



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Northern Ontario First Nations Ready to Negotiate for Northern Economic Development**

**Northern Ontario.** The Chiefs and representatives of nine (9) Northern Ontario First Nations are participating in the 2008 Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) International Convention, Tradeshow and & Investors Exchange-Mining Investment Show held March 2-5 at the Toronto Convention Centre. Their investment in the tradeshow is aimed at attracting and generating investment and partnerships in leading edge community economic development initiatives.

Economic development is a key priority for the group of First Nations. They recognize that partnerships will allow them to develop sustainable and prosperous communities, and be a catalyst to overcome their current challenges such as unemployment, and lack of infrastructure.

They are a pioneering example of pro-development First Nations in Ontario. For example: Webequie First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation have successfully established favourable relationships with three mining companies that are currently in the process of exploration.

Current initiatives include mineral exploration partnerships with Spider Resources Ltd., Noront Resources Ltd. and MacDonald Mines Exploration. These mining companies are





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half-way through the exploration process as finding mineral deposits proves to be endless. The mining companies have identified that First Nations traditional territories offer opportunities for exploration in: nickel, copper, zinc, platinum, gold, silver, rhodium, cobalt, and diamonds.

Chief Scott Jacob of Webequie First Nation says, "Together, as a community, we are ready to move forward with joint venture partnerships in mining and exploration. Over 20 mining companies have already staked claims in our traditional territories, and that number continues to grow. The future prosperity of Ontario's First Nation communities and the people of the province lie in the economic development of Northern Ontario's natural resources. Our First Nations are willing and ready to do business in Ontario and beyond."

Webequie First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation are two (2) of nine (9) Matawa First Nations communities. Matawa First Nations is a Tribal Council with a membership of nine (9) Ojibway and Cree First Nations communities in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory. All nine (9) Matawa First Nations communities will be represented at the 2008 PDAC conference.

Representatives from each First Nation will be available at PDAC to engage in discussions and explore partnership development opportunities.

*The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) is a national association representing the interests of the mineral exploration and development industry. The association, which includes individual and corporate members, was established in March 1932.*





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