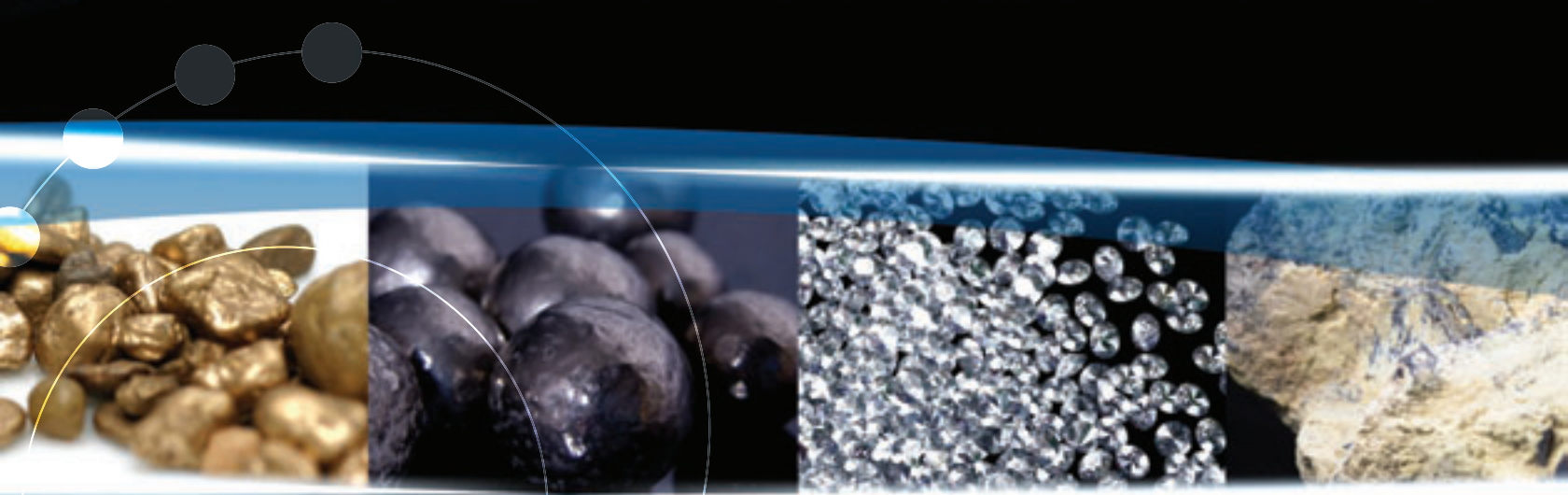


Matawa First Nations
Economic
Development
Resource Guide





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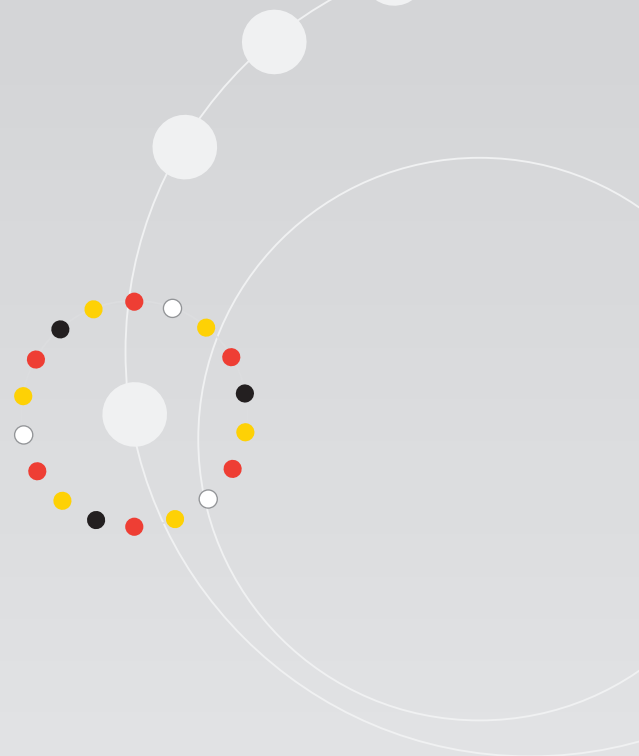


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MESSAGE FROM THE MATAWA FIRST NATIONS



The Matawa First Nations traditional territory is the most active mineral exploration region in Ontario and home to more than 10,000 Matawa people. Together and individually, Matawa First Nations are working to capitalize on the natural and human resources that make our communities attractive to a range of industries.

