



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Matawa Non-Profit Housing Begins Construction on 24 New Units following Funding Announcement

**Thunder Bay, ON, November 12th, 2010** - Matawa First Nations and Matawa Non-Profit Housing recognized major funding from Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) today. A celebration was held by the two organizations this morning to mark the start of construction of 24 new housing units, which are being built in the City of Thunder Bay. The housing units are a direct result of funding announced by the OAHS earlier this year to assist Aboriginal peoples living in the community.

President of Matawa First Nations Non-Profit Housing, Wayne Moonias says; “Affordable, available and appropriate housing is difficult to find right across the country. These new units will provide essential housing support for many low-income families who need a supportive environment to live in.”

The 24 units will be rented to off-reserve Aboriginal peoples and is a part of a \$11.7 million funding initiative for Aboriginal housing by OAHS. Over \$3.37 million was allocated to Matawa Non-Profit Housing.

“By working with off-reserve Aboriginal communities, we are helping those who need it the most,” said the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Projects like this are an important part of our Open Ontario plan to stimulate the economy by creating jobs and supporting local businesses in Thunder Bay. These units will make a positive difference in the lives of off-reserve Aboriginal people, and will be an excellent addition to the community. ”





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Don McBain, OAHS Executive Director, comments, “The funding from OAHS and the First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban & Rural (FIMUR) Program will build 24 new houses that are desperately needed. These houses will provide safe, affordable homes for self-identifying Aboriginal people and their families who are living off-reserve in Thunder Bay.”

During today’s event, Matawa First Nations representatives along with dignitaries and OAHS officials signed a commemorative piece of lumber that will be built into one of the units.

Matawa First Nations CEO David Paul Achneepineskum says; “This isn’t just an ordinary two-by-four...with all of these signatures, it symbolizes what can be achieved when we work together. It also signifies our mutual commitment to building strong foundations for families and children.”

Matawa First Nations Non-Profit Housing Corporation is a social housing provider that currently has four 2-bedroom and eight 3-bedroom semi-detached homes in their Thunder Bay housing portfolio. Units are available to eligible families with low or modest incomes.

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