future.

We all have reason to have great belief and hope in what lies ahead for our First Nations, but we must remember that the up-hill journey to success can be most difficult - maintaining momentum and staying passionate is critical to bring us to the top.

Gichi Miigwech,
David Paul Achneepineskum
Chief Executive Officer

2.0 MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

It is my great pleasure to write to you as the new Board of Directors President. I am grateful for this opportunity and am deeply appreciative of the strong support that has been provided by all of our Board members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the guidance and input that the board has also provided. Their dedication and continued support for Matawa First Nations speaks volumes. We often don't have the time to reflect on the gains we have made, but at this year's Annual General Meeting it is an appropriate time to do just that - come together and reflect on positive steps made over the last year that will guide us in the future and move our First Nations forward.

Over the last year we have had many successes as First Nations people, through continued lobbying by our leadership, putting our communities first, and the reliance of a board that just keeps going. The Board of Directors will continue to work with community members, Chiefs and Councils, along with the Matawa organization to ensure we keep this momentum going and that all outcomes reflect our culture, values and vision.

Being President of the Board is an extremely rewarding role. I look forward to working with the Board of Directors to implement policies, directives and decisions of the Chiefs.

Miigwech,
Wayne Moonias
President of the Board

3.0 CHIEFS COUNCIL

Chief Sonny Gagnon	Aroland First Nation
Chief Arthur Moore	Constance Lake First Nation
Chief Lewis Nate	Eabametoong First Nation
Chief Celia Echum	Ginoogaming First Nation
Chief Veronica Waboose	Long Lake #58 First Nation
Chief Elijah Moonias	Marten Falls First Nation
Chief Roy Moonias	Neskantaga First Nation
Chief Roger Oskineegish	Nibinamik First Nation
Chief Cornelius Wabasse	Webequie First Nation

4.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009/2010

Wayne Moonias	Neskantaga First Nation: President
Frank Onabigon	Long Lake #58 First Nation: Vice President
Maurice Waboose	Ginoogaming First Nation: Secretary Treasurer
Samson Meshake	Aroland First Nation
Ron Wesley	Constance Lake
Charlie O'Keese	Eabametoong First Nation
Stanley Oskineegish	Nibinamik First Nation
Paul Achneepineskum	Marten Falls First Nation
Roy Spence	Webequie First Nation
Vivian Ledger	Matawa First Nations Management Executive Assistant

5.0 | SUCCESS STORIES

MATAWA DEPARTMENTS & FIRST NATIONS

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5.1 MATAWA FIRST NATIONS COMMUNICATIONS

Key Success: Prospectors & Developers Association Of Canada Convention



A delegation of Matawa First Nations Chiefs, community delegates, and staff participated in the 2010 PDAC event in Toronto, Ontario, from March 7th to the 10th, 2010. The event has a reputation as being the world's leading convention and tradeshow for the mineral exploration industry and investment community.

Matawa First Nations had a variety of communication successes from the event. They include:

The Exhibitor's Innovation Forum Presentation:

Matawa First Nations CEO David Paul Achneepineskum and Economic Development Manager Brian Davey presented at the Innovation forum. The event allows exhibitors to inform convention delegates about their innovations. The purpose of doing a presentation in the Forum Theatre is to enhance communication between delegates and exhibitors.

The Matawa First Nations communications department successfully acquired a time slot to participate in the Exhibitors Forum. Matawa First Nations made a fifteen minute presentation focusing on the newly drafted Interim Mineral Measures Process. Between thirty to fifty people were in attendance during the presentation. Documentation on the IMMP and on Matawa First Nations were also left in the presentation theatre throughout the day, and by day's end more than 100 copies were distributed.

Aboriginal Session Presentation:

This was the second year that PDAC hosted an Aboriginal Session at the annual convention, but the first time that Matawa First Nations participated. The event continues to grow in popularity as partnerships with First Nations and the mining and mineral industry increase. The Aboriginal Presentation room focuses on discussion regarding fostering mutually cooperative and successful relationships between mining companies and First Nations.

Matawa First Nations participated in the Aboriginal Session program, giving a ten minute presentation in regards to the IMMP document, mining, and Matawa First Nations, directly before the keynote speaker.



Media Relations & Media Coverage:

While at PDAC 2010, the Matawa First Nations Communications Officer spent a lot of time liaising with media. Three media releases were distributed to National and International media, focusing on Matawa First Nations:

- "Matawa First Nations Celebrates Three Years at PDAC"
- "Matawa First Nations Introduces New Process for Industry at PDAC 2010"
- "First Nations Join Forces to Form Ground Breaking Relationship"

Media were very interested in Matawa First Nations at PDAC- with five of Matawa's communities located in the Ring of Fire. Many of Matawa First Nations Chiefs were interviewed about their position on development.

A presentation was also made to a group of reporters by Matawa's Communications Officer in the PDAC Media room, focusing on the Matawa First

Nations release titled; “First Nations Join Forces to Form Ground Breaking Relationship.” During the presentation reporters asked several questions in regards to general and background information about the Matawa First Nations Tribal Council.

Stories released following PDAC 2010:

- Interview & On-air Feature with CBC Toronto’s Mike Crawley- Airdate March 9th, 2010 (99.1 FM CBC Radio)
- “Miners and natives are remaking the North”- Peter Gorrie- Toronto Star- March 13th, 2010
- “First Nations warn true partnership is needed on Ring of Fire Development” – Romina Maurino- The Canadian Press (Appeared in Winnipeg Free Press, yahoo.com, msn.com, metronews, nationtalk)
- Toronto Star’s Queen’s Park Briefing Newsletter- Diane Rinnehart: released Friday March 19th, 2010
- Rook Magazine Spread: June Edition- Rook Magazine is a monthly magazine targeting successful well-travelled professionals interested in doing business in Canada. It has a distribution rate of 250 000 magazines in Canada and Africa.
- Full spread in The Aboriginal Miner
- Local media coverage: CBC, & TBT

Key Success: New Matawa Messenger

The Matawa Messenger took on an entirely different form this past year. From a large document, the news item is now just a single page that folds into two. The Messenger is also now released bi-monthly as opposed to quarterly.



The changes allow Messenger to be more effective, being recent and up to date, and by providing information on what is happening within each Matawa First Nation community.

Other Achievements & Successes:

- Matawa News Radio: Wrote, produced and presented monthly Matawa News Radio Show with different speakers and themes
- Continued support for Matawa CEO, Chiefs and Board with communications advisory services
- Continued guidance and strategic direction in all areas of communication;
- Mining Symposium: Coordinated conference
- “Building on our Strengths: Supporting School Success for Every Student” Conference: Coordinated/Planned conference
- Nibinamik Emergency Manuals- Drafted and compiled documents

Communications Staff

The Communications Department of Matawa First Nations is provided by Firedog Communications.