Matawa First Nations are both road and remote access communities located in and around the Ring of Fire near McFaulds Lake in Northern Ontario. The Ring of Fire includes traditional hunting, trapping and fishing territories of five Matawa First Nations - Marten Falls, Eabametoong, Neskantaga, Webequie and Aroland First Nations.

We are progressive people who recognize the need and potential benefits of building a globally competitive mineral industry in the Ring of Fire. As individual First Nations and as a regional group, we also want to benefit from any future developments on our traditional lands.

Since time immemorial, Matawa First Nations people have lived as stewards over these precious lands and natural resources. At the same time, we have depended on these resources for essential shelter, food, water, clothing, recreation, transportation and trade commodities. Given our historic, ancestral, customary, inherent and treaty relationship with the lands, the Matawa people will feel the greatest impact from any future developments.

As a regional group, Matawa First Nations often work cooperatively on shared priorities to maximize our regional resources and to leverage our common assets. This regional approach to economic development seeks to build strong partnerships with industry stakeholders while prioritizing individual community autonomy.

Matawa First Nations are people of many faces, talents and strengths. By working together and building new industry relationships, we hope to create communities where growth, prosperity and opportunities flourish for all today and in the future.

In the spirit of cooperation

Matawa First Nation



FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

In 2007, Matawa First Nations established three broad regional priorities; Economic Strength, Educational Strength and Social Strength. Building Economic Strength refers to the health and opportunities available in the regional economy and includes developing factors such as diversified employment, a skilled workforce, competitiveness, investment and industry partnerships.

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS VISION

We will be prosperous and enriched First Nations both individually and collectively. By creating enhanced social and economic opportunities for everyone, the Matawa First Nations will reach their maximum potential and have confidence in the future.

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS WORK TOGETHER

We have opportunities to grow and reach our maximum potential as a regional group. The diversity within our regional communities is valued and a source of local and regional pride. We are proactively involved in the economic, social, cultural and political development of the Matawa territory.

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS ARE DYNAMIC AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

We integrate modern social and economic development practices with our traditional culture and heritage. We build capacity and economic wealth for present and future generations and are well positioned to succeed in the national economy.

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS UPHOLD QUALITY OF LIFE

We invest and protect our quality of life – socially, economically, culturally and environmentally and ensure that the Matawa First Nations are prosperous and healthy communities in which to live, work and raise a family.

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MISSION

Matawa First Nations are committed to supporting each other and focusing our collective efforts on core strategic priorities. By working together as a regional community, we will use our combined knowledge and resources in order to champion the social and economic vitality of our First Nations and invest in community and people building.

ABOUT MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

Matawa First Nations is a Tribal Council of nine (9) Ojibway and Cree First Nation communities in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) territory, located in Northern Ontario.

The name 'Matawa' was originally chosen by the Chiefs because in the Ojibway and Cree languages it is used to refer to the meeting of the rivers. All of the Matawa First Nations inhabit areas on or near one of the major rivers that flow in the vast Nishnawbe Aski Nation. In all of the remote Matawa First Nations both English and the local languages are commonly spoken. In the road access communities, many of the younger people speak English exclusively.



Road Access

(accessible via major provincial Highways)

- Aroland First Nation
- Constance Lake First Nation
- Ginoogaming First Nation
- Long Lake #58 First Nation

Remote Access

(accessible via air only or winter road)

- Eabametoong First Nation
- Neskantaga First Nation
- Marten Falls First Nation
- Nibinamik First Nation
- Webequie First Nation



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

GEOGRAPHIC PROFILES



Aroland First Nation

Aroland First Nation is located 352 kilometers northeast of the City of Thunder Bay and 78 kilometers north of Geraldton. Aroland is located on the Kowkash River 16 kilometers east of the highway and is accessible by road.



CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

Constance Lake First Nation

The Constance Lake community is linked by an all-weather road to the Trans-Canada Highway. Its closest community is Hearst, just 40 kilometres away. At present, Constance Lake receives a majority of its administrative and financial services from the cities of Thunder Bay and Timmins.



Eabametoong First Nation

Eabametoong First Nation (also known as Fort Hope) is located on the shores of Eabamet Lake in the Albany River system. The community location is approximately 240 kilometres north of Beardmore and is accessible by airplane, water or winter/ice roads.



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

Ginoogaming First Nation

Ginoogaming First Nation is located 1km south of Longlac, Ontario on Highway 11. Ginoogaming First Nation is situated near the Kenogami River and is accessible by year round roads.



LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION

Long Lake #58 First Nation

Long Lake #58 First Nation is located approximately 35 kilometres northeast of the Town of Geraldton, Ontario. Long Lake #58 is fully accessible by road and is situated just off of Highway 11.

Marten Falls First Nation

Marten Falls First Nation is accessible by air or a seasonal winter road when the weather permits. The nearest year-round road access is the town of Nakina, located 100 km south.



Neskantaga First Nation

Neskantaga First Nation is remotely located on Attawapiskat Lake, 280km north of Geraldton, 180km northeast of Pickle Lake, and 271km northeast of Thunder Bay. The First Nation can be accessed fly-in or by winter roads.



Neskantaga First Nation

Nibinamik First Nation

Nibinamik is remotely located 390 km north of Sioux Lookout, 530 km north of Thunder Bay, 370 km northeast of Red Lake and 655 km northeast of Winnipeg. Nibinamik is accessible by air transportation and the winter road network.



Webequie First Nation

Webequie First Nation is remotely located on Winisk Lake, 540 kilometers northeast of the city of Thunder Bay, or 450 kilometers north of the town of Sioux Lookout. The community is accessible by air or by a seasonal winter road. The nearest year-round road access is the town of Pickle Lake, 250 km to the southwest, or the town of Nakina, 320 km to the southeast.



WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Positive working relationships with the Matawa First Nations region requires industry to follow a First Nation-led process of cooperation, consultation, accommodation and planning, which recognizes the rights of those First Nations geographically closest to the development.

The priority issues for the Matawa First Nations regional group are:

- Environmental stewardship and mitigating impacts
- Values collection and land use planning
- Education, training and employment benefits
- Infrastructure support
- Resource Benefit Sharing through ownership options, contracts, joint ventures and business opportunities
- Resource Revenue Sharing
- Co-management of the land with Ontario

Conditions

All of the Matawa First Nations have community development plans and are part of a Matawa-wide regional economic development and minerals strategy.

The economies of individual Matawa First Nations are supplemented by a number of privately and community owned businesses, such as gas stations, convenience stores, tourism outpost camps and video outlets. Each First Nation has its own Economic Development Corporation and Economic Development Officer (EDO) to run and oversee its First Nation business interests.

From a regional perspective, Matawa First Nations have participated in the development of organizations and businesses integral to economic development. These include: sector-specific organizations, business ventures and action plans; First Nations funds and financing institutions; First Nations education, training and human resource development organizations; and First Nations policy, political and advocacy groups.

In envisioning a regional approach to economic development, Matawa First Nations have a very clear advantage: they have good relationships with each other and a history of collectively undertaking successful business projects.

Regional Priorities

Regional economic priorities for Matawa First Nations focus on resource development opportunities, such as forestry, mining and hydro although the development of a collective wholesale food distribution business also figures prominently. With respect to forestry, a number of Matawa communities are interested in exploring the creation of a regional forestry organization that would hold a Sustainable Forestry License. They are similarly interested in working together with Ontario Power Generation and others to develop wind and water energy. To this end, communities are interested in or are actively discussing joint activities with a variety of industry partners.





BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Regional business opportunities in the Matawa First Nations include:

- Mining

Prospecting, drilling (nickel, gold, chromite and diamond).
- Energy Development

Power generation innovations, transmission lines, renewable energy specifically wind and water, and heat transfer technologies.
- Forestry

Bio-fibre, bio-mass, saw mills, logging, value-added products.
- Tourism & Hospitality

Hotels, Inns, Lodges, Outposts, Fly-in Fishing Camps, Conference Centres, Food Services, Housekeeping.
- Training

Apprenticeships and work placements.
- Transportation

Fuel facilities, airstrips, airline carriers, helicopters, helipads, aviation storage, trucking, service facilities.
- Wholesale

Foods, artwork, crafts, and clothing.

REGIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Matawa First Nations Tribal Council operates a not for profit corporation that provides advisory services and programs that can directly assist economic development initiatives in Matawa First Nations. The Matawa First Nations Corporation was formed in 1988 and operates from two office locations; a head office in Ginoogaming First Nation and a branch office located in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

ADVISORY SERVICES

Department of Economic Development

Assists in the preparation of regional and community economic development strategies. Provides economic information and analysis on business opportunities within Matawa First Nations. Staff is able to respond to specific requests for information from the public and private sector.

Department of Communications

Develop communication plans to help educate and inform Matawa First Nations about potential developments and initiatives in their traditional territory. Creates and provides access to communication materials.

Department of Technical Services

Provides advisory services and counseling, technical information, publications and educational materials. Staff is able to respond to specific requests for information from the public and private sector.

Department of Employment & Training

Designed to secure funding and grant programs for individuals seeking employment, apprenticeships and training opportunities. Works with the private sector to anticipate future workforce development and training needs.

Department of Finance

Provides tools, supports and training to First Nations to develop and establish policies, plans and practices for economic development, business management, governance, stability, leadership development, and community capacity development.

FOR PROFIT CORPORATIONS

Matawa project Management Group (MPMG)

Provides professional assistance to Matawa First Nations in the planning, development and management of capital projects.

Matawa First Nations Property

Acquires and manages property on behalf of Matawa First Nations.

Matawa Non Profit Housing Corporation

Provides and operates housing accommodation and commercial space or buildings for persons of low or modest income.



CONTACT US

The best way to obtain information about regional business opportunities in Matawa First Nations is by contacting the Matawa Economic Development Advisor:

Tel: 1 (807) 344-4575
Fax: 1 (807) 344-2977

Matawa First Nations
233 South Court Street,
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2X9

www.matawa.on.ca



For information about opportunities in individual Matawa First Nations, we encourage you to directly contact the Chief in the respective First Nation Band Office:

Aroland First Nation

P.O. Box 10 Aroland
ON P0T 1B0
1 (807) 329-5970

Marten Falls First Nation

Ogoki
ON P0T 2L0
1 (807) 349-2509

Constance Lake First Nation

P.O. Box 4000 Calstock
ON POL 1B0
1 (705) 463-4511
www.cfn.on.ca

Neskantaga First Nation

P.O. Box 105 Lansdowne House
ON, P0T 1Z0
1 (807) 479-2570

Eabametoong First Nation

P.O. Box 298 Eabamet
ON, P0T 1L0
1 (807) 242-7221
www.eabametoong.firstnation.ca

Nibinamik First Nation

Summer Beaver
ON, P0T 3B0
1 (807) 593-2131
www.nibinamik.com

Ginogaming First Nation

P.O. Box 89, Long Lac
ON, P0T 2A0
1 (807) 876-2242

Webequie First Nation

PO BOX 176 Webequie
ON, P0T 3A0
1 (807) 353-5251
www.webequie.ca

Long Lake # 58 First Nation

PO Box 609, Longlac
ON, P0T 2A0
1 (807) 876-2292

