



# MATAWA FIRST NATIONS GATHERING **2013 REPORT**

The Power of Unity | The Dignity of Difference

March 19-21 / Valhalla Inn / Thunder Bay, ON



Moving Forward Together on a Regional Strategy on Mining



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## OVERVIEW / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than 125 delegates from the nine member First Nations of Matawa First Nations Management gathered on March 19-21, 2013 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay, Ontario for the Matawa First Nations Gathering. The theme of the gathering was “The Power of Unity - The Dignity of Difference,” with the stated purpose of “Moving Forward Together on a Regional Strategy on Mining.”

The Gathering was an opportunity for Chiefs, Councilors and community representatives and members to come together again to build on the priorities developed during the historic Gathering of Matawa Communities conference held March 20-22, 2012 in Thunder Bay.

Matawa First Nation communities were represented by a variety of community members with various backgrounds and roles within each community including Chiefs and Council members, Elders, Women and Youth Council members, Health, Education and Economic Development, members of the Matawa Board of Directors, Matawa Community members living in the Thunder Bay area and Matawa First Nation Management and Staff.

The Gathering opened with traditional prayers by Elder Gilbert Legarde and Christian prayers by Nancy Waswa and drumming by Eagle Boys. Each Chief (or designate) shared their vision for the Gathering and their expectations for how the discussions will help Matawa First Nations move forward with the direction that came from the Gathering of Communities conference in 2012.

Long Lake #58 First Nation Chief Allen Towegeshig summarized the significance of the Gathering and the impact that decisions made today will have on the generations of tomorrow by saying: “This is our land, the Creator put us here to look after it. That is what we are here for.”

In addition to an overview of the 2012 Gathering by David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO Matawa First Nations Management, delegates were provided with copies of three key documents from which discussion would be held around the implementation of a Regional Framework Strategy to guide development of natural resources in the traditional territory of the nine Matawa First Nations, specifically with respect to the Ring of Fire:

1. Resolution 01-23/01/13: Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin (Standing Together) Regional Framework Strategy.
2. Joint statement from the Matawa Chiefs Council to the Government of Ontario delivered to Premier Wynne and Minister Gravelle on the occasion of our meeting March 6, 2013: Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin (Standing Together) Regional Process.
3. Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin Strategy (Standing Together Strategy).





Day one was the Standing Together Regional Strategy and Celebrating Community Success. It was a private session for Matawa First Nations only.

David Paul Achneepineskum provided a review and the highlights of the outcomes of last year's Gathering. At the conclusion of last year's Gathering, he explained, the Chiefs and other delegates were so moved that they stood together as one in unity.

"...and by the end of this gathering perhaps we will move from Standing Together (Mamow-wecheekapawetahteewiin) to Walking Together (Mamow-bemosaywiin)"

Marten Falls First Nation Chief Eli Moonias shared a story about fish in a glass of water. He explained that the glass of water was placed into a bigger glass and the smaller glass removed, but the fish kept swimming in the little space they had become conditioned to.

"The reserve is something like that," he said. "We (First Nations) have to get out of our confinement and the Ring of Fire is the opportunity to do that."

Delegates were provided with a seven-part question on how to move forward together on a regional strategy on mining, and each First Nation moved into breakout sessions to discuss the questions with respect to the Regional Framework Strategy. The findings of each group was later presented to the whole group.

Day two was an open session for Matawa First Nations and Partners. It included a morning plenary session entitled "Working with Our Industry Partners" with presentations by mining industry representatives and an open forum with Matawa Chiefs and the moderator. The afternoon plenary session was entitled "Working with Our Treaty Partners" and featured a presentation by the Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

Day three was a private session for Matawa First Nations to strategize on how move forward the Regional Framework Strategy. There was open discussion on next steps with respect to the development of the Regional Framework Strategy. Closing remarks were made by Chiefs, the moderator and David Paul Achneepineskum, followed by a closing prayer and drum. An invitation was extended for delegates to attend a lunch to celebrate the grand opening of Matawa First Nations Management Communications Department and Four Rivers, Matawa Environmental Services at the Matawa office in Thunder Bay.

Constance Lake First Nation Councilor Alan Ferris, reflected on how several band members had been seeing moose in and around the community. He said, *"It is as if the animals are speaking to man, where the moose lives and where the moose is raised is among the water, lakes and rivers. And this is why we are so concerned about our environment, our land, our traditional territories, where God has given us the gift of survival and how to use and make it last forever."*

During the Gathering common themes began to emerge on how communities wished to move forward and what their priority concerns were. These can be viewed in a summary chart of the community discussions

After the opportunity to listen, question and give comment to industry and government, the delegates reconvened on the last day to conclude the gathering and share their ideas on the next steps.



# MATAWA FIRST NATIONS GATHERING | AGENDA

## DAY 1-TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2013

Standing Together Regional Strategy and Celebrating Community Successes

9:00 am	Opening Prayer
9:15 am	Welcoming Remarks from Matawa CEO, David Paul Achneepineskum Opening Comments from Chiefs
9:45 am	Review of 2012 Gathering, Matawa CEO, David Paul Achneepineskum
10:45 am	Presentation of Regional Strategy and Q&A
1:00 pm	First Nation Breakout Sessions on Regional Strategy
3:15 pm	Presentation of First Nation Findings by Each First Nation
4:30 pm	Adjourn

## DAY 2-WEDNESDAY MARCH 20, 2013

Matawa First Nations - Working With Our Industry & Government Partners

9:00 am	Welcome to Industry Guests
9:15 am	Open Forum with Matawa Chiefs and Company CEO's Sitting Together in Chairs with Moderator
10:45 am	Continuation of Industry Partners Session

Afternoon: Plenary Session-Working with our Treaty Partners

1:00 pm	Welcome and Introduction of Government Ministers
1:15 pm	Open Forum with Matawa Chiefs and Ministers Sitting Together in Chairs with Moderator
2:45 pm	Continuance of Sessions
4:30 pm	Adjourn
6:00 pm	Evening Sessions (Open to members & Partners)

## DAY 3-THURSDAY MARCH 21, 2013

Matawa First Nations (Private Sessions)-Actions Plans/Next Steps

9:00 am	Plenary Session
10:45 am	Next Steps
12:00 pm	Adjourn



## DAY 1 - Standing Together Regional Strategy and Celebrating Community Successes

### CHIEFS VISION AND DIRECTION

Each of the Chiefs or representatives from each First Nation and invited guests were given the opportunity to address the Gathering and outline their thoughts for moving forward with the with respect to the Regional Framework Strategy. They shared observations based on their years of experience with resource development in their traditional territory and first-hand experiences working with industry and government while trying to improve socio-economic conditions in their communities to strengthen and preserve cultural and create a better future for the youth. (See Appendices for complete overviews of their statements.)



#### AROLAND FIRST NATION

Chief Sonny Gagnon highlighted the opportunities to be discussed with respect to the Regional Project and said it is time to move forward to maximize benefits and make our voices heard, but that direction is needed from the community on how to proceed with development. By working together he said we can accomplish what we want, but have to do it right the first time as mining is not a sustainable resource.

Instead of Impact Benefit Agreements he said we need to look at ownership and partnership in resource development. He said now is the time for Northern communities to come out of isolation and fight for road access, hydro, ownership of the railroads, transmission lines, and even the mine itself. He noted that The mine will is operate for the next 100 years so we have to do it right, not fix it as we go along, which we can do with proper partnerships and guidance from the communities



#### CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

Councilor Darius Ferris explained that Chief Roger Wesley was not able to attend until the afternoon's session. He said we all have one vision and one goal to be a successful community, a successful people with Inherent Rights, and that we can make a difference if we stand together as a Nation in unity. He stressed the importance of encouraging our people to not give up on life but to know that greater things lie ahead in the future, which is looking brighter every day.

He said there are a lot of opportunities and we must adapt to what is happening with different projects, and it is the responsibility of leaders and the people of the communities to work together. He said we need to strive to move forward to see a healing in our land and in our lives, and that communities can overcome the problems of drugs, alcohol and violence and addictions if we pull together, like at this gathering, with a fresh start, a vision and a common goal.



## EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

Chief Harry Papah spoke about unity among the First Nations gathered and suggested that people each community mingle with one-another. He encouraged people to speak freely and openly about what is happening in communities and the surrounding area as a quality of leadership qualities is to listen to community members. So I encourage you to speak freely and speak your thoughts.



## GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

Chief Celia Echum said she was glad Matawa First Nations were gathered again to talk about our communities - where they are at now and where they want to go. She said we need to forget about past and strive towards working together. She recalled that after hearing about the lot of anger and hurt feelings in the band office yesterday she asked herself why we cannot come together as one community, strives for one thing in common, to live together, and to live in harmony? Why is it that our people live in poverty? Why is it that our people abuse alcohol and drugs? What do we need to as leaders?

The Chief said that we do not have an answer right now but we are looking for it, and we are looking to Matawa First Nations to find an answer. Industry is coming to our communities and we do not have anything coming from industry and the government to help First Nations go where they want to go. People are dying and children and families and suffering where mining companies are operating, but the communities are not seeing the benefits of industry - the government is taking it all. She said we need to decide if we want to see that in our communities, as we don't want our children dying because they don't have the benefits given to them by the Creator.



Chief Echum noted that when our ancestors signed the Treaty they did not sign away anything; they signed to share whatever we had and today we have nothing. The Treaty was misread, she said, as our ancestors signed documents they could not read and were taken advantage of, but our people are getting educated now and we need to use those young people. She shared a message for all the young people to take care of their bodies and take care of themselves. Take care of our young people, our surviving Elders, and don't be misguided by the word money. She said we need to use the resources we have and the benefits that will come wisely.



## LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION

Chief Allan Towegeshig explained how he recently reflected that spirituality is often missing from meetings, and that an Elder has said that flags and the staff should be present. He stressed the importance of unity and said they wish to continue to be good and fair to everybody.

The Chief explained that when they meet with industry they do not say welcome to our territory, but say welcome to our land. This is our land, he said, and the Creator put us here to look after it. He said that is why we are here, and that he reminds the mining industry to respect our environment and the animals.

The Chief encouraged others to learn from each other and bring that back to the communities, as membership is asking what they are doing. Communities are starving for information and we have to inform them. He said we are here to gather our resources from our energy so we can have our own capacity, but also to have our own education and training so our people can work together.





## MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION

Chief Eli Moonias explained that Marten Falls decided to take on some issues at the regional level at a meeting in January. In particular, road access and power to meet the needs of the mining. His position is that if you want to develop in the territory you have to develop infrastructure the community needs, but what will be done remains unclear. Cliffs Natural Resources is building a road and claim a railroad is not economical for just one mine. The community wants to be involved in its construction, ownership and maintenance, and have told the Premier they expect to see benefits from this development.