Stephanie Ash
Communications Manager

Amanda Bay
Communications Officer

Kristina Baraskewich
Communications Officer

Henry Suarez
Creative Director (Design & Production)

Lawrence Badanai
Web/Multi-Media Design

5.2 MATAWA FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION

Key Success: First Nations Students Success Program (FNSSP)

Following the directive of Matawa Chiefs' Resolution 2009/#20, the Education Department submitted a proposal for \$30,000 to develop a submission under the second call for proposals under the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) First Nations Student Success Program (FNSSP). This funding was approved and planning sessions were held in November 2009, with the Matawa Regional Advisory Committee on Education and external academic consultants. Subsequently, a three-year proposal for approximately \$3.7 million was developed and submitted to INAC.

INAC has approved the Matawa First Nations Student Success Program three-year proposal, pending submission of the annual budget and work plan revisions, with \$1,698,120 allocated for the first year. This program will support Matawa First Nation schools to improve student success; especially in the areas of literacy and numeracy, as well as overall school success.

Identifying the indicators of student success will be a part of this program, along with systems designed to allow schools and teachers to track student progress more effectively. In order to do this, information technology standards and policies will be created and schools will have opportunities to update their systems to take full advantage of these new initiatives. The existing Matawa e-learning initiatives will be expanded to provide on-line support for teachers, principals and Education Authority staff as they work to support school success for every student.

Key Success: Education Conferences

The Education Department coordinated two conferences in 2009-2010.

Teacher Orientation Conference

The first Matawa Teacher Orientation Conference was held September 2nd to 3rd, 2009, in Thunder Bay. Teachers from three schools attended, most being new teachers. Three half-day workshops were offered: Standards and Ethics of Professional Practice (Deirdre Smith, Ontario College of Teachers), The Matawa Teacher Orientation Handbook (Denise Baxter, Principal, Ogden Community School) and Overview of the Matawa Treaty Curriculum (Steve Chase, Matawa Education Program Coordinator). Feedback from the teachers was positive and an Orientation Conference will be held again for new teachers in September 2010.

Building on Our Strengths: Supporting School Success for Every Student

On February 16-18, 2010, over 200 teachers, principals, teacher aides, custodians, administrative assistants, and education directors attended Matawa Education's third Bi-Annual Education Conference:



Murray Waboose speaks at Matawa Education's third Bi-Annual Education Conference: Building on Our Strengths: Supporting School Success for Every Student.

Building on Our Strengths: Supporting School Success for Every Student. Participants attended a variety of workshops in areas such as classroom management, using technology, effective teaching strategies, designing relevant curriculum, instructional leadership, meeting the needs of exceptional learners, ESL, Native Language, and school operations and management. Certificate training was also provided in WHMIS and behaviour intervention.

Key Success: Post-Secondary Graduates

Matawa Post Secondary Program provides support services for post-secondary students from five Matawa First Nations: Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58, Webequie and Neskantaga.

This year, we celebrated the success of 29 graduates at the annual Matawa Post-Secondary Graduation Banquet held June 2, 2010 in Thunder Bay. Keynote speakers for the Banquet were Ben Cheechoo, former Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation and current NAN Governance Secretariat, and Peter Rasevych, former graduate and currently a Ph.D. student at Lakehead University.

Matawa Education Staff

Murray Waboose

Manager, Education Advisory Services

Georgette O'Nabigon

Post Secondary Coordinator

Joanne Cheechoo, Stephen Chase

E-Learning Developer

Successful Post-Secondary Graduates

Rawanda Abraham	Master of Education
Arthur Chapais	Baking & Pastry Art
Charla Charles	Native Community Care Worker
Maryann Charles	Bachelor of Arts
April Dore	Native Early Childhood
Elaine Dore	Hairdresser
Janet Finlayson	Native Early Childhood
Phyllis Fisher	Aboriginal Counselling
Sylvia Fisher - B.A.	Indigenous Learning
Pauline Gagnon	Native Language Teacher
Priscilla Gibbins	Native Language Teacher
Diane Gustafson	Native Early Childhood
Michel Ishabid	Native Teacher Education
Mary Jane Jacob	Native Early Childhood
Mathew Lane	Marketing
Vanessa Legarde	Aboriginal Community Services Worker
Sara Levesque	Law and Security
Claire O'Nabigon	First Nations Principal Program
Amy Patabon	Child & Youth Worker
Nicole Pelletier	Practical Nursing
Corine Poulin	Native Early Childhood
Gloria Ranger	Hons.B.A. – Indigenous Learning
Jason Rasevych	International Business
Stephanie Ritch	Hons.B.S.W.
Faye Shebagabow	Native Early Childhood
Leon Shewaybick	Native Classroom Assistant
Tamara Simon	Master of Social Work
Phillip Jason Trottier	Hons.B.S.W.
Lorraine Whitehead	Business Administration



“After graduation you may feel that you are being sent off adrift in your canoe: just remember that you have earned your paddle and maps to guide you on to great things.”

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Administration, Finance and Information Technology (I/T) staff are responsible for a wide range of corporate support services.

Key Activities

Matawa welcomed two new employees to provide our own janitorial services and build property management capacity in lieu of outsourcing this year. Our reception and caretaking staff endeavor to show Members and guests a professional and pleasant workplace.

The finance department administers the bookkeeping and financial control functions needed to prepare the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2010 (see supplement). Matawa's consolidated financial statements combine Matawa First Nations Management Inc with Matawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Matawa First Nations Property Inc, Matawa Project Management Group Inc and Lynx North Engineering Inc. Overall we operated on a breakeven basis in 09/10; profits from our subsidiary companies are used to expand our services for otherwise unfunded or under-resourced activities.

Financially, Matawa will continue to operate on a break-even budgetary basis with gross revenues and expenditures of approximately \$8.5 million expected for 2010-2011 plus a major \$3 million capital project to begin construction of 24 new urban housing units.

Our I/T staff began a major upgrade in 2009/10 that includes the development of server and database capacity available for First Nation use in 2010/2011.

Administration, Finance and Information Technology Staff

Diane Dunford
Comptroller

Sarah Moonias
Receptionist

Rob Wesley
Systems Administrator

Celine Echum
Senior Finance Officer

Wendy Sandau
Finance Officer

Travis Boissoneau
Finance Officer

Elsie Frederickson
Caretaker

Andrew Baxter
Caretaker



A SUCCESS STORY: AROLAND FIRST NATION

Highest Number Of Graduates Recorded In Community's History

For the 2009-2010 year, the graduation rate in Aroland First Nation has reached an all-time high. The First Nation recognized six graduates from the community who successfully received their Ontario Secondary School Diploma in June. This is the highest number of graduates the community has ever seen.

