

Matawa First Nations

Community Driven Regional Strategy

Mamow Wecheekapawetaheewiin

*“We are united in sharing a common vision of being self-sufficient,
self-governing peoples within a healthy, thriving culture,
living within our homelands that shall sustain us for all times”
- Matawa First Nations Unity Declaration 2011*



Matawa

FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Power of Unity
The Dignity of Difference





A Regional Approach to Development

The Traditional Territories of the Matawa First Nations are rich in minerals, precious metals, and many other valuable resources. The Matawa communities are currently experiencing an unprecedented surge in resource development activity, especially in the areas of mining and mineral exploration. The First Nations will also undergo infrastructure development including transportation, energy and telecommunications.

In order to ensure that their communities receive maximum benefit from the development of resources and infrastructure, the Matawa First Nations have united to address regional matters in a Community Driven Regional Strategy Negotiation process.

Negotiated Environmental Assessment Process

Matawa First Nations want to ensure that resource development, including the associated infrastructure, is sustainable and that negative environmental impacts are mitigated.

Under the Regional Strategy process, the First Nations will negotiate an Environmental Assessment (EA) process with Ontario. The Negotiated EA will include meaningful First Nation participation, consultation, decision making and will consider the accumulated impacts of more than one development. It will also include the social and cultural impacts of development.



Structure

Community Foundation

The Chief and Council and a Community Negotiation Committee will consult with local community groups and members and will give direction to the Regional Strategy Negotiating Team.

Technical Teams and Advisors

Experts, legal advisors and community members will help formulate options and provide advice on the three regional pillars to the Negotiating Team.

Main Table

The main table is comprised of the Matawa First Nations Negotiating Team and the Ontario Negotiating Team.

The Matawa First Nations Negotiating Team receives direction from the Chiefs Council, which brings forward the instructions from their communities.



Regional Pillars

Land Management

- Environmental Assessment and Environmental monitoring
- Regional Infrastructure planning including transportation corridors and roads, energy and transmission lines, broadband and telecommunications

Revenue Sharing

- The sharing of mining taxes and royalty revenues.
- Other economic benefits

Capacity Building

- First Nation community Health/Social Wellness
- Skills, Training and Employment
- Economic Development



Community Driven

The Regional Strategy Negotiation Process will be based on community decision making, meaningful First Nation participation, consultation, and direction.



Process

Stage One:

The Framework Agreement will contain all the topics to be discussed at the Negotiation Table and include a set of guiding principles, a funding regime and goals and objectives.

Ratification: Each community will ratify the Framework Agreement by Band Council Resolution.

Stage Two:

The Negotiation Stage will work out the details of the topics from the Framework Agreement.

Ratification: Each community will ratify the agreements made at the Negotiating Table.

Stage Three:

Implementation Stage: In this stage the ratified agreements from the negotiations will be implemented by First Nations.

First Nation Agreements

Individual community agreements and processes will be respected throughout the Regional Strategy Negotiations.

Community Approach Model
Government/Industry

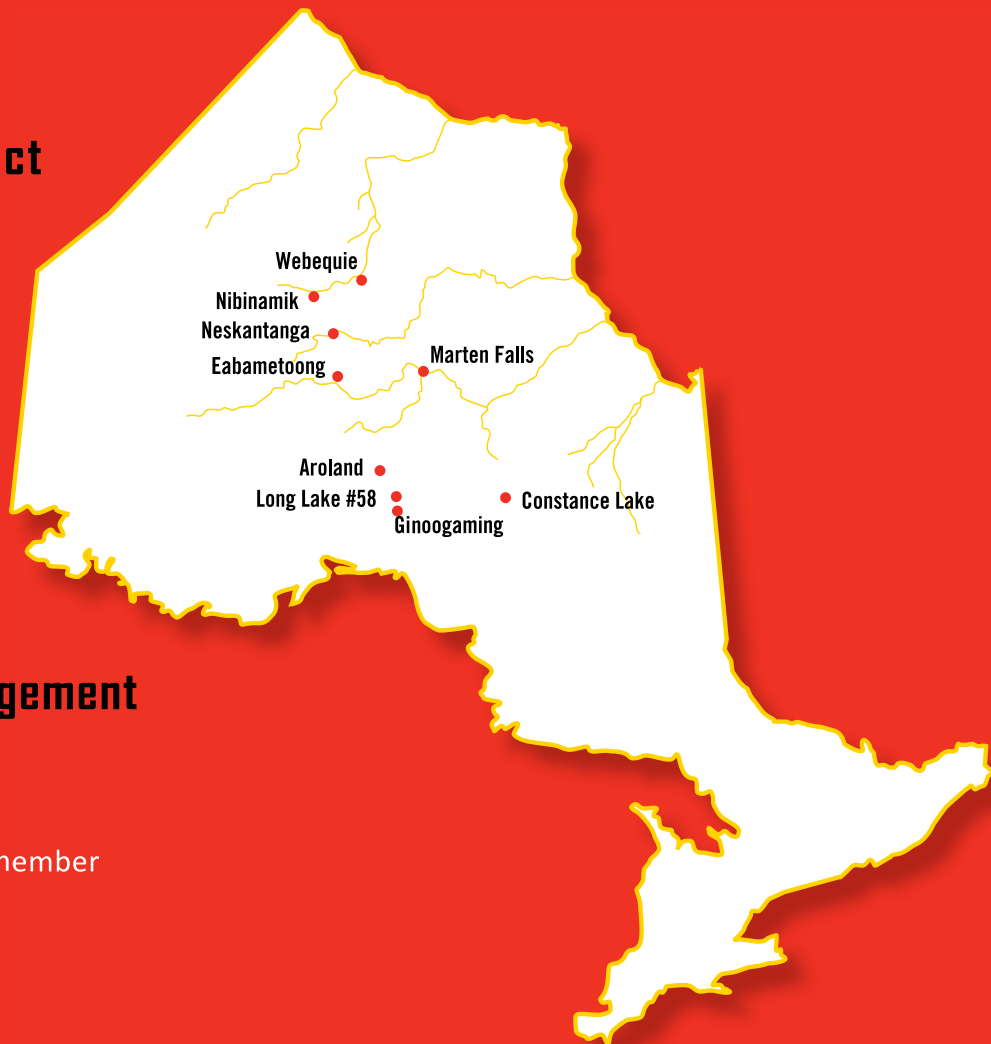


- Aki is central and sacred, and sustains the livelihoods of the Anishnawbeg.
- Anishnawbeg are all connected to aki which gives them life.
- Anishnawbeg are guardians of aki and have inherent rights and responsibilities to protect it.
- The Anishnawbeg mandate the leadership to protect the aki and their rights.
- The leadership directs the negotiation team.
- The negotiation team is the point of contact with government and industry, and are accountable to the leadership and to Anishnawbeg.



The First Nations that Direct the Matawa Tribal Council

- Aroland First Nation
- Constance Lake First Nation
- Eabametoong First Nation
- Ginoogaming First Nation
- Long Lake # 58 First Nation
- Marten Falls First Nation
- Nibinamik First Nation
- Neskantaga First Nation
- Webequie First Nation



Matawa First Nations Management (MFMN)

MFMN is a Tribal Council that provides advisory and support services to nine member First Nations in Northern Ontario.

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