He has told the Premier that Matawa First Nations are primary in this venture; that this project will run grassroots and up, and that it will be community-driven and community-approved. Without community consent nothing is going to happen, especially with respect to the environment, considering the pollution flowing into the rivers from the tar sands in Alberta. He said there is no accountability by Canada, which is why the community is going to court over their vision of development in the Ring of Fire – so the land will be left for their grandchildren.

The Chief said his consent comes from the people at the community level, and that Ontario needs to come to the table at the regional as signatories to Treaty No. 9. He is looking forward to the tri-partite process the federal government has agreed to as they can discuss other issues such as education at the ministerial level.



## NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

Chief Peter Moonias expressed concern for the environment and how we need to be thankful for the land. He said we need to start listening to the Creator. He said his community has a vision and beliefs, and that asserting their rights is the way to make progress on the issues we are here to discuss on a government-to-government basis. He said his community has given direction on what to work on, but asked how do we get there? That will come from the people of Matawa First Nations area and the regional strategy that was recently developed.



## NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION

Chief Johnny Yellowhead and community representatives arrived in the very early morning and were not yet in attendance.



## WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION

Chief Cornelius Wabasse was unable to attend the opening session.





## NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION

Grand Chief Harvey Yesno said as community leaders Chiefs need to lead, and it is important they set the goals to strive for. How Chiefs behave and interact is important as examples to young people. He said we preach about unity, strength and success and leaders need to take that responsibility.

Grand Chief said the recent decision in Keewatin (Grassy Narrows) court case is significant as it will apply province-wide. NAN has been “ripped off” about the Treaties and the Far North Act legislation will keep us in poverty. He explained that NAN has nine resolutions opposing the Act but 31 First Nations have signed on to land-use planning that supports the Act. He said there has to be some unity, and that individual First Nations cannot do side deals with government just because there’s money on the table.

He urged Matawa Chiefs to remain unified even if they disagree on issues this week. He said people in the communities want jobs and business – not welfare, and that the land is rich and we should be prosperous and paying our own way.



## MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANGEMENT

CEO David Paul Achneepineskum reviewed the report highlights and outcomes from the Gathering of Matawa Communities held in 2012. He said there is a need to respect Christianity as well as traditional spirituality in the communities, which are diverse, and we need to learn from and listen to our people. He stated that there is power in unity, but out of that power of unity there has to be the dignity and a respect of differences.

David Paul explained that Matawa First Nations have the people behind them when they talk to government, and that we need to build that power by involving our citizens. But in order for our citizens to support our cause, they need a better understanding of what is going on with respect to issues like resource development.

The CEO acknowledged that each of the nine Matawa First Nations have their own positions and are autonomous communities. They each have their own lands, rivers and protocols they are pursuing at the community level



## COMMUNITY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### FORMAT

The sessions began with a brief overview of Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin (Standing Together Strategy). Each First Nation was asked to discuss the following question in relation to seven topics and in the context of the Standing Together document.

#### Question:

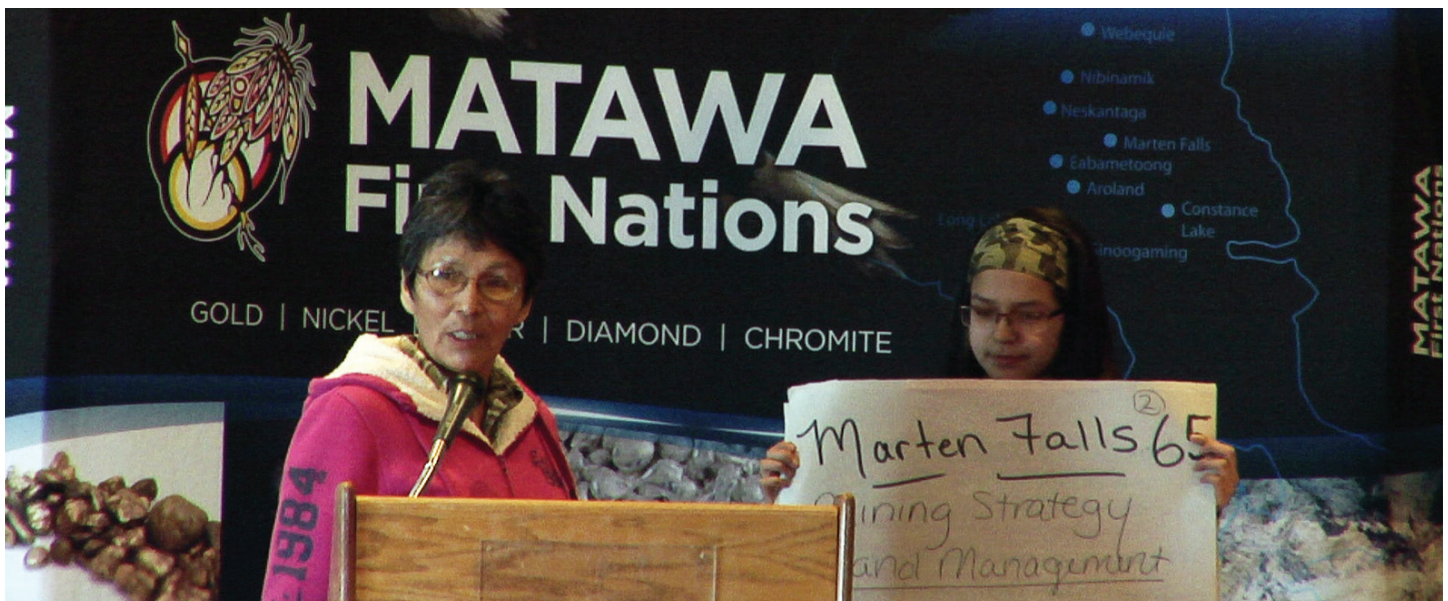
How do we move forward together on a regional strategy on mining?

#### Topics:

- A) Land Management
- B) Revenue Sharing
- C) Capacity Building
- D) Economically
- E) Environmentally
- F) Social and Health
- G) Other Topics

The communities met individually to answer the questions. They chose from their group a spokesperson(s) who would be the presenter to the entire Gathering on Day 2. Matawa First Nations Management Staff and Matawa Learning Centre youth joined with their communities as participants in the discussions.

All of the community representatives in attendance at the Gathering came up on the stage to support the spokesperson(s) during the presentations.



## SUMMARIES OF COMMUNITY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Each Community discussed the questions in relation to the concept of a regional strategy framework. The details of the discussions can be found in the Appendices. The following is the summary input from those discussions.

### AROLAND FIRST NATION

Land use planning must be properly funded and community driven and First Nations need to assert and include their Treaty Rights in regards to land management. Our actions must match our words. For example, Minawshyn was agreed to by all Matawa First Nations but only four signed on to be a part of it. Communities have to be on the same page. Leadership and others need to tour communities and hold meetings

When it comes to a regional mining strategy, we need to learn much more about resource revenue sharing and we need to ensure there is compensation for future and past resource development.

We need comprehensive community processes to deal with the environmental issues and of development as well as adequate funding and supports that include expertise for detailed and comprehensive information on the impacts. Our communities need share capacity, build local and regional capacity

### CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

CLFN has a land use planning process that reaches out to other First Nations, including some Mushkegowuk FNs. Final land use plans must be recognized and respected by all levels of government.

Governments must share wealth as per the Treaty. We should consider compensation for all land use activities including hunting and fishing on our traditional territories. Governments should not be allowed to dictate how we use RRS funds which should be under the control of the First Nation.

First Nations need to share capacity. For example we have the Eagle Earth facility for training and workshops. We should consider our Matawa First Nation services and facilities first. We should also consider hiring our Matawa members first when filling jobs. Our adults need GED and healing programs. We need to take our people on tours to see what mining is like and what mining employment is like.

### EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

Education is the key. Eabametoong emphasizes over and over that people need education and training. We also need education about the land uses, like Treaty Land Entitlement, overlapping territories, Albany River compensation, and licences and permits. We need mentors and we need to build our own corporations.

Resource revenue sharing should include sharing with specific industries and not just governments. Any company operating in Ring of Fire should have to be a partner with a First Nation.

We need more assistance with environmental issues. We need Four Rivers to spend more time in our community to help education our people about EAs and the environmental impacts of mining.





## GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

We need to develop capacity at the community level for environmental monitoring which includes capacity in GIS/TEK/CIA. We need to build capacity and have standardized training through our own environmental service, Four Rivers.

First Nations should be the first beneficiaries of development as per treaty implementation re section 35 of the Constitution Act re consultation and accommodation. We need to collect royalties from infrastructure and revenues from mining,

We need regional economic development through Minawshyn Development Corporation and partnerships and joint ventures and an Aboriginal Workforce Development and Maintenance Program. We need training and healing programs.

## LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION

Environmental Law favours Industry without respect for traditional teachings. We need to train environmental monitors and work on cultural impact assessments (i.e. water sampling, waste management plans) and we need more consultation on EAs. We need to listen to Elders and preserve trees and medicines and we need technical people to help us and technical training in land and resources management and environmental monitoring.

We need more mining knowledge and more partnerships with business and industry and we need to invest in shares of companies involved in development in or territories. We need revenue sharing with the industries not just government RRS.

We need to develop our human resources through training including job shadowing, mentoring, local First Nation training centres and regional First Nation training centre facilities.

## MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION

We need more information on land use planning. We need to work with Ontario as co-managers and we need our conservation officers, environmental officers. There are overlapping issues with the lands and we need to talk about these. Most important is that we have environmental monitoring. We need training and we need more environmentalists and monitors in our community, and water is important. It is the water where the waste from mining goes. We need to take a lesson from Attawapiskat. They can't fish in many of their waters now. They did not get proper compensation.

Mining will bring infrastructure like roads. We are concerned about the social impacts and about who will be coming into our communities. We will need extra policing and social supports for the negative impacts of drugs and other problems that could come with development.

Resource Revenue Sharing must be approached both at the local and regional level. Some communities that are closer to the ROF may have more negative impacts. It needs to be substantial, not like the 1 % that was offered to Attawapiskat.



The government should be talking 15 per cent at least. We need a tri-partite process to discuss this. We need to develop banking and financial institutions.

We need an education plan for our community that will include everything from employment counseling to cultural transition and job readiness. We need to care of the special needs students and we need community-based upgrading and skills training.

## NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

Treaty Rights must be respected. We are keepers of the land and we must stay connected to the land to pass on the knowledge and traditions. Oppression and colonialism dominate our beliefs so we need to reconnect to our values. We need to maintain what we have and work together on our strengths to regain healthy lifestyles. We should work with First Nations who have encountered these issues already. We need funds to flow to our community to help us preserve our land, language and culture.

Education and training, knowledge and skills must be applied in a culturally appropriate context. We need advice and support and internally we need to know where to get that.