Through the last couple of years, on average the community would have two to three graduates. First Nation leadership attributes this year's success to new support programs that have been implemented over the last five years.

Employment Councillor Robinson Meshake says the Luncheon Program is having the greatest effect of them all. The program partners the First Nation with an establishment that will provide lunch to Aroland students in High school. Reports indicate that a student's diet directly effects academic performance. The Aroland School Lunch program has proved to be a success, providing each student with a lunch on a regular basis, improving their behaviour in class, overall morale, and prepares students so they are ready to learn all afternoon.

Two other programs that Aroland First Nation has introduced to their students are the School Supplies and Gym Clothes Allowance initiatives. Both programs consist of the First Nation purchasing items for the students, (binders, pens, paper, gym clothes), to support them throughout their school semesters.

Meshake explains that the mindset of students has also changed tremendously, as youth understand the importance of education and the role it plays in providing opportunities for the future. Students are also encouraging the younger generation to attend school, go to class and serve as role models upon completion.

Aroland First Nation expects to have another six graduates again in 2011. Three of the students from this year's graduating class will be attending a post-secondary education facility, while the others will wait and explore their options.

A SUCCESS STORY: CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

New Post Office Opens In Community

For the first time in years, Constance Lake First Nation residents are now able to get their mail by just walking out their own front door. After going without postal service since December of 2008, a new post office officially opened in the community this past June.

The new facility is located directly beside the band office in the northern community and will employ all local people, providing on-site training for staff to oversee 350 mailboxes.

Chief and Council say the new facility is a direct result of more than a year of negotiating “tooth and nail” with Canada Post, that started moving forward after a special delivery made in September of 2009. On September 4th, 2009, more than fifty members of Constance Lake First Nation, including Chief

and Council, got the ball rolling by sending parcels to the President of Canada Post from the Canada Post Office located in Hearst, Ontario. They each sent a package containing a letter demanding for a meeting to take place to discuss a solution to the postal issues in the community. In total, more than three hundred boxes of all different shapes and sizes were sent.

At the time of the large shipment, community members were frequent visitors to the Hearst Post Office, forced to drive 80 kilometers to the town to pick up their mail on a regular basis.

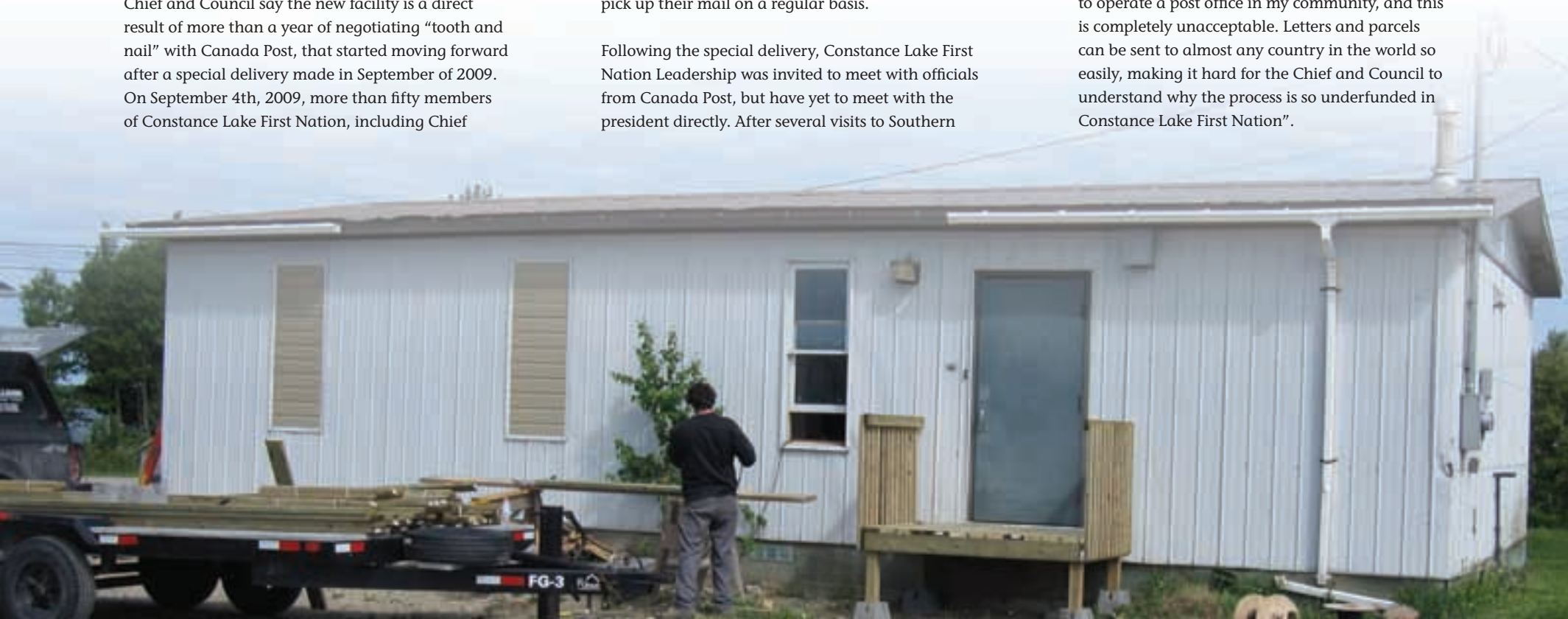
Following the special delivery, Constance Lake First Nation Leadership was invited to meet with officials from Canada Post, but have yet to meet with the president directly. After several visits to Southern



CONSTANCE LAKE
FIRST NATION

Ontario, Constance Lake received their wish, and were allocated funding for a new post office, however funding is still insufficient, but the desperation for the essential service left leadership with no other choice.

Constance Lake Chief Arthur Moore declares, “Canada Post refuses to provide sufficient funding to operate a post office in my community, and this is completely unacceptable. Letters and parcels can be sent to almost any country in the world so easily, making it hard for the Chief and Council to understand why the process is so underfunded in Constance Lake First Nation”.



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Key Success: Helicopter Joint Venture

In February 2010, the First Nations of Eabametoong, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58 and Neskantaga signed an agreement with Great Slave Helicopters Limited to develop a joint venture that would provide helicopter chartered air services in the Matawa region.

According to the agreement, Great Slave Helicopters will act as the operator of the business; providing aircraft(s), crews(s), engineering support, and other necessary management services, while the Matawa First Nations will be largely responsible for marketing the helicopter services to prospective clients within their territories. In addition to revenue sharing the new joint venture company has plans to lease a helicopter that is purchased by the First Nations. This will be a lucrative source of revenue for the First Nations.

Great Slave Helicopters has enjoyed mutually beneficial partnerships with several other First Nations over the past 20 years and this latest agreement brings forward many exciting benefits for all parties including profit sharing, training opportunities and youth scholarships.

