



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Matawa First Nations Youth Summit 2010: Looking into the Future*

**Thunder Bay ON, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010-** First Nations youth are gathering in Thunder Bay, Ontario, this week to take a trip into the future. Matawa First Nations kicked off their annual Youth Summit today attracting youth from all across the North. The theme of the Summit is “20-10”; a conference designed to have delegates look ten and twenty years into the future to explore opportunity and growth.

Matawa First Nations Education Advisor Murray Waboose says; “The whole region is quickly changing as leadership explores resources and opportunity for their membership. We need to prepare and support Matawa youth for the future in order to get them engaged and active within their communities.”

The 2010 Summit will feature a career fair, workshops, focus groups, and a special banquet to recognize successful youth from Matawa communities that are now established and have worked extremely hard at achieving success. Waboose continues; “There is an amazing amount of talent within our First Nations, and it is not always recognized. Hearing success stories from Matawa youth will empower others to be a force for positive change.”

Hundreds of on and off reserve Matawa youth between the ages of twelve and thirty are participating in the conference, along with students from Thunder Bay schools. The event features special guests who are facilitating workshops and presenting as keynote speakers. Participants will all have a chance to explore possible career opportunities and take part in a number of presentations covering a variety of topics including education, governance, healthy living, and industry. Workshops will also include cultural and art activities.





Day 2 (Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010) Workshops include:

- **Smoking Prevention-Healthy Living:** Sabrina Bouche- Mushkiki
- **Career Opportunities in Northern Ontario:** Wally Bannon- Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund
- **The Role of Young Leaders in Effective Governance:** Don Jones- National Centre for First Nations Governance
- **Resume Ready/Job Search**
- **Go Green 4 Changes:** Larissa Mikkelsen- Matawa First Nations
- **Career Opportunities in Mining:** Barbara Green- Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada

*Media are also invited to attend the **Youth Summit Awards Banquet** that will take place on **Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Kaministiquia Room at the **Nor'wester Hotel**. Matawa First Nations Youth will be recognized for outstanding achievement and success.*

**For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

Amanda Bay- Communications Officer

Firedog Communications  
T-(807)767-4443 Ext #223  
C- (807) 628-7109  
E- [amanda@firedogpr.com](mailto:amanda@firedogpr.com)