Environmental monitoring is critical. We must monitor the effects of development on animals and protect the environment and we must understand the effects of chemicals from mining and infrastructure.

## NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION

We need to build both regional and local capacity. We need to utilize our community resources like equipment or services and tie it in with Minawshyn. We need curriculum based on our region and on the resources here so our children and youth are learning things that are useful to them. We need communications at the community level and we need commitment by the community and at a regional level.

We need to develop a structure on how our First Nations will share revenues and also how we will share in education, infrastructure etc. We need equal distribution and should look at existing models like Casino Rama, Wasaya and others. We need to utilize existing corporations Minawshyn. More research is required.

We need land use plans with protocols, policies and procedures and a structure that is visual for our members. We need protected areas and values collection. We need water protection and we need to identify how to minimize impacts.

## WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION

A regional strategy needs to come from the communities. Each community must define its own process and how they will work with the other First Nations in the region. The Leadership needs to be mandated by the people in the community and decisions cannot be made at the regional level. The community has to develop an internal communications and ratification process. We need to have clear definitions of community goals and expectations. Work needs to be done to address the needs of communities in different areas and situations. In order for land use planning to be completed we need to understand how to work with the environmental assessment process.

Training levels and Ontario Works levels need to be increased in the remote communities as the levels are lower than in communities.

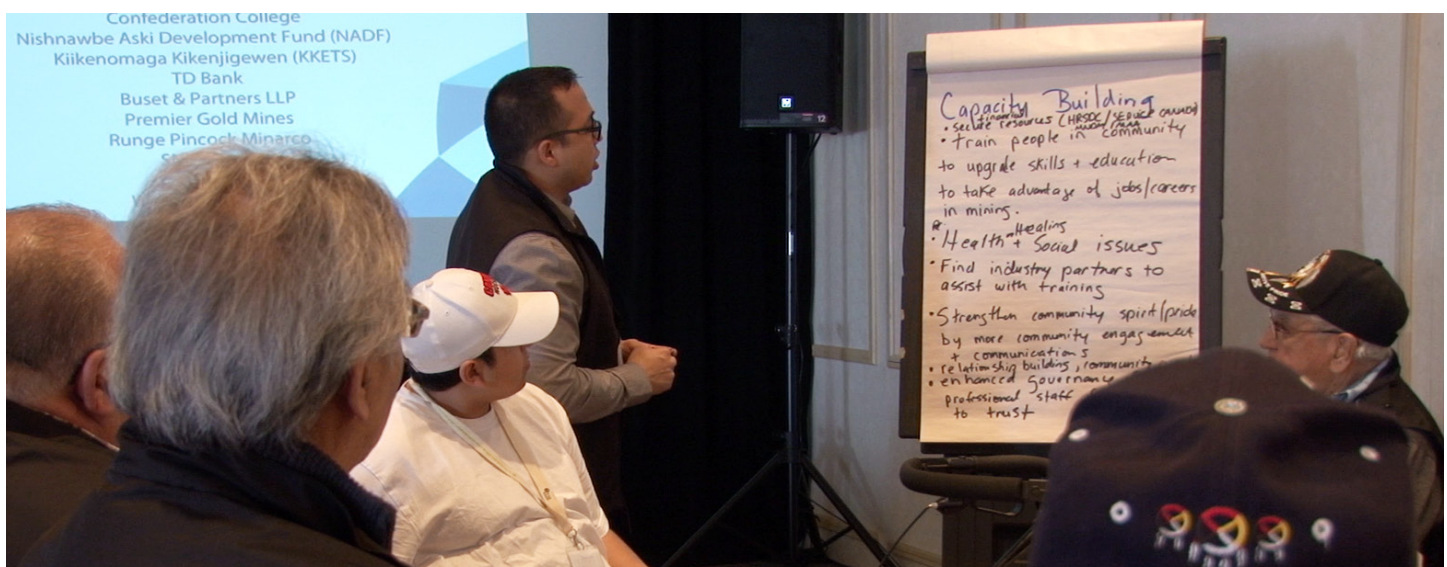


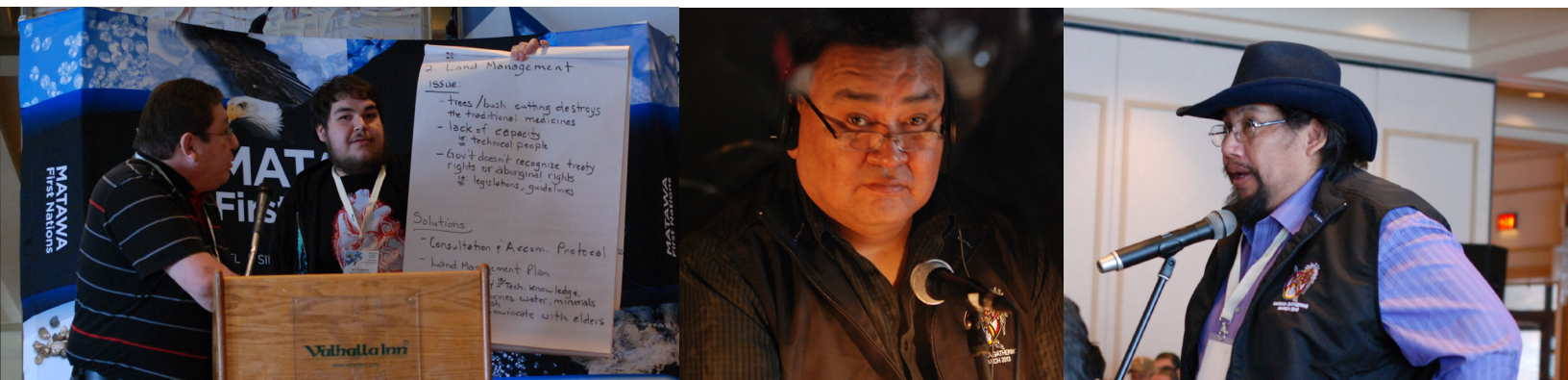


## SUMMARY OF ISSUES - COMMUNITY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The following are the common themes that emerged during the community discussions for detailed notes from each community see Appendix B.

Build local and regional capacity	Develop and use Minawyshn Corp.	Communities need local and regional training
Use our First Nation services and facilities	Develop partnerships	Communities need training programs for employment but also healing programs.
Need training in environmental monitoring (expansion, and greater use of Four Rivers)	Need help & training to understand environmental impacts, EA process	Communicate with trappers and listen to Elders regarding collection of values and respect for the land. Protect the land, water and animals
Develop local and regional businesses and services	Pursue Resource Revenue Sharing not only from governments but also from industry	Develop effective community processes as well as regional processes
Treaty Rights Implementation, consultation and accommodation	Communication at community level, community meetings	Processes to address territory overlaps
Adequate Funding for Environmental training, monitoring and EA processes	Adequate funding for Training and Education	Adequate funding for healing
Adequate funding for capacity building in all areas	Adequate funding for local issues and regional strategy process	Funding required to protect culture and language and to integrate them in education and training.





## DAY 2 - Matawa First Nations - Working With Our Industry & Government Partners

### PLENARY SESSION WITH INDUSTRY

chiefs sat in a panel format with industry representatives. They each made statements to industry and asked questions. The delegates then had an opportunity to make comments or ask questions.

#### PRESENTATION KEYSTONE ASSOCIATES

Nian (Nick) Qing Zeng, Founder and CEO of Keystone Associates, explained that he was appearing on behalf of Chinese mineralogical exploration interests and works for China National Genebank (CNGB), a state-owned company and one of biggest exploration organizations with 30,000 employees in exploration alone. He said they are paying attention to Ring of Fire development and will work closely with the First Nation community.



He said he was told to consult with First Nations during initial exploration and has slowly tried to build relations and make sure communities feel comfortable. He was invited to come and show what they want to do. They have watched the area closely and are wondering what's the plan and where can they help? He said they can bring development to the area and benefits at the same time and believes the Ring of Fire could be a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Zeng said he has been talking to several stakeholders about how they can be involved. He gave an example of how his organization has signed an MOU to build a railway in Africa – the country can't afford to build it but they have natural resources, so the Chinese company can benefit from those and build the railway. He said he was not here to say they are trying to build a railway or road in the Ring of Fire, but that they want to be part of the discussion, as CNGB knows how to develop a mine. He said there is interest and he wants to help and be part of the activity.

#### PRESENTATION NORONT RESOURCES

Paul Parisotto, Interim CEO and Board Chair and Paul Semple Chief Operating Officer for Noront Resources, provided an overview of their Ring of Fire project. He said Noront has always recognized the potential of developing the Ring of Fire and that First Nations have to be on board with them step-by-step from the beginning.

He said it is important that they be transparent in everything they do, engage with communities and be respectful when working on Matawa traditional lands, by following due process and using best practices to ensure the environment is protected.

## PRESENTATION NORONT RESOURCES (continued)

Parisotto said they do a lot of work in the communities through youth programs and they try to engage in their potential for the mining industry by keeping up their education to help them get into training programs. He said they need to start looking at how to get the infrastructure side moving forward.



## SUMMARY OF ISSUES – PLENARY SESSION WITH INDUSTRY

The following is a summary of the main concerns expressed by Chiefs and delegates. For the detailed comments, questions and responses please refer to the appendix C.

This meeting is not a consultation	Industry needs to respect community process and decisions and engage in appropriate consultation and accommodation and community engagement	Treaty Rights need to be respected
Treaty Implementation is essential to successful resourced development in our First Nation territories	Information sharing with communities is crucial	Need a Joint Review Panel or Negotiated EA process
Engaging community and respecting community process begins before the Early Exploration Stage	Environment needs to be protected, funding for in environmental monitoring is critical	Mining companies and Chinese companies in particular do not have good safety or environmental records
Companies do not respect our decision making process and ignore letters to cease operations in our territories	Government and Companies cut deals without First Nation input and consult afterward	Education, Training, wellness and healing are our priorities and the only way we can participate in the new resource economy and help our people and youth prosper
Treaty Rights Implementation, consultation and accommodation	Communication at community level, community meetings	Processes to address territory overlaps
Adequate Funding for Environmental training, monitoring and EA processes	Adequate funding for Training and Education	Adequate funding for healing
Adequate funding for capacity building in all areas	Adequate funding for local issues and regional strategy process	Funding required to protect culture and language and to integrate them in education and training



## PLENARY SESSION WITH GOVERNMENT

Due to the Federal Budget lock up the Honorable Tony Clement, President of Treasury Board and Minister for the Federal Economic Initiative for Northern Ontario, Federal Minister responsible for the Ring of Fire could not attend. Also due to the minority government situation in Ontario only one Minister could be made available to attend. Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Michael Gravelle attended the afternoon session.

Chiefs sat in a panel format with Minister Gravelle. After the Minister gave his comments the Chiefs and delegates made comments and asked questions. For detailed account of the questions and answers please see appendices.