In a press release at the time of signing of the agreement Chief Moonias of Neskantaga First Nation said: "We are optimistic about the potential of this partnership with Great Slave Helicopters, particularly considering the amount of mineral and mining activity that is in our traditional territories.

By providing helicopter services to these companies who wish to enter the remote north, our First Nations can begin to benefit from the growing presence in this sector."

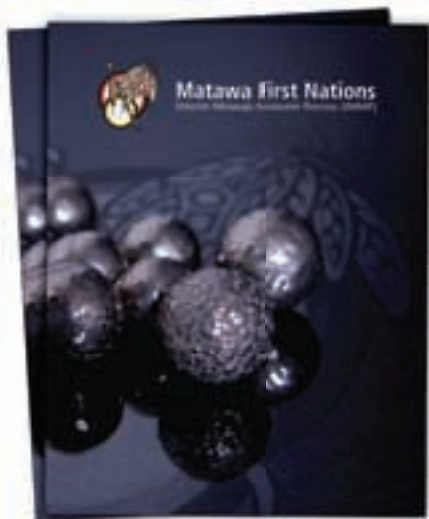
As more exploration occurs and a mine is eventually built, Matawa First Nations can expect to see more joint ventures and independent First Nation businesses take advantages of these new developments.

Key Success: Mineral Mining Symposium

In February 2010, the Matawa First Nations hosted a mineral mining symposium in Thunder Bay at the Italian Cultural Centre. The purpose of the symposium was to present and seek input on the Interim Mineral Measures Process, a how-to-guide on consulting First Nations on mineral exploration. The symposium was a major success attracting 130 participants from companies, government representatives, First Nations and service related



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Interim Mineral Measures Process document.

businesses. Many industry participants provided input to improve the how-to-guide. The input received will be taken into consideration at the next technical committee meeting.

The symposium received positive media coverage, which promotes the profile of our communities and the positions they take regarding mining exploration. Finally, the symposium was an excellent platform for networking with companies and meeting community leaders. An opportunity for interaction leads to building trust and working together for the betterment of all sides.

Key Success: Governance & Economic Development Conference

In March 2010, Matawa First Nations hosted the 2nd Annual Governance and Economic Development Conference. The event attracted people from First Nation communities, the mining industry, mining service related businesses, government and First Nation's youth. In total 150 delegates attended the conference and 300 attended the Gala. Approximately 37 people participated from the Matawa First Nations.

The purpose of the conference was to provide a network platform for participants to intermingle on important issues such as mineral exploration and mining, youth empowerment and to share information on the interdependence between community governance and economic growth. The feedback received after the conference indicates the conference was a success. The conference included several knowledgeable speakers and informational seminars related to governance and economic development.

Key Success: Regional Economic Strategic Plan

Aside from convening forums that are important to capacity building as outlined in the strategic plan, the plan also calls for the establishment of additional expertise in the Matawa First

Nation's office to assist the First Nations in all aspects of economic development. Recently the economic development department has been successful in obtaining funds to hire a full time mining advisor for the benefit of the communities. Constance Lake First Nation member, Raymond Ferris began work as the mining advisor on March 1, 2010. Raymond is available to all communities that require assistance on mining related matters.

Economic Development Staff

Brian Davey

Manager - Economic Development Advisor

Raymond Ferris

Mining Advisor



FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Activities

Financial Advisory Services acts as a conduit for community governance and management development. First Nations can access information, resources and workshops around election code, personnel and finance policy and management development. Over the past year, Community Governance has been one of the priority areas for member First Nations – individual projects undertaken over the past fiscal year include:

- An Election Code update;
- Personnel Policy overhauls and updates;
- Finance and Accounting Policy updates;
- Development of various Management and Staff Positions.

The Department will continue to be available for projects around Community Governance and Management development. Resources that are available include:

- Access to PolicyPro Manuals for Human Resources, Finance and Accounting and Information Technologies – for overhauls and updates;
- Advisory Services for Band Management;
- Advocacy and Advisory Services for INAC reporting and intervention issues;
- Job Descriptions and Interview Development;
- Workshops in Proposal Writing, Budgeting, Organizational Structure and Work Plan Development;

Other Achievements For 2009-2010:

- Community Governance and Economic Development Conference – March 2010
 - 150+ Participants from Matawa and Region;
 - 50% Youth Participation
 - Seminars and Speakers on Community Governance, Economic Development, Mining and other Resource Development and Youth Leadership
- PowerPoint on Careers in Finance and Management – Summer 2009
 - Prepared by Summer Student Cheyenne Patabon and presented to participants at the June 2009 Matawa Youth Conference



Patrick Cheechoo (left) and Ted Nolan (right)



Conference Planners with Ted Nolan

Financial Advisory Services Staff

Patrick Cheechoo
Manager

Cheyenne Patabon
Summer Student 2009

Zeatha Arcon
Community Governance & Economic
Development Conference Coordinator

Karen Wesley
Conference Assistant



A SUCCESS STORY: EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

First Nation Continues To Grow

Over the last year Eabametoong First Nation has seen incredible growth, expanding their community with the construction and upgrades of buildings in the community. The new buildings mean progress, strengthening the community for the youth and future generations to come, while also setting the tone for future development within the First Nation.

In the Fall of 2009, more space was created for visitors to the First Nation, with the construction of a new bunkhouse completed. The facility has increased accommodations at the Eabametoong Inn with additional space for thirteen guests.

The bunkhouse was originally built to support increased business volume generated by the Eabametoong Nursing Station construction project, however this new investment is also expected to generate some economic benefits for the First Nation. The upgrades will attract visitors, and allow guests to spend more time in the community.

In addition to the new bunkhouse work has also started on upgrades to the Kevin C. Sagutcheway Memorial Nursing Station. Construction on the facility began earlier this year which will double existing space.

The upgrades at the nursing station will help accommodate for significant demand in health services within the community, improving the lives of residents and the community. Eabametoong is now equipped with new resources needed to smoothly run day to day operations.



A SUCCESS STORY: GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

Purchase From The Past Expected To Revive The Future

A purchase made in partnership with Ginoogaming First Nation back in December of 2009 is proving to be a successful move. The First Nation's corporation, Rockyshore Development continues to work with the rest of the members of Kenogami Industries Inc. on plans to restart the waferboard mill on the former Kruger Industries site.

Last year Kenogami Industries Inc. announced the purchase of Kruger Industries, located in the community of Long Lac. The purchase included the transfer of land, buildings, equipment and wood assets.

At the time of the purchase, Ginoogaming First Nation and KII was interested in the development of value added products and forestry related opportunities, however it appears the production of the very familiar and traditional waferboard will be beneficial. With the recent downturn of the forestry industry many companies have converted into building Orientated Strand Board as opposed to Waferboard, except for the KII mill.

Recently it has been voiced that the new OSB product isn't vetting well with customers, leading to a large demand for waferboard, a wood blend that is commonly used to build furniture and is a substitute for plywood.

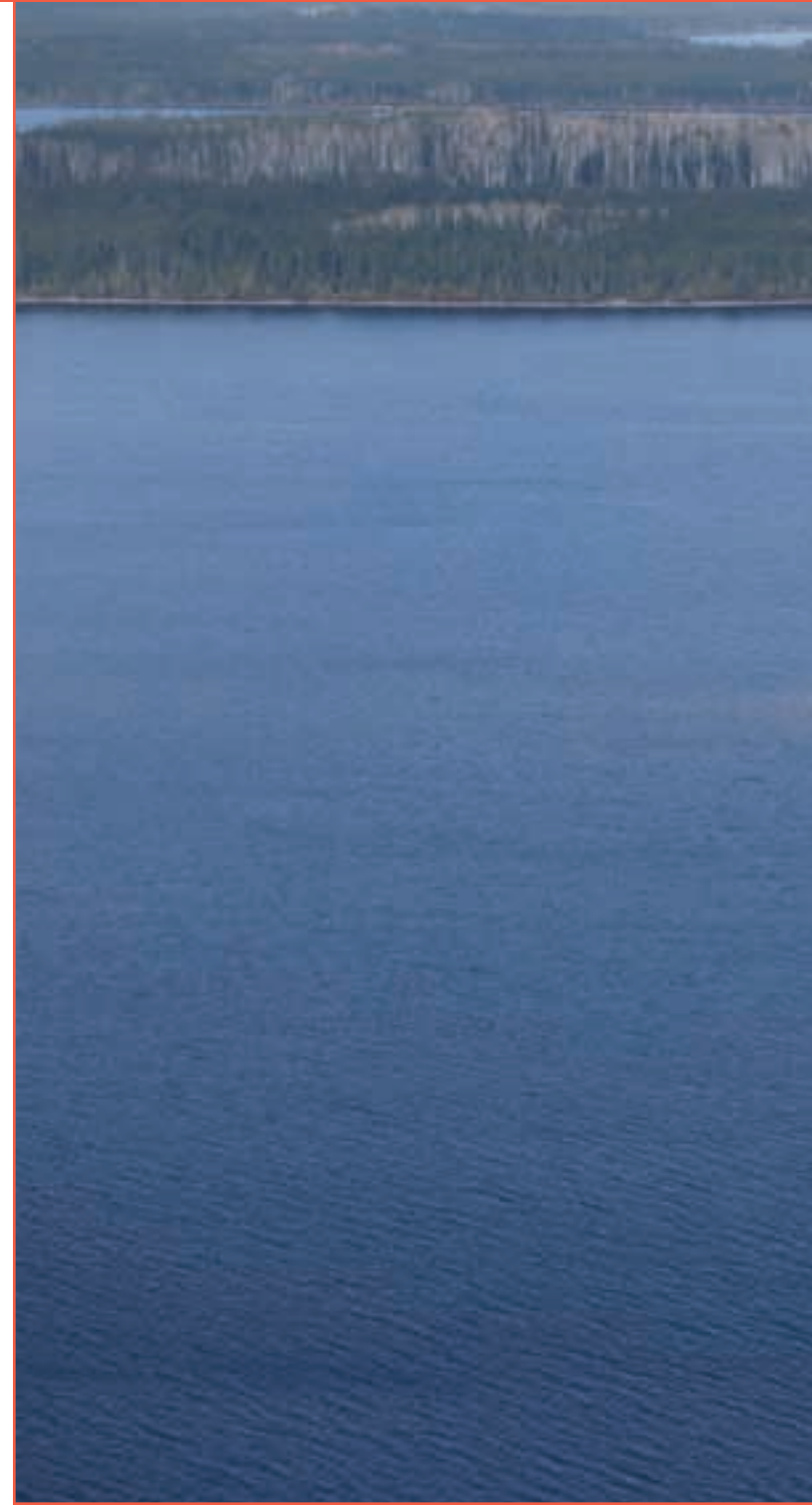
According to officials from KII, it wouldn't take a lot of investment to put the mill back into production. The



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

KII site is expected to create jobs and economic activity for Ginoogaming First Nation and the surrounding region. Chief Celia Echum said earlier this year that the purchase of Kruger Industries was "an opportunity we could not resist".

Kenogami Industries Inc. is a consortium made up of the Rockyshore Development Corporation of Ginoogaming First Nation, the Municipality of Greenstone and several private industry members. Economic Development Officer Adolph Rasevych is the president of Rockyshore Development and vice-president of the Kenogami Industries Inc. board.



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Key Success: Healthy Babies/Healthy Children Programs

The membership department and the HB/HC Programs for the First Nation's have collaborated in promoting and bringing awareness with birth registrations for expectant mothers, parents and caregivers. Through this program we are able to access and monitor updates on expectant mothers and children that are in the process of being registered with Service Ontario – Office Registrar General. This initiative is slowly taking effect.

Key Success: Aboriginal Birth Registration Initiative

This year Service Ontario along with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth has created a partnership to overcome barriers for birth registration in remote communities. This particular focus is to improve access to birth registration services and design, to increase awareness of birth registration for parents/caregivers in Aboriginal communities.

Service Ontario proposes to train AHBHC workers/FN representatives/others on where to access and how to complete registration forms. This will assist new parents/caregivers with information, forms and be able to provide access to government services on-line. Service Ontario will also offer on-going support to frontline workers.

In addition, Service Ontario has set up an Ambassador Networking with First Nation's frontline workers. Membership Clerks, Chiefs, etc. Matawa Department has joined this ambassador network. This networking initiative is provided through teleconference consultation.

