



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Matawa First Nations attends Prospectors & Developers Association Convention to Convey a Clear Message to Government and Industry***

**Toronto ,ON, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011-** For the fourth consecutive year, a Matawa First Nations delegation is taking part in the Prospectors and Developers Association Convention. Chiefs and representatives of the Northern Ontario First Nations communities are amongst the delegates in attendance at this year's event, with a goal of raising awareness about their First Nation communities' positions on mining and development.

Currently the Matawa region is the most active mineral exploration region in Northern Ontario, with hundreds of mining and mineral companies working in First Nation's traditional territories, particularly in an area known as the Ring of Fire, home of the world's largest chromite deposit.

Close to 100 mining companies have staked claims in the Ring of Fire, and several companies are reporting that they are in advanced stages of exploration. The Ring of Fire development has led to several concerns for Matawa First Nations revolving around the impacts of exploration and mining on their communities for a number of years.

Concerns are based on the escalating impacts of a wide range of issues including socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts such as water quality, clear cutting and impacts to wildlife populations. The concerns have also focused on potential benefits such as employment, new business and training opportunities for local people.





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Chief Arthur Moore of Constance Lake First Nation says; “Matawa First Nations is here to get a very clear message to industry and government and that is to work with us. Currently there is a lack of government and industry consultation in the planning and development processes taking place in the Ring of Fire. We need cooperation from both sides of the table, and we also want to make the industry aware that the First Nations people want to create an environment where all parties involved can thrive.”

Matawa First Nations is one of the original First Nations groups to participate in the annual PDAC convention.

***Matawa First Nations tradeshow booth at the PDAC is #750.***

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**Notes to the Editor:**

- Matawa First Nations is a Tribal Council with a membership of nine (9) Ojibway and Cree First Nations communities in North Central Ontario.

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