



2018 ANNUAL CEO MESSAGE

BOOSHOO/WACHEYA MIISAWEH ANISHINABEK, ANISHININIWUG MIINA INNINIWUG

2018 marks 30 years since Matawa First Nations Management was formally established by the nine Chiefs formerly known as the Nakina District Chiefs. This was a result of INAC's devolution policy which downloaded program responsibility to the First Nations and tribal councils. Although the devolution policy materialized only on a limited basis, I believe this gave an opportunity for the member First Nations to come together as a regional political organization.

The name 'Matawa' came from a longer name 'Mammattawa' meaning joining of rivers. This name was used by the Peoples of Constance Lake for their community where the Treaty nine commissioners visited the community in 1905 when they were considered as an offshoot of Fort Albany. With this as a consideration, they did not sign the Treaty with them but they did establish reserve lands a few miles down river of the English River Post, where the people were residing. During the time of the Treaty, most of the members were living further up the river in a community called Pagwa River, where a Canadian railway passed through.

The nine Matawa member communities that came together had their communities located on the rivers which gave them the necessities of life. Through these rivers, the Peoples of the Land, established connections with their neighbouring communities from all directions. Therefore, it was only appropriate that the name 'Matawa' be chosen to represent the history of our Nations.

The Chiefs adopted the following as their vision for Matawa:

"Matawa First Nations will be prosperous and enriched First Nations both individually and collectively. By creating enhanced social and economic opportunities for everyone, the Matawa First Nations will reach their maximum potential and have confidence in the future."

Additionally, they adopted this as their mission statement:

“We are committed to supporting each other and focusing our collective efforts on core strategic priorities. By working together as a regional community, we will use our combined knowledge and resources in order to champion the social and economic vitality of our First Nations and invest in community and people building.”

I believe throughout the 30 years the vision and mission have resulted in Matawa First Nations maintaining their unity. I believe that in the next 30 years, if we continue to work together as one. We will succeed in our goals to become self-sufficient and self-sustaining communities as our Ancestors did during their time.

On behalf of our staff, we wish our Chiefs and our Peoples a great year as we move towards, what I believe, will be a year of continuing success for our communities. Let's continue to work together as one—the way our leaders back in 1988 wanted Matawa communities to be.

Yours in Unity,

David Paul Achneepineskum
CEO, Matawa First Nations Management