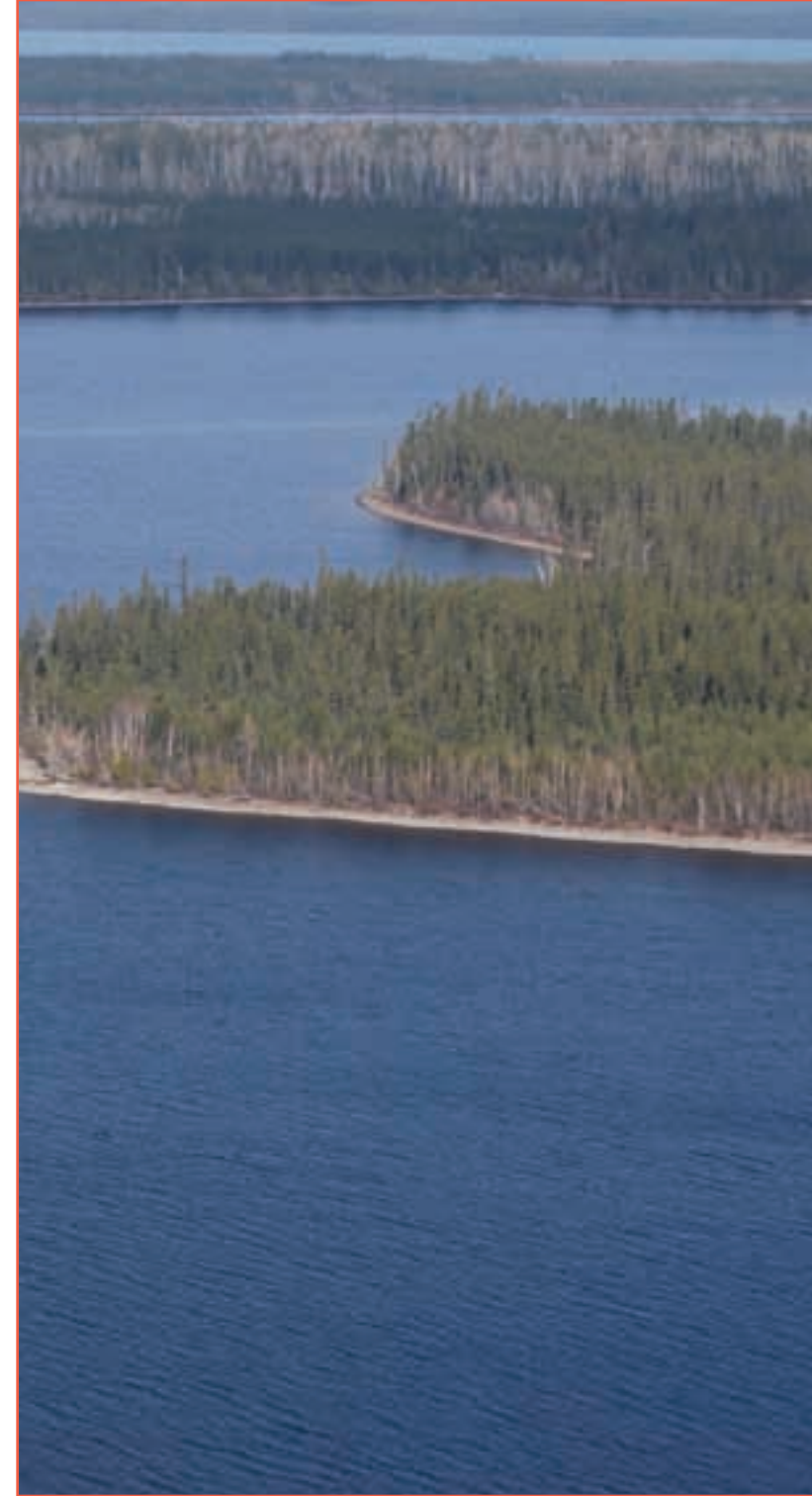
For further information regarding the Aboriginal Birth Registration Initiative, please contact Robert Blaquiere, Senior Consultant, Business and Service Department Branch-Service, Ontario: Robert.Blaquiere@ontario.ca

Update: New Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card Implementation

The NCIS implementation will not take effect this year, but the process continues. There isn't a definite release date as of yet, but the Indian Affairs Canada website has periodic updates on the new status card.

Matawa Membership Staff:

Barbara Rabbit



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS TECHNICAL SERVICES

Key Success:

Matawa Water Source Protection Project

As of September 30th, 2008, more than 100 First Nation communities across Canada were under Drinking Water Advisories (Health Canada, 2008). While Indian and Northern Affairs Canada had published the Protocol for Safe Drinking Water in First Nation Communities in 2006, which endorsed the multi-barrier approach (includes source water protection) prior to 2009, there had been no federal funding in the Matawa First Nation communities to initiate source water protection.

In 2009/10 Matawa Technical Services undertook the Matawa Source Water Protection Project. This project was delivered through a partnership between Health Canada, Lakehead University and Matawa First Nations Management. The intent of the Matawa Source Water Protection Project was to initiate source water protection planning in the communities of Nibinamik First Nation, Webequie First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, and Eabametoong First Nation.

Specifically the objectives of the project were to:

1. Identify, map and evaluate potential source of contaminants within 500m of community water intakes
2. Promote public involvement and awareness.
3. Evaluate the success of the project for improved delivery to other Matawa communities.

Specific project activities included:

- 3-4 community visits per community;
- Workshops held at community schools to educate the youth about source water protection and the importance of water resources;
- Delivery of source water brochures, posters, and children's worksheets to each community;
- Mapping of potential threats by GPS and GIS;
- Analysis of threats through GIS software and personal expertise;
- Development of source protection report which contained finding, discussion and identified required future work;
- Presentation of findings to each community.

The Matawa Source Protection Project was a significant project and should be celebrated as a success for many reasons:

- The project was pro-active in nature rather than reactive;
- For the first time Matawa Technical Services partnered with Lakehead University who brought resources and expertise to the project;
- Matawa First Nations Management purchased ArcInfo (GIS) and other important mapping/ data collection equipment for the project;

- Maps with potential threats to drinking water sources in four Matawa communities were developed and multiple GIS mapping layers were created for each community;
- For the first time federal funding was directed towards source water protection planning in Matawa First Nation communities;
- Information on water resources and source water protection was delivered to the youth in seventeen classes in Matawa First Nation community schools;
- A total of 391 sites with potential threats were identified in the four Matawa communities.

Other Achievements 2009-2010:

Water Treatability Studies were initiated in Eabametoong and Neskantaga First Nations. These studies will identify the recommended water treatment technology to provide safe potable water in the communities. Major capital upgrade projects will subsequently be required to complete the detailed design.

First Nations Specific and departmental activities are outlined in the 2009/2010 BOD annual program report.



Technical Services Staff:

Aaron Wesley
Operations and Maintenance Technician

Lindsey Jupp
Environmental Advisor

Sarah Cockerton
Environmental Scientist

Saverio Rizzo
Housing Coordinator

Sabrina Sutherland
Administrative Assistant

Wesley Bova
Manager, Technical Services



“The Matawa Source Protection Project was a significant project and should be celebrated as a success for many reasons...”

A SUCCESS STORY: LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION

Long Lake #58 First Nation Welcomes The World To Their Website

Long Lake #58 First Nation has launched a new website that will not only promote the community but also assist membership by providing up to date information and news. The site www.longlake58fn.ca is designed to reflect the community's beliefs and values, while proudly showcasing the history of the First Nation and events with the visitors. Research was conducted on the community and the results have influenced the new website design and content.

The Long Lake #58 First Nation website is very innovative, delivering important messages to the right audience. The interactive website features sections titled:

- About Us
- Chief & Council
- Community Services
- Business Services
- Recreation & Events
- News

These tabs make community information readily available to those who need it and help users quickly get the information requested with as few mouse clicks as possible. The home page also features a section called "Links" - that connects visitors with suggested sites to help them receive further information in relation to the First Nation.

Long Lake #58 First Nation is very proud to launch their new website and showcase the community to the world wide web.



A SUCCESS STORY: MARTEN FALLS & WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION

Ring Of Fire Blockade Extinguished: Deemed A Success

Two Matawa First Nations communities joined forces over the winter months in attempt to get a voice in how the area known as the Ring of Fire will be developed.

Back in January, a two month blockade was set up by Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations, on two landing strips used by mining companies near Koper Lake. Community leadership voiced that exploration on traditional territory was getting out of hand, and communities were not benefiting from any development, which they couldn't allow to continue.

The protest blocked any access to the Ring of Fire, and put a halt on any activity on traditional First Nations territory.

After only days of standing, the blockade proved to be very successful, gaining national attention through several media stories, and resulted in the First Nations meeting with mining and mineral companies active in the Ring of Fire area, and government officials. After weeks of negotiations, a memorandum of understanding outlining community issues and concerns that needed to be met before the blockade was resolved was presented to both groups. It was made very clear that as caretakers of the land, if there is going to be any development on First Nations lands, each community needed to play an active role throughout the entire process.

On Friday March the 19th, Chief Cornelius Wabasse and Chief Elijah Moonias arrived at Koper Lake

to officially lift the blockade by taking down their community flags. This followed a visit to their communities by the Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry. Many First Nations Chiefs continue to voice that there is opportunity for development in the Ring of Fire, and there is opportunity to do it right with proper planning, protecting the environment, and creating equal partnerships.

The Province of Ontario has identified the Ring of Fire area as something that can revive the economy of the Northwest Region. Earlier this year, Premier Dalton McGuinty stated that the province has a key goal to develop the Ring of Fire, saying it will help northern residents to flourish and prosper.

The Ring of Fire is known as an area that holds some of the wealthiest mineral potential in Canada.



MATAWA HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Key Success: Integrated Programs

The continuation of annualized program funding from First Nations & Inuit Health for Health Coordination, Nishnawbe Aski Nation/Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Strategy for Crisis Intervention Worker Program, Ministry of Community Social Services (Violence Against Women) for the Transitional Housing Support Program and the support by the First Nations and the Matawa Health and Social Services Task Group Nations contributes to the overall key successes undertaken by the Health and Social Program team. Our approach promotes holistic, culturally appropriate, integrated and community-based programs and services.

Key Success: Youth Suicide Prevention Program

Six First Nation communities benefited from this youth program. Youth Activities Coordinators were hired by their First Nation to coordinate activities for youth in their communities. Activities delivered included sports, cultural/traditional teachings, crafts/game/computer nights, youth participation and helping at community events: pow wows, Regalia making, hunting festivals, wilderness camps, drug awareness week and attending workshops/training/community presentations.



Key Success: On-Line Pilot Health Education

Implementation of the last phase of a three-year project resulted in fifteen registered front line workers and of those, six participants for the on-site instruction. One worker completed modules 1-5, four completed modules 1-4 and one completed modules 1-3. One challenge identified was the lack of available technology. All participants preferred and enjoyed the face-to-face instruction session. The training was coordinated in conjunction with Matawa Education.

Key Success: Mamow-Anokiida Gathering

The theme of this gathering was “Sharing Knowledge & Wisdom-Past Present-Future” –understanding where we came from, how it effects us today and how we can help ourselves and others in our healing journeys. The gathering brought in 33 frontline workers to learn more about issues related to Family Violence, about Case Management and Self Care. The success is a result of the participants’ willingness to share their experience and knowledge and incorporate cultural and traditional knowledge into modern theories and practices.

Other Achievements 2009-2010:

- Contributing to the development of resources (DVDs) for First Nation
- Networking, building partnerships and collaborating with various health groups, committees and First Nations locally and regionally

- Continued on-going development of the Matawa Health Web Site and promotion of People in Health Careers of Matawa
- Capacity Building and Training events for Matawa Health Staff and Community Health Staff
- (10+ Various training sessions)
- Contributing to the establishment of Thunder Bay Youth Intervention Task Group (City Wide) which is now on-going
- Supporting initiatives undertaken by groups and individuals-“Youth Healing Walk-09”

Matawa Health And Social Services Staff:

Francine Pellerin
Health Director

Luke Sagutch
Regional Crisis Team Coordinator



MATAWA EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Key Successes 2009 - 2010

The Matawa Employment and Training department has developed and implemented a number of youth initiatives and employment strategies to promote youth engagement and job training.

- **The Matawa Youth Working Committee** has been created with the objective to lay the foundation for the Matawa Youth Council. Meetings have taken place to complete the framework for the youth council as recommended in the resolution from the 2008 Annual General Meeting.
- **First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program (FNNRYEP)** is an initiative offered through Confederation College, Outland Inc. and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Matawa Employment and Training sponsored six youth from our communities to embark on this seven-week program with a focus on forestry and mining education, combined with training and work experience in silviculture, mineral explorations and natural resources.
- **Christine Savignac** embarked in a Pre-Apprentice Electrical Program at College Boreal. Christine is a member of Long Lake #58 First Nation, is a single parent of one child and has successfully completed this 36 week program in Sudbury. This is the beginning of Christine's career goals; which is to be a full certified Electrician.
- **Nathan Solomon** attended a Heavy Equipment Operator Program at

Northwestern Transport and Heavy Equipment Training Centre. Nathan is a member of Aroland First Nation and has successfully completed the five-week training program in Thunder Bay. Nathan has achieved a certificate to operate heavy equipment machinery such as backhoe/loader, dozer and excavator.

- **Forrest Shapwaykeesic** achieved his Grade 12 Diploma at the Lakehead Adult Education Centre. Forrest is a member of Eabametoong First Nation and has successfully obtained his grade 12 diploma in Thunder Bay. Forrest realized that achieving his grade 12 at any age, will open more doors in the near future.
- **Natasha Shaganash** attended the Personal Support Worker Program at Everest College. Natasha is a member of Ginoogaming First Nation and has successfully completed the 26-week program in Thunder Bay. Natasha is a mother of three, and has achieved a diploma on her career path, which is a goal she has set for herself and family. Upon completion of her diploma, Natasha is currently working with the City of Thunder Bay at Grandview Lodge.



Other Achievements 2009 – 2010

- **Aboriginal Workforce Development & Maintenance Program (AWDMP) Level III.** The training was held on August 17-28, 2009 in Ginoogaming First Nation. Trainers; Peter Rasevych and Joanne Mendowegan assisted 15 community members.
- **Aroland Grade 12 Equivalency Diploma program;** a 12 week program that was delivered by Confederation College and Oshki-Pimache-O-Win and was attended by 25 youth in Aroland First Nation. Upon completion of the program, a celebration to mark the dedication and commitment of 25 participants was shared by community Matawa Employment and Training staff, guest speakers and booths from educational organizations.
- Nibinamik First Nation Grade 12 Equivalency Diploma program; 20 community members' completed the program.

- Healing Centre Project- Eabametoong First Nation** – There were three crew leaders who supervised the nineteen youth trainees. Participants received training in log harvesting, brush/trial cutting, and landscaping was done at the Healing Centre Site. Each participant acquired knowledge in log cabin construction, chainsaw safety practices & tool safety procedures.
- Traditional & Life Skills Youth Training 2009** - The Marten Falls community created and implemented a program that focused on living off the land for six weeks through traditional practice. Elders and community members who are skilled trappers and hunters passed on traditional survival skills to the youth participants. The communication gap was bridged between the generation of youth and elders as well as regaining life skills for the younger generation.
- Youth Empowerment Conference June 9 -11th 2009** was held at the Nor' Wester Hotel and focused on educational pathways and promoted careers in various fields. Youth in attendance had the opportunity to speak with organizations at the career fair and attended a banquet to end the conference.
- Matawa Employment & Training** has contributed funds to be one of the main sponsors for two Matawa Conferences; the Governance & Summer Mentorship Program.

MET Staff:

Morris Wapoose
Manager, Employment & Training

Doris Wabasse
Program Administrator

Marietta Patabon
Administrative Assistant

Joanne Cheechoo
Employment & Training Coordinator

Beedahbin Buswa
Matawa Youth Coordinator



A SUCCESS STORY: NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

Commemorative Residential School Walk

Neskantaga First Nation members Ronnie and wife Nancy Moonias have been planning to take on a very important journey for the last five years, and 2010 was the year they chose to complete it.

On June 2nd, the couple was joined by other First Nations members on a trek that would take them from Nakina to Thunder Bay Ontario by foot, in hopes to honour those lost in the residential school system.

The walkers spent seven days travelling to Thunder Bay, walking a total of 412 kilometers. Along the way they were looking to raise awareness about the residential school era and the despair former students have gone through and still endure on a daily basis.

With the courage to support each other, the Moonias' explained that they organized the walk with a goal to regain a healthy lifestyle for the younger generation- present and future. They saw the walk as an opportunity to experience healing and move forward.

Many generations have suffered from the legacy of residential schools even though some have not personally attended the schools. Walker Daniel Magiskan of Aroland First Nation, grew up not knowing he had a lost a brother. Magiskan was 20 years old when he learned about his brother who had gone away to a residential school and never came back.

The Commemorative Residential School Walk was completed in Thunder Bay on June 9th. The group was recognized later that night at the Matawa First Nations Youth Summit event.



A SUCCESS STORY: NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION

Youth Wellness Retreat

After an entire decade an event geared toward youth in Nibinamik First Nation is still running strong. The Youth Wellness Retreat Program that was started back in 1999 continues to be held year after year in the month of July, twenty-five minutes away from the community at a campsite.

The special four-day retreat was developed to enhance traditional and land base knowledge and features local leadership, elders, and community members teaching youth about survival skills and the ways of life. The teachings reflect community values with a goal to bring back the teachings from the past.

During the retreat, youth participate in a variety of activities such as fish netting, boat safety lessons, and canoeing. The event also includes a cultural component that has youth explore herbal medicine, wellness, healing, and a living a healthy life style.

Historically, the Youth Wellness Retreat was started by two elders who had concerns about the unhealthy lifestyle many youth in the community began to live. They wanted to help the youth learn about community values and their culture, so they organized and planned the inaugural retreat that has since grown into a very successful annual event.

Over the years 60 to 100 youth participate in the event every summer, with the entire community coming together year after year with one common goal: to provide survival skills to youth for their future.



6.0 | SUCCESS STORIES:

MATAWA CORPORATIONS

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MATAWA PROJECT MANAGEMENT GROUP INC. (MPMG)

Key Successes

Eabametoong

Commenced construction of 7,225 square-foot addition to Nursing Station and renovation of existing building. The new facility will be more than double the existing space.

Constructed a thirteen bed bunkhouse addition to the Eabametoong Inn to support increased business volume generated by the Nursing Station project.

Neskantaga

Constructed 7,154 square-foot Multipurpose Complex to replace former recreation centre.

Other Achievements

Nibinamik

Completed school fire alarm repairs and school property hydrology study.

Secured construction contract for School repairs for summer 2010.

Aroland

Secured commitment to address School and WTP deficiencies.

Eabametoong

Secured funding and completed Nurses' Duplex repairs and site drainage improvements.

Secured funding and completed HVAC controls upgrade for the Eabametoong Education Authority. Secured funding and completed installation of new fuel storage tank for the Eabametoong Education Authority

Assisting Tech Unit with the Remedial Investigations & Options Analysis Project.

Assisted Tech Unit with Lift Station #3 Emergency.

Drafted plan for new Community Centre.

Drafted plan for Band Office addition.

Neskantaga

Secured teacherage repairs commitment.

Webequie

Assisting Tech Unit with Remedial Investigations & Options Analysis Project.



MPMG Staff

Dan Ugray

Manager/Project Coordinator

Chris MacDonald

Project Assistant

Sabrina Sutherland

Part-time Reception/Admin Assistant

Tom Friday

Purchasing / Expeditor

MPMG also has access to specialty services of a variety of consulting engineers and subcontractors as our projects require.

Matawa Non-Profit Housing Activities

Matawa secured provincial stimulus renovation and retrofit grants of \$129,700 to improve our existing 12 social housing units in Thunder Bay. In 2009-2010, new appliances, smoke/CO alarms and toilets were installed with work on insulation, exteriors and heating systems to continue in 2010/2011.

Matawa has been awarded grants of \$3.3 million from the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation to construct 24 new rent-geared-to-income housing units in Thunder Bay as part of the First Nations Inuit and Métis Urban Rental Housing initiative.

Total revenues for 2009/10 = \$210,217;
Expenditures = \$196,362

Matawa First Nations Property Inc. Activities

As the investment company that owns the office building at 233 South Court Street in Thunder Bay, we continue to make progress in retiring the mortgage to cement full ownership – the final mortgage payment is scheduled for November 2011.

Total rental revenues for 2009 = \$286,556;
Expenditures = \$284,034

Lynx North Engineering Inc.

Activities

The liquidation of assets and settlement of liabilities was finalized in February 2010 with that corporation proceeding to a successful dissolution.

Final dividend distribution to Matawa \$34,690;
to Larry Pond \$6,500



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS | ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT | 2009-2010

Prepared for the 22nd Annual General Meeting | July 27th-29th, 2010

Hosted by Neskantaga First Nation



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