### STATEMENT BY MICHAEL GRAVELLE

The Honorable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, addressed the Gathering at the request of Chiefs following a recent meeting between Matawa Chiefs and the Premier of Ontario on March 6, 2012 where they were looking for a commitment from the government to move forward with the regional strategy. The Minister said this potentially represents a historic opportunity for the Province and First Nations to make advancements on regional and economic infrastructure planning.

He said the government is conscious of the fact that they want to maintain work with each individual community - on the Ring of Fire but also on long-standing issues related to capacity. He said he is

committed to all aspects of development progress in an environmentally sustainable manner. He said the environmental process is very important to First Nations as they are the closest to the development, and that they must meet with government regarding specific issues.

Minister Gravelle explained that the Ontario government has taken a number of initiatives that will ensure their partners can be full participants in this historic opportunity. At the March 6 meeting, Matawa leadership sat across at the Cabinet table with Premier Wynne, Minister Zimmer, and himself to discuss a regional approach to their Ring of Fire discussions. He acknowledges that the communities need to be front and center as well, and said the government has been working with Matawa communities for direct benefits. He suggested that one of the challenges is not just for individual communities but infrastructure planning on a regional basis.

The Minister referenced the fact that Matawa First Nations have asked Bob Rae to represent Matawa Chiefs and have asked Ontario to appoint a negotiator, and said the response to that recommendation is crucial. He suggested that they first set out a structure for this so both sides understand how the communities will be engaged on regional issues, how concerns will be accommodated, and how we can design a process that provides significant and meaningful benefit to meet our mutual goals. He said a very well-defined terms of reference, specific time frame and budget are needed and his government's belief and hope is that once this step is taken, they'll have a better idea on how the discussions will move forward, and a better understanding of the approach to negotiations and facilitation. He said Mr. Rae would be a good choice to guide these discussions, as he understands how government works. He pointed out his staff as the people who were the best at developing the TOR and structure with Matawa for the regional negotiation strategy.

Getting to this stage is important, he said, and that's what he has been asked to bring forward to Matawa Chiefs today. The Minister said he is keen to hear from Chiefs and to respond to their questions. He said he is proud that the government has been able to provide significant support to individual communities over the last number of years for land use planning and capacity development, and that they are keen to continue to build this relationships, which is important in his new role as Minister of Northern Development and Mines. He said it has been an honour to work with Matawa communities and if he has learned anything in the last five years as MPP it is that a close working relationship with First Nations is very much about showing respect. There's no question that gathering between the Chiefs and the Premier was an important step in that process. It was an historic meeting.



## SUMMARY OF ISSUES - PLENARY SESSION WITH GOVERNMENT

The following is a summary of the main concerns expressed by Chiefs and delegates. For the detailed comments, questions and responses please refer to the appendix C.

Chiefs were expecting some official feedback and commitment on the proposal given to the Premier March 6, 2013	Chiefs are disappointed the Premier did not attend Gathering as it would have been a further demonstration of commitment and development of relationship	Funding commitments of two or three million dollars is a piecemeal approach when research shows a funding commitment in the 100 million dollar range is required for capacity building, negotiations etc with First Nations
Treaty was signed by both levels of government. The spirit and intent of the Treaty is to share, but nothing has changed, still not equitable sharing	The government and industry has pre-determined agendas that First Nations are left out of	Ring of Fire cannot go ahead without First Nation commitment and participation
Dialogue needs to be government to government	Tables need to be created at the local level that are high level tables and also at the regional level	The government has not dealt with the old outstanding issues and promises they made to our communities in the past. How can we go forward when outstanding issues remain unresolved or addressed?
The proposal to the Premier was based on halting the EA process until a regional process could be developed, and yet it has not been halted	The government is still not listening to us	The government says one thing and does another, it says it is committed to capacity building but ignores proposals for capacity building
Treaty Rights Implementation, consultation and accommodation	Communication at community level, community meetings	Processes to address territory overlaps
Adequate Funding for Environmental training, monitoring and EA processes	Adequate funding for Training and Education	Adequate funding for healing
Adequate funding for capacity building in all areas	Adequate funding for local issues and regional strategy process	Funding required to protect culture and language and to integrate them in education and training.







## DAY 3 - Matawa First Nations (Private Sessions)-Actions Plans/Next Steps

### CLOSING SESSIONS

On Day 3 the Chiefs met in the morning to have a discussion regarding the proposed regional strategy framework. The Chiefs and Gathering delegates then convened in a plenary session for final comments and directions for next steps. Several Elders, women and other community members spoke and gave their input to the Chiefs. The following is summary of the subjects that they spoke about.

Unity – We need to stand together	Youth social problems, and all social problems in the community need funding, help, and support. We also need Land-Based healing	Education and Training is needed for the Youth and adults, but special needs education is critical for the children right now
Environmental Monitoring. We need capacity building for this, and we need people who will monitor the environment	Permitting and responding to companies. We need capacity building for this	Environment - Fear to lose the land and the water. Once it is gone we can't get it back
Resource Revenue Sharing What are the resources worth? There are more than just minerals. There are medicines and other resources on the land that we can get economic benefit from	Resource Revenue Sharing How much will it be and how will we share among ourselves?	Community based planning. Start at the grass roots level and bring issues and information to the regional level
Spirituality We need to embrace our spirituality and there should be respect for traditional and Christian beliefs and practices	Matawa First Nations must continue to have a spring Gathering as these meetings will help us plan and understand	Meetings - We need many meetings at the regional and at the community level and we need to be engaged in English and in our Native languages

## CLOSING REMARKS

### Matawa CEO

David Paul Achneepinsekum told the Gathering that the best part of communicating is listening and that the delegates had been listened too and that their words will put into action so that our People of the Land will come out of this healthy and prosperous. We are going to build on our strengths for a brighter future for our children. There is positive movement out there. We are going to build on the foundation we are laying today for our future. Throughout that process we must respect all the spiritual traditions including the drum and Christianity and that we must also respect all races no matter what.



### Matawa Chiefs Council

When the Gathering started on the first day, the delegates were informed that a community member of Ginoogaming First Nation was missing. Chief Echum received word the morning of the last day of the Gathering that the individual had been found and was deceased. The Chief made this announcement to the Gathering delegates. Chief Echum had to leave, as did other Chiefs and some of the delegates who were impacted by the death.

Chief Roger Wesley of Constance Lake First Nation spoke on behalf of the Matawa Chiefs Council. Chief Wesley ensured the delegates that the Chiefs had heard what the people at the Gathering were saying. He explained that the Chiefs had met earlier that morning to develop an immediate action plan to move forward. Included in that plan would be a letter to the Premier and to the Prime Minister demanding a halt to the current environmental assessment on the Cliffs Chromite project, and the establishment of a negotiated EA process. He explained that Minister Gravelle had indicated that he wanted to go ahead and draft a Terms of Reference for a regional strategy negotiation process and suggested that the Ministry bureaucrats start working on that. However, Chief Wesley said that the TOR would be drafted by the First Nations, with community input. Chief Wesley said it would be a regional strategy based on community discussions and that the negotiations would be community based and originate from the people.

## NEXT STEPS

1. Send a letter to the Premier and the Prime Minister regarding a halt to the current EA process.
2. Develop the Terms of Reference for the Regional Strategy Negotiations with community input.
3. Move forward with a community based regional strategy negotiation process, making sure it is adequately funded at the regional level and at community level and addresses the issues that were brought forth in the Gathering.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION

Matawa First Nations Chiefs and Community Members

Matawa First Nation Staff

Elder Gilbert Legarde for the Opening and Closing Prayers

All of the Elders for their participation in the Gathering

Eagle Boys for the Opening Drum and song

Rob Wesley for ensuring all the AV equipment was running and available.

JD Zupan for Streaming and Video Taping

Northern Translation Services

Valhalla Inn

### *Facilitator and Executive Summary Overview*

Terry Waboose

### *Our Gathering Sponsors:*

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)

FedNor

Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN)

Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA)

Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM)

Confederation College

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF)

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen (KKETS)

TD Bank

Buset & Partners LLP

Premier Gold Mines

Runge Pincock Minarco

SNC Lavalin

Lowerys

Wasaya Airways LP

## Appendices



### APPENDIX A

#### PARITICIPANT REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

1. Resolution 01-23/01/13: Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin (Standing Together) Regional Framework Strategy.
2. Joint statement from the Matawa Chiefs Council to the Government of Ontario delivered to Premier Wynne and Minister Gravelle on the occasion of our meeting March 6, 2013: Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin (Standing Together) Regional Process.
3. Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin Strategy (Standing Together Strategy).





## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION 01-23/01/13

#### **Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin** **(Standing Together) Regional Framework Strategy**

Whereas the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council unanimously passed the *Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin* Unity Declaration in Webeque on July 13, 2011;

And Whereas the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council decided on December 3, 2012 to initiate an action plan to move forward with a regional strategy, building on the *Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin* Unity Declaration and taking into account community position papers;

#### **Therefore be it resolved that:**

1. The Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council support in principle the regional strategy for the Ring of Fire discussed at this meeting held in Marten Falls First Nation. All of us are committed to moving forward in this direction, without delay.
2. The draft regional strategy document circulated at this meeting will be amended, based on the discussions and any further advice, and forwarded to each First Nation for ratification.
3. To screen and select a Senior Negotiator, the list of seven top names discussed will be reviewed by the legal advisors; remaining interested candidates will have interview arranged with the Chiefs council by the week of February 4, 2013.
4. To cover the interim costs of legal advisors who are working to continue developing this regional process, as an interim measure each First Nation shall be responsible for the costs of its own advisor, and the Chiefs Council directs Matawa First Nations Management to seek reimbursement and additional funding for the process from the Province of Ontario.

Moved by: Chief Allan Towegishig, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

Carried (8)

Dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2013 at a Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council Meeting in Marten Falls First Nation.







## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### Chiefs Present:

Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

Chief Allan Towegishig, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Chief Eli Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation

Chief Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation

Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation

Proxy Councilor Charlie Okeese, Eabametoong First Nation



233 S. Court Street | Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2X9 | Tel: (807) 344-4575 | Fax: (807) 344-2977 | Toll Free: 1-800-463-2249

[www.matawa.on.ca](http://www.matawa.on.ca)



## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### Joint Statement from the Matawa Chiefs Council to the Government of Ontario

Delivered to Premier Wynne & Minister Gravelle on the occasion of our meeting March 6, 2013

#### Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin (Standing Together) Regional Process

Our nine First Nations are standing together, united – *Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin*. We are asking the Government of Ontario to join our governments in a community-driven regional negotiation process that will set development in our territories on a new path.

This is a historic opportunity for all of us. Over a hundred years ago, most of our communities, your government, and Canada took part in Treaty 9. But that sacred treaty relationship is often not implemented. The mineral development in our territories, especially in the so-called “Ring of Fire” area, carries significant risks for our way of life, our rights, our lands, and our peoples. It also carries significant promise, but only if development occurs in a way that respects the treaty relationship – a relationship where our First Nation governments and other governments respect each other, as equal partners.

Development in our territories is not happening without us. You can count on that. We are not going anywhere, and our members will not allow themselves to be pushed to the sidelines.

But you can also count on our commitment to work with you on a positive solution, if you are willing to work with us. We have a way forward. Together, we can build a new relationship in the north.

We are asking you to join us in launching a community-driven regional process of negotiation. As nine First Nations, at a regional level, we will appoint one senior negotiator who will report directly to our Chiefs Council. Subject to final arrangements and his acceptance, we plan to appoint Bob Rae to this position. We are asking you to appoint your own senior negotiator who will report directly to Cabinet.

The two senior negotiators and their teams will work directly together in bilateral, regional negotiations between Ontario and the Matawa First Nations. This will be an intensive, community-driven process. We remind you that the Matawa First Nations are composed of nine community governments at the local level. Regional negotiations depend on an ongoing, grassroots process in which instructions come from the ground up, and decision-making returns to our First Nations. Each community has its own local processes that will be respected in the regional process.

During these bilateral negotiations, the parties may decide to invite Canada to participate as needed on certain issues. It is important that Ontario respect the principle that the First Nations are included in any negotiations with the federal government about our territories. In those cases when Canada’s participation is required, we should approach Canada together.





## CHIEFS COUNCIL

Broadly speaking, there are three sets of issues we will need to address in the negotiations:

### (1) Land management

We must work together as governments to responsibly care for our lands and resources. This includes issues such as design of the environmental assessment (EA) process, a decision-making process, regional land use planning (for example, planning regional infrastructure), and the coordination of environmental knowledge-gathering and protection mechanisms.

### (2) Revenue sharing

Government-to-government revenue sharing is essential to reflect our shared responsibility for what happens in our region. Proponent-based agreements cannot replace the need for this.

### (3) Capacity building

Our communities deserve to have a standard of living as good as that enjoyed by other communities in Ontario. Without access to basic infrastructure, without healthy individuals and families, without training opportunities, and so on, our communities will be left behind. These are essential to provide the foundation for development in the region.

We need your commitment to support this process with adequate funding. Funding needs to reflect our real needs, including technical support and full community participation.

The EA process is an ongoing and urgent problem. It will need to be set on a different path very quickly if our negotiations will have any meaning or any chance of success. The current processes are paper-based, without hearings in our communities. They are completely unacceptable. The longer they go on, the more resentment grows in our communities, the more costs we spend in our judicial review, and the more entrenched the companies become in their plans. As you know, we have called for a review panel, preferably a joint panel if Canada is willing. New EA terms must be developed together without delay.

The key now is for all of us to seize this moment, get going, and start the process. We expect Ontario's officials to work quickly with our staff to settle preliminary matters such as: interim funding, a workplan and budget for the coming fiscal year, terms of reference, and a meeting schedule.

We look forward to working with you. May our future generations look back on this as a historic moment that brought a better future for our communities and our homelands.





# ***Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin Strategy*** **(Standing Together Strategy)**

Revised: January 24, 2013

THE DIRECTION IN THIS STRATEGY WAS ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE  
BY THE MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL ON JANUARY 23, 2013.

THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION.

THIS DOCUMENT IS **PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL**.  
IT IS FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY AMONG THE FIRST NATIONS,  
MATAWA, & THEIR CONFIDENTIAL ADVISORS.



## Contents

1. *Overview*: Why have a regional strategy?
2. *Vision*: What is the guiding vision?
3. *Issues*: What are the regional issues vs. the local issues?
4. *Structure*: How will it work?
5. *Process*: What is the flow of events?
6. *Decisions*: What are the next steps?

### 1. *Overview*: Why have a regional strategy?

A regional strategy is an essential part of each First Nation's overall strategy for the Ring of Fire. United, you are strong. Divided, you are much weaker. You have seen the divide-and-conquer strategy used against you. Now is the time for your own strategy to break through the impasse: the strategy of unity.

This regional strategy is community-driven and operates from the ground up. The First Nations remain the primary units. Directions come from the First Nations, and decisions go back to the First Nations. The nine Matawa First Nations are "standing together" – *Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin*.

A regional strategy is not just good for one First Nation, or a few, or for Matawa as an institution. It is much more than that. Without a regional strategy, each First Nation would be selling itself short. A regional strategy will help each First Nation achieve more for itself. As a whole, the region will benefit, and each First Nation will also benefit.

The key to the regional strategy is to **focus on achieving an agreed Regional Framework with the Crown, specifically Ontario.**

The priority is to carry out negotiations with Ontario, launching that table as soon as possible. Canada is not off the hook, but neither will you wait for Canada. Ontario, your Crown partner, can bring in Canada on certain issues if needed.

In negotiating a Regional Framework with the Crown, you know that the matters at stake are big. This is not just one mine, or one road. It is the opportunity of a lifetime that can change the landscape – the physical landscape, but also the legal landscape – in your region. Your region will never be the same.

But the question is: what will that future look like? A Regional Framework between First Nations and the Crown would draw the outline of that future.

## **2. *Vision*: What is the guiding vision?**

The Matawa First Nations have stated a common vision in the Unity Declaration of July 13, 2011

*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.*

The regional strategy in the Ring of Fire works within this common vision.

The specific goal of the regional strategy is simple: to address the regional issues involved in the Ring of Fire developments for the benefit of your people, your lands, and future generations, based on a Regional Framework agreed with Ontario.

### **Guiding Principles:**

- Ensuring that Crown governments and third parties honour your inherent, Treaty and Aboriginal rights
- Respecting community autonomy & decision-making
- Working together for your common benefit
- Responsibly managing lands & resources
- Using your strength in unity
- Caring for the future and protecting your way of life
- Building capacity, healthy communities and economies

### 3. *Issues: What are the regional issues vs. the local issues?*

The Ring of Fire affects the region, but it also affects each First Nation differently. An effective regional strategy ensures that both regional issues and local issues are dealt with appropriately.

The following outline is based on the draft chart endorsed by the Chiefs Council on December 3, 2012. It sets out a summary of the local issues and regional issues. We have grouped the issues into 3 main “pillars”:

- **Land management (decision-making & environmental protection)**
- **Revenue sharing**
- **Capacity-building**

Both regional issues and local issues address the 3 pillars. But each deals with different aspects:

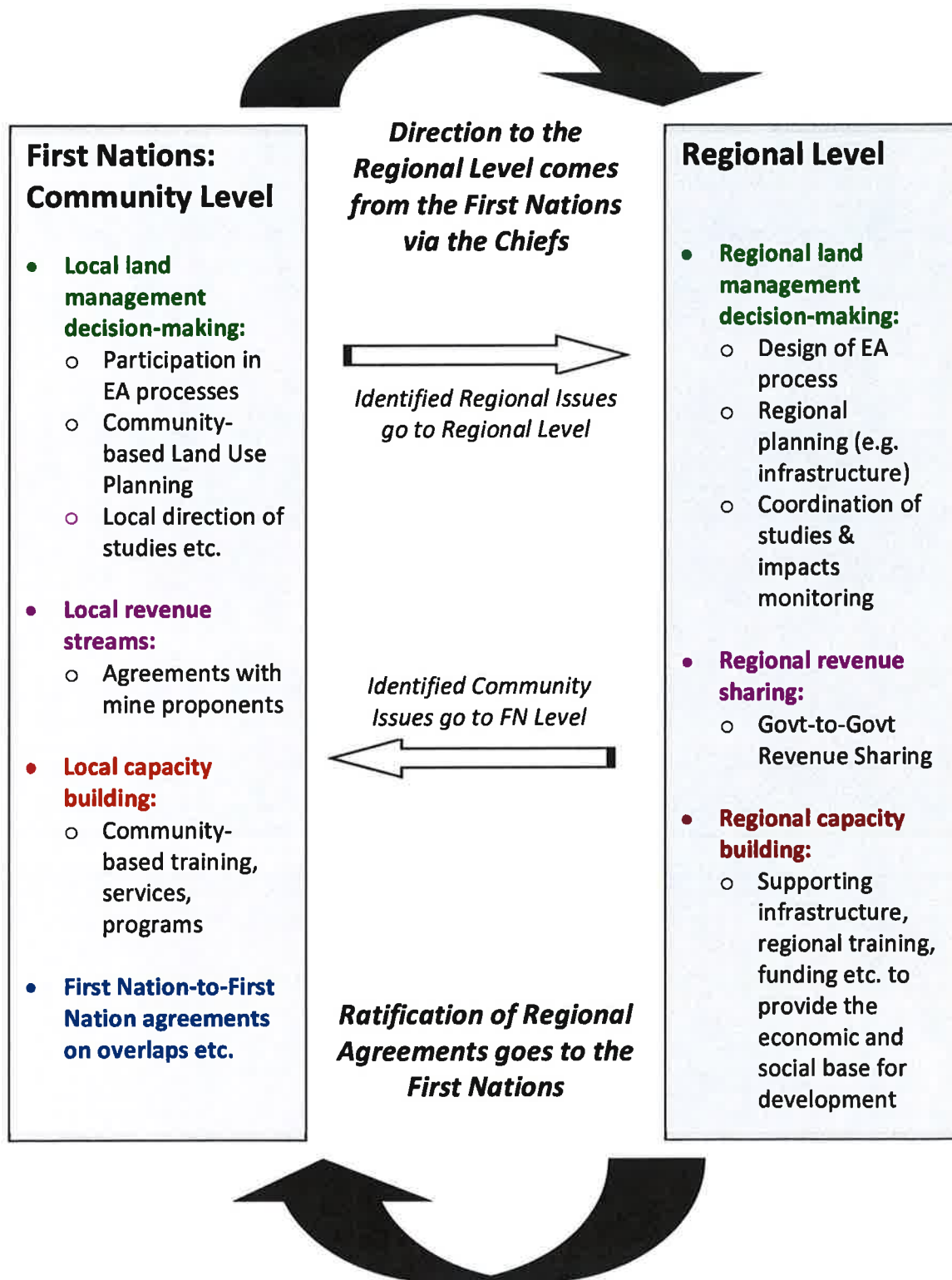
	Land management decisions / protection	Revenue sharing	Capacity-building
<b>Regional issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Design of EA process</li> <li>○ Regional planning (e.g. infrastructure)</li> <li>○ Coordination of studies &amp; impacts monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Govt-to-Govt Revenue Sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supporting infrastructure, regional training, funding etc. to provide the economic and social base for development</li> </ul>
<b>Local issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Participation in EA processes</li> <li>○ Community-based Land Use Planning</li> <li>○ Local direction of studies etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agreements with mine proponents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community-based training, services, programs</li> </ul>

Local issues need to be dealt with locally, by each First Nation. Regional issues should be dealt with as a region, in a unified systemic way.

At the regional level, direction comes from the First Nations together via the Chiefs Council, and key ratification decisions will always go back to the First Nations. The flow chart on the next page shows how regional issues and local issues will interact:



## Local Issues / Regional Issues



#### **4. *Structure: How will it work?***

Designing an appropriate structure to conduct negotiations towards an agreed Regional Framework in this case is a challenge. There are 9 First Nations in Matawa, located throughout a large territory.

On one hand, if you make a structure that is too large and complicated, you will get bogged down and will not be able to get work done or negotiate effectively. At the same time, we need to ensure that we have strong and effective community-level understanding and feedback.

The structure outlined in the chart on the next page has the best of both worlds for your situation – it uses a small, dedicated Negotiation Team to be the most effective, combined with intensive work and decision-making at the community level.

Plus, there are several mechanisms to ensure strong linkages between the two:

- The Negotiation Team goes to all negotiation meetings and works intensively on the negotiations. The Negotiation Team will also keep direct contact with the communities, though community visits and regular communication with local leaders and staff.
- The Chiefs Council instructs the Negotiating Team and participates in Main Table meetings (i.e. high-level negotiation meetings). This brings a direct link between the negotiators and the leadership of each community.
- The Community Liaison Officers will act as links between the Negotiation Team and each community on an ongoing basis. They will also participate, with First Nation Council representatives and community representatives, on a Community Negotiation Committee. The Committees will help by reviewing materials, advising each First Nation's Council, and reaching out to local community members and groups.

In addition, a regional support team will assist the Negotiation Team by providing advice on technical and legal issues for each of the three pillars. Working groups could be struck up, as necessary, to discuss certain issues.

## Regional Strategy – Structure

### Main Table

Main Table includes both the Negotiating Team and the Chiefs Council

**Negotiating Team**  
(3-4 members including Lead Negotiator)

- Conducts most negotiation & caucus meetings
- Dedicated to the work
- Regular communication and consultation with communities, including visits

**Chiefs Council**  
(9 Chiefs)

- Instructs the Negotiating Team, bringing instructions forward from the communities
- Attends Main Table (high-level) negotiation meetings

### Regional Support

Support for each of the 3 pillars of the framework, e.g. technical support, help formulating options, expert advice

Land Management	Revenue Sharing	Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal advice</li> <li>• Technical advice</li> <li>• Working groups as necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal advice</li> <li>• Technical advice</li> <li>• Working groups as necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal advice</li> <li>• Technical advice</li> <li>• Working groups as necessary</li> </ul>

Technical & legal advisors can overlap between pillars, as necessary

### Community Foundation

Decision-making comes from the ground-up

**Chief & Council**  
of each First Nation

- Makes decisions
- Instructs the Negotiating Team via the Chief

**Community Negotiation Committee**

- Community Liaison Officer
- 2 other community members
- 2 Councillors

- Advises Chief & Council
- Dedicated time to work on the process & involve community

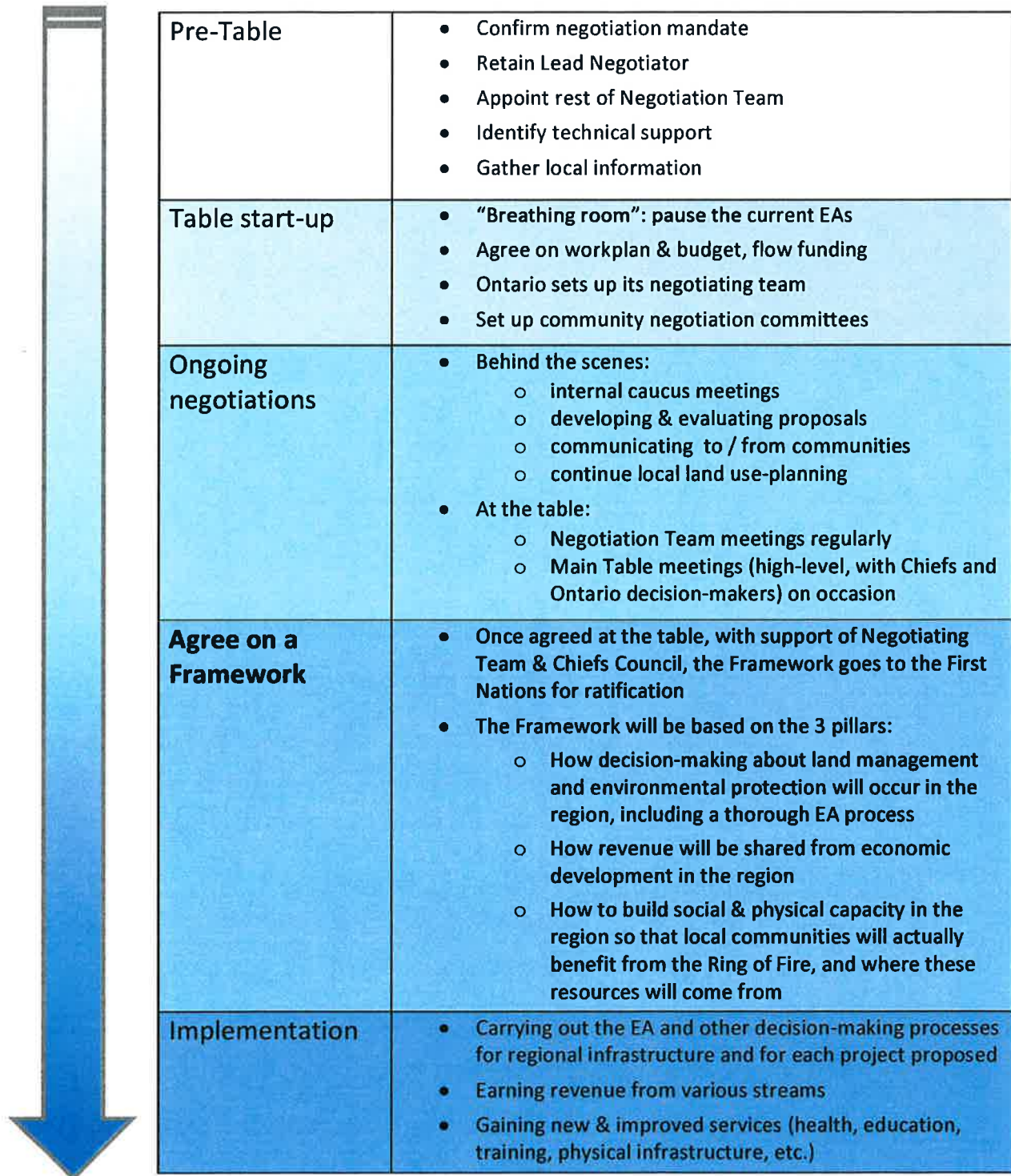
**Local community groups / members**  
(Elders, families, trappers, women, youth, etc.)

- Thorough consultation and review



## 5. *Process*: What is the flow of events?

The key is to **reach agreement with Ontario on a Regional Framework**. This govt-to-govt agreement would provide a foundation, and set the stage for other work.



Once you have a Regional Framework, implementation will follow. What will implementation look like for each pillar?

	Land management	Revenue sharing	Capacity-building
<b>Implementation notes</b>	The review and decision-making process will be set out in the Regional Framework, and then it needs to be put into practice.	Once the revenue sharing arrangement is agreed and comes into effect, it will bring new resources into the mix.	Capacity-building elements will be agreed in the Regional Framework. Implementation of capacity-building should start as early as possible to maximize benefits overall.
<b>Implementation examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Going through the EA processes and other decision-making processes for each project in the Ring of Fire</li> <li>• Engaging in regional planning for physical infrastructure like roads, broadband, and power</li> <li>• Coordinating studies &amp; regional monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaining the benefits of Govt-to-Govt Revenue Sharing, and using that income to benefit the region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training programs</li> <li>• Social support programs</li> <li>• Appropriate regional institutions (e.g. ec. devt., enviro., etc.)</li> <li>• Meeting needs for physical infrastructure in the region (e.g. to/from the communities)</li> </ul>

Down the road, in implementing the Regional Framework, you may or may not decide to pursue regional agreements with one or more proponents. It is too early to tell if that will be necessary. For example, if a good EA process is set up with the Crown in the Framework, and if proponents negotiate good agreements with each affected First Nation, you might decide that it is not necessary to reach a regional agreement with a proponent.

It's important to keep in mind that the Regional Framework agreement will not include *everything*. It will be a framework, and there will be more decisions to be made down the road.

During each step, every community's right to self-determination and control will be respected – in the negotiation of the Regional Framework, ratification of the Regional Framework agreement (and any related agreements), and in decisions down the road.

## 6. What are the next steps?

The next steps were summarized in the first row of the Process table on the previous page. We are in the Pre-Table phase. In more detail, you need to:

- a. Confirm negotiation mandate
  - This document outlines a recommended Regional Strategy. You need to confirm your support for the Regional Strategy (as outlined here or as amended). On that basis, you will need to write to Ontario asking it to come to the table to start talking. We will need to set up an initial meeting with Ontario as soon as possible.
- b. Retain Lead Negotiator
  - We recommended (above) that the Negotiation Team include a strong Lead Negotiator. We are providing you with a short list of potential Lead Negotiators. You need to select who you want to hire, and they need to start work.
- c. Appoint rest of Negotiation Team
  - We recommended (above) that the Negotiation Team consist of 3-4 members. These people need to dedicate a significant amount of time to this work over the next 1-2 years, and keep in close touch with the communities. You need to appoint who will be on the Negotiation Team.
- d. Identify technical support
  - We recommended (above) that you have advisers at the regional level to support the Negotiation Team. You will need expert technical advice on various issues, including legal, financial, perhaps on potential regulatory options, on infrastructure development and perhaps others. You will need to begin identifying who you want to hire, and some advisers will need to start work soon.
- e. Gather local information & prepare
  - In preparation for the initial meeting with Ontario, information is power. The Negotiation Team will gather information that could be relevant for the first meeting. They will turn to Matawa, the communities and their representatives to put together knowledge on the full picture.
- f. Set up the Table
  - We will need to reach out to Ontario and get a first meeting. We will need to prepare initial documents for discussion, including a draft workplan & budget.



***Now is the time.***

**Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin Declaration  
(Unity Declaration)**

We the undersigned nine (9) First Nations;

Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Ginoogaming, Marten Falls, Long Lake #58,  
Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie,

live and rely upon the lands, water and resources entrusted to us by the Creator.

We are connected through our language, culture, social and economic interests.

The First Nations have the inherent right of self-determination as determined by our  
First Nations and applies to our homelands.

This fundamental right has always rested with our people.

The inherent right of self-determination is an Aboriginal and Treaty right recognized and  
affirmed under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The nine (9) First Nations take the position that our traditional territories are under our  
control, and approval to operate in our respective territories cannot be given by the  
Government or any other entities.

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.

We will do whatever is necessary in order to protect our land, our water and our  
resources for future generations. We agree that we must stand together in order to  
ensure our nation is protected.

Therefore, we assert our Aboriginal and Treaty rights to the land, water and resources by  
requiring our written consent before any development activity may proceed.

Failure to consult, accommodate and receive the consent of the First Nation(s) to  
proceed with any work or activity is an unjustified infringement upon our Aboriginal,  
Treaty and custodial rights as First Nations.

*Unanimously endorsed at the Matawa Chiefs Meeting held in Webequie on July 13, 2011*

PROPOSED: SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION

PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL

THE DIRECTION IN THIS STRATEGY WAS ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE  
BY THE MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL ON JANUARY 23, 2013.

THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION.

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## APPENDIX B

### COMMUNITY BREAKOUT SESSIONS - NOTES

## QUESTION(S)

### How do we move forward together on a regional strategy on mining?

- |                      |                    |                      |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| A) Land Management   | D) Economically    | F) Social and Health |
| B) Revenue Sharing   | E) Environmentally | G) Other Topics      |
| C) Capacity Building |                    |                      |

### QUESTION: How do we move forward together on a regional strategy on mining?

#### A) Land Management

#### DISCUSSION

##### AROLAND FIRST NATION

Ownership of the land:

- Includes court case and Treaty recognition.

Land use planning - need adequate funding beyond far North:

- Must be community-driven.

Resource governance:

- Assert Treaty rights.

Management regimes following up on court cases.

Regional support beyond government time lines, areas, projects (i.e. Far North Plan).

Resource sharing overlap:

- How to deal with it?
- Government "most impacted".
- Best to work together, everyone in the same boat - look at sharing.
- Aroland to be the hub due to its unique position.

What is the purpose of Matawa if everyone is not together? Everyone should be at the same table with good communication.

We talk of unity, but:

- Actions need to match words.
- MDC - only four involved - all voted for it.
- Brakes are put on when it comes to action.

Matawa to coordinate a tour to the communities with all leadership and hold a meeting to get everyone together.

Hold public meetings with all leadership:

- Get everyone together, beyond committees include all communities.

Matawa's perception to shift:

- Identify priorities.

Local efforts/concerns to drive regional action.

Land management protocol to include:

- regional framework;
- help with negotiations; and
- communication and cooperation

##### CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

- The Regional Strategy must consider that Constance Lake First Nation has a process in place for land-use planning and the community is reaching out to regional First Nations and neighboring regions.
- CLFN will be coordinate land-use planning with fellow member First Nations (Long Lake #58 and Marten Falls) and other First Nations (Fort Albany and Kashechewan).
- The community is also expanding its Plan to entail the MISSINABI River.

##### EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

The key is education - educate and bring awareness of different levels of land management to our community members:

1. Treaty Land Entitlements
2. Albany River compensations.
3. Address what southern communities such as Longlac have lost.
4. Land use permit/license system.
5. Overlapping territories.

##### GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

- Land Management and Unity declaration: Trust and Respect
- Capacity building at community level (band members) for environmental monitoring to include: Comprehensive Implementation Agreements, Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Geographic Information System mapping.



- Communicate with trappers, community members, Elders, and others about individual rights, land values and traditional knowledge.
- Land-use plans - Cultural Impact Assessments would guide Terms of Reference and community protocols for engagement by industry and government.
- Meaningful consultation and accommodations thorough Joint Review Panel for Environmental Assessments.
- Standardized training from Four Rivers.
- Share land values and maps through a database.
- Secure adequate funding for a more detailed CA to meet community needs.
- Disclosure from Ontario and industry.
- Remediation for mines and any environmental impacts from resource development.

### **MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION**

- We need more information on land management - what is it to us? What are we talking about?
- Ontario is now responsible. Are we co-managing Ontario - that's one way to look at it.
- Our community does not have the authority over land management now.
- Is there a law so we can do land management as needed (i.e. Bill C-45).
- Roadways - how will these interrupt our communities? Roads have felt like invasions, and criminal people can be coming onto the community.
- There is a fear of OXYCONTIN use with road openings. This brings social consequences that we are not ready for.
- Big money means big consequences - need support systems.
- There can be positives, but we should monitor who is coming into community.
- Policing - need to increase capacity to deal with this.
- Overlapping issues will fall in different categories.
- Co-management visits with First Nation management.
- Use our people to work in all these areas (i.e. land management, conservation officers, social workers, teachers).
- Need to be careful with water/environment to make sure they are not destroyed.
- Nesting areas for migratory birds need to be protected.
- Water needs to be cleaned.
- Protecting fish spawning areas Marten Falls has white-

fish.

- Each First Nation needs their own needs addressed – industry and government have to work with us.
- Monitoring needs to be done but no one is assigned to do this now - how will this be done? Requirements include:
  - co-management between First Nations and province;
  - concentrate on the local level than larger regional level issues;
  - identify a negotiator;
  - keep line of communication open so new issues can be addressed;
  - not a an open-and-shut process; and
  - develop a tripartite process – First Nation-Federal Government-Provincial Government.

### **NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION**

- Protection of the land: We are the keepers of the land, the community people will decide.
- Change the name “Ring of Fire” to own language (i.e. “Piisaagosibi”) and translate to syllabics.
- Treaty rights are to be respected so the future is protected.
- We need to keep connected to the land and carry on the message as passed on.
- Oppression and colonialism dominate our ways, beliefs, and values; we need to reconnect to our land and culture.
- There are gaps between communities and mainstream society (i.e. language, communication).
- Knowledge and teachings passed on by Elders are lost – we are following too much way of the main stream (i.e. documents are hard to read and understand; it's like blocking ourselves with 10 doors/pages).
- We must follow the laws the Creator has given us - the laws of the land.
- All communities are different - South-North (and face different issues i.e. education).
- How do we work with First Nations who have encountered these issues already (i.e. education, maintaining our language, passing on/inclusion of traditional knowledge, spirituality and culture through schools)?
- As a people we need to:
  - maintain what we already have;
  - work together on our strengths;

- revitalize of our ancestors' teachings of the land (i.e. how to hunt and eat wild foods);
- regain healthy lifestyles;
- looking after the land;
- respect and be caretakers of the land; and
- go back and re-learn the ways of our ancestors.
- What is going to happen if there is no commitment from the province or if there are divisions/differences in opinions/processes?

#### **NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION**

Issues/needs:

- Protocols.
- Land-use plans.
- Policy and procedures (trustworthy).
- Structure development – visual for members.
- Governance structure.
- Ratification at community level.
- Support Band Council Resolution.
- Values collection, protected area.
- Identify how to minimize impacts.

- Historical background.
- Land base and community.
- Long-term planning.
- Water protection.
- All-weather road

#### **LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION**

Issues:

- Tree- and bush-cutting destroys traditional medicines.
- There is a lack of capacity such as technical people.
- Government doesn't recognize Treaty or Aboriginal rights (i.e. legislation, guidelines)

Solutions:

- Consultations and accommodation protocols.
- Land management plans
- Inventory (technical knowledge).
- Conserve trees, medicine, water, minerals, wildlife (fish).
- Listen to and improve communication with Elders.

#### **WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION**

See G) Other Topics

### **SUMMARY: LAND MANAGEMENT**

**QUESTION: How do we move forward together on a regional strategy on mining?**

#### **B) Revenue Sharing**

#### **DISCUSSION**

#### **AROLAND FIRST NATION**

Need a formula developed:

- To be negotiated.

Revenue sharing with government and industry:

- Including resources that have been taken both in the past and the future.

Words of the treaties:

- We are to share the land with everybody.
- Start local.

Need to learn more about revenue sharing:

- New concept - need education throughout communities.
- Need to know what we are fighting for.

#### **CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION**

- CLFN supports the concept that Canada and Ontario must share in the wealth generated from resource development in Northern Ontario as per Treaty No. 9.
- Recommends that revenue sharing not result in trust-First Nation relations; don't need Canada or Ontario dictating how our share is spent and controlled.
- Community knows what programs any new monies should support (e.g. community garden, health, building community, youth/children and employment and training).
- Any revenues going to the community must be controlled by Constance Lake.

## **EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION**

- Revenue sharing from Government/Ontario.
- Industry sharing with specific companies.

## **GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION**

- Ownership (equity percentage)
- Tie in social and health issues in Impact Benefit Agreements.
- First Nations to be the first beneficiaries of mining in Northwestern Ontario.
- Secure sales and mining taxes and Treaty Implementation (under Section 35: Consult and Accommodate), and corporate, income and property taxes.
- Royalties from infrastructure.
- Revenues from mining companies.

## **MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION**

- The more our lands are impacted the more money we should see from resource revenue sharing.
- It is being discussed at local level - important it is worked out ahead of time.
- Ontario has offered this in the past and we need negotiators.
- Ontario now gets 15% in royalty taxes.
- From Ontario's 15% royalties, how about others like hydro, taxes, taxes on mining camps?
- China is sending it to a local level with Memorandums of Understanding in place.
- In Attawapiskat, 1% was offered to them - this is not sufficient.
- If a company makes more we want more, not to be stuck at such a low percentage.
- We need substantial compensation for the effects on the land.
- We need something in place to accommodate changes (i.e. cost of living, hikes in inflation). Remembering the \$4.
- This is the first time Ontario has offered us a percentage of mines. Our negotiator will help us decide if it is fair.
- Couldn't this be one of many opportunities to build revenue?
- First Nations most affected by Ring of Fire development are key to revenue sharing.
- Revenue sharing: look at both options, local and regional, before making a decision.
- Look at the 15% royalty and all other options to benefit

for government (i.e income tax, hydro, road tolls, export tax [China])

- How will the money be divided up?

## **NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION**

- Money needs to go back to our communities to preserve our land, language and culture.
- Must negotiate for our share (i.e. long term 50, 100, 300 years from now) and agreements should be open and not locked.
- We should have a financial expert analyze profits (i.e. how much mining companies are making).
- Should have sources to help us access and maintain what our people want and be able to explain so they can understand.

## **NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION**

Issues/needs:

- Governance structure.
- How do we cut the pie in nine (i.e. infrastructure, education, etc.).
- Equal distribution, equal opportunity for every project.
- Look into other existing models (Casino Rama, Wasaya & others).
- Every new project has own agreement (i.e. forestry, mining, etc.)
- Money goes into main pool and distribute from there.
- Utilizing existing corporations (i.e. MINAWSHYN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, CREECO, TLICHO Government [Saskatchewan]).
- Do further research and learn what works.
- Use templates from other sources.
- Look at Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development structure and move away from it.
- Publicly traded companies (shareholders).

## **LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION**

Issues:

- Industry makes more profit and government just receives royalties, so there is not enough to distribute to First Nations.

Solutions:

- Have direct revenue sharing with industry.

## **WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION**

See G) Other Topics

## SUMMARY

**QUESTION: How do we move forward together on a regional strategy on mining?**

### C) Capacity Building

## DISCUSSION

### AROLAND FIRST NATION

Community Environmental Monitor:

- Must be trained, need teams in Aroland and in all communities.
- Within traditional lands, overlap all North – must work together while keeping local processes.

Regional Environmental Team:

- Share capacity (bring more minds together to deal with issues).
- Better for funding - fits into plan.

### CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

- Education is crucial; we need to ensure that children, youth and adults have access to quality education and special services.
- Adults need access to GED programming and healing programs.
- Workshops and tours must be coordinated to ensure children, youth and members see what underground and open-pit mining looks like and what they do to the environment.
- Consider that members with heavy equipment training require experience and access to job openings.
- Member First Nations are asked to consider Matawa citizens first when looking to fill jobs; the strategy must ensure that Matawa citizens are given access to meaningful employment.

### EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

- Be prepared!
- Education must be up to par; educate ourselves to enter the workforce.
- Matawa: train, train, train!
- Industries identify careers and their education levels – we must educate ourselves.
- Need a training centre in the community.

- First Nations to work with mining companies for capacity-building; acquiring education (i.e. Grade 12) and developing training centres.
- Communities should be given the opportunity for training.

### GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

- Secure financial resources from:
  - Human Resources and Skills Development Canada;
  - Service Canada;
  - Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines; and
  - Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.
- Train people in community to upgrade skills and education to take advantage of jobs and careers in mining (including women, youth and men).
- Healing for health and social issues.
- Find industry partners to assist with training.
- Strengthen community spirit and pride by more community engagement and better communication.
- Relationship building through community events.
- Enhanced governance for professional staff for members to trust.
- Training delivered at the local community by Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (Ring of Fire Training Alliance).
- Hands-on training at mine sites or by other means.
- Ontario Works programs to integrate skills training.
- Job fairs with industry attending to promote opportunities for various positions in mining and resource development.
- Job retention, maintenance and counselling
- Aboriginal Workforce Development and Maintenance Program (need funding).
- Criminal records can limit employment (need to know how to get pardons).



## **MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION**

- Must improve the quality of education (i.e Grade 8 is now at Grade 6 level or lower).
- Need upgrading at every level and special education for learning disabilities (i.e. FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME, ADHS, etc.)
- Need to identify areas of need like employment, heavy equipment and simulators.
- Need education plans, education councillors and employment councillors.
- Need life skills training, cultural transition, preparedness and job readiness courses and community-based upgrading.
- Will require a training facility in every community in different areas (i.e Fort Hope - miners; Summer Beaver - cooks, cleaners, construction and drilling).
- Percentage of Employees,
- Need Employee Assistance Programs for social issues (i.e. daycare, training for parents) - who is watching the kids if all adults are working?
- Need to establish banking and financial services in communities for financial planning and saving for retirement.

## **NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION**

- Education, knowledge and skills are important needs (i.e. how to manage, operate, and apply skills in a culturally appropriate context for future development).
- Must build up our people to have these skills, especially our youth.
- To prepare our people to go to work they need:
- Education - the importance of accessing our own educators.
- Developing our own standards and our own curriculum at the community level.
- Funding - put money into staff for education to help them upgrade positions.

- Other - staff need to know what resources they have access to (i.e. lawyers) and who to go to for assistance/ advice, training is very important.

## **NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION**

Issues/needs:

- Invest in education.
- Communication at community level.
- Build at both regional and community level.
- Utilize community resources (i.e equipment).
- Need commitment by community and at regional level.
- Look into more training programs (tie it under MINAW-SHYN).
- Credentials - determine what is needed?
- Use Wasaya.
- Certifications to be recognized provincially and federally.
- Look at curriculum-based on region. Why learn about a cow when you can learn about a moose? (need curriculum that makes sense for communities)

## **LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION**

Issues:

- Lack of technical people and resources.

Solutions:

- More funding, training of more community members. Need a training facilities (i.e shops in schools, training centres, apprenticeships, mentor programs, job shadowing, internships).
- Increase human resource development (i.e establish an internal process to develop).

## **WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION**

See G) Other Topics

## SUMMARY

**QUESTION: How do we move forward together on a regional strategy on mining?**

### D) Economically

## DISCUSSION

### AROLAND FIRST NATION

NA

### CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

- Member First Nations must remember that services and infrastructure exists throughout the region and recommends that member First Nation facilities be considered first for services and events etc... (e.g. CLFN has a facility - Eagle's Earth - that can house such events/programs as training, meetings and conferences and the community is planning to utilize the facility as a treatment centre open to all Matawa citizens.
- Member communities are asked to consider services and facilities available within the nine member First Nations for future projects, events and programs.
- Must also consider the rights of community trappers who may lose access to their trap lines; ensure compensation reaches trappers who lose out on their income source.
- Also must ensure compensation and communication for other traditional land uses such as fishing, hunting and other harvesting such as medicine and craft work.
- Citizens who continue to practise traditional ways must be considered if restrictions or loss of access to land is implemented.

### EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

- Every company involved with ROF needs to be with a partner of a First Nation community.
- Mining securities.
- Corporations requiring signing agreements, need legal entities.
- Bring outside experiences/mentors to sit on our boards.
- First Nations must build their own corporations.

### GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

- Develop business and joint ventures.
- Create mining supply chain with procurement in: cement, gravel, housing, water and waste management, camps and food supplies, fuel distribution, road and

railroad building, security, medical services, electricity (transmission), labour, and transportation (heavy equipment, trucking, wood products, forestry, woodland harvesting, wood processing, sawmills), airstrips and airways.

- How? Through:
- regional economic development systems;
- regional economic development corporations;
- MINAWSHYN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION;
- joint ventures; and
- foreign investors.

### MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION

NA

### NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

NA

### NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION

NA

### LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION

Issues:

- There are limited jobs, a lack of knowledge about mining, lack of partnerships (i.e drilling).

Solutions:

- Develop long-term plans.
- Take advantage of opportunities for skilled jobs, entrepreneurial opportunities and agreements.
- Require first right to refusal in primary partnerships with contractors and sub-contractors.
- Invest in shares of companies.

### WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION

See G) Other Topics

## SUMMARY

**QUESTION: How do we move forward together on a regional strategy on mining?**

### E) Environmentally

## DISCUSSION

### AROLAND FIRST NATION

Need to be talking about everything, from a first-hand perspective:

- Different from how government and industry sees it.
- We are the ones who see the impact – our grandchildren will be living through this.
- We have a lot to say about the impacts.
- We are the ones who will lose everything – not government or industry.

Need a Comprehensive Community Process that includes:

- Considering every issue within development.
- Each family to engage in own processes/sessions independently.
- Pull together into community processes.
- Include family groups.
- Develop community pillar groups (i.e. Elders, women, youth, hunters, trappers and men).
- Make sure everyone is included in process.
- Meetings to focus on topics (e.g. environment) – must stick to agendas

#### Environmental Assessment Process

- The key is that the current process is not fitting communities and not meeting their needs.
- Need adequate funding from industry and government.
- Need the right support (i.e. professional services etc.).
- Need the same level of knowledge and access to the same resources as industry:
- Will lead to better input and certainty - how communities will be impacted

(need to know).

- We currently have no input and need a new process:
- Similar to a joint review panel.
- Panel members - educated community members – in constant communication.
- Beyond who is on panel, who is addressing the panel?
- The community needs the chance to develop.

### CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

- Currently in a land-use planning process and the final

plan must be respected.

- There must be commitments from industry and government to fund technical support at the community level (i.e. mappers, monitors, liaison...) and at the regional level (MFN Four Rivers Environmental Group [FRG]).
- FRG must provide communities with workshops; we must educate the children in the schools and citizens in the communities.
- Elders must be consulted and allowed to speak on matters of the land; they have first-hand knowledge and experience (e.g. Elders have seen what decades of pollution has done to Constance Lake – the water is now susceptible to blue algae and other pollutants, which can be treated for community drinking water).
- The legacy from resource development (mining) must be returning the lands to what they are now. Ensuring the waterways are protected must be a priority.
- There must be regional- and local-level monitors led by the member First Nations – FRG (Regional Monitoring Team) and local liaison officers. First Nations must lead all monitoring as per a pre-determined plan for land and water protection.

### EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

- Members are aware and have been shown the pros and cons of impacts on the environment.
- Four Rivers to educate communities and need to spend more time in communities – not only overnight stays.
- Two processes: provincial and federal. What are these processes?

### GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

NA

### MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION

- Where is the waste going and how is it getting there?
- Open pit mining has the most impact on environment.
- Most of the time the waste goes into the rivers.
- Attawapiskat cannot fish in the rivers anymore.
- We need to hire our own people to be our own environmentalists, inspectors and health safety inspectors to make sure the mining is safe for our people and land.

## **NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION**

- Must monitor the effects of development on the animals - what will happen to them when mining starts?
- Must protect the environment including waters, streams, land, animals and trees.
- Must understand the effects of chemicals, which are causing diseases like cancer.
- Need to be educated about the negative effects of resource development.

## **NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION**

NA

## **LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION**

Issues:

- Industry and First Nation priorities are different.

- Environmental laws favour industry; there is no respect for traditional teachings in regards to the land, and there are no consequences if they are not respected.

Solutions:

- Environmental monitors, cultural impact assessments (i.e. water sampling).
- Waste management plans.
- Consultation with First Nations on Environmental Assessments
- Enhance sense of “unity” - how to you define “unity” amongst Matawa First Nation communities?

## **WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION**

See G) Other Topics

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## **SUMMARY**

**QUESTION:** How do we move forward together on a regional strategy on mining?

### **F) Social and Health**

## **DISCUSSION**

### **AROLAND FIRST NATION**

NA

### **CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION**

- Life skills and transition training and support must be made available to all young people, especially training in personal finance and budgeting, career planning and home ownership.
- Need transition support for those moving from a life of unemployment and poverty to a good paying job/career.
- Support and programming for local social issues is a priority; many First Nations have high-levels of addictions to prescription drugs, other substances and alcohol.
- The MFNM regional strategy and the local-programming must be supported to ensure healing takes place at the community-level. This is increasingly important given that there is a likelihood of drug-testing with the new jobs where safety is a priority.
- Eagles’ Earth in CLFN is an opportunity that MFN must remember as the regional strategy for community healing moves forward.

### **EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION**

- Community wellness studies - identify dysfunction, wellness of communities.
- Need to find out where we are at and do the study again in five years.
- No jobs.

### **GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION**

- Need funding for programs for alcohol and drug abuse.
- Promote healthy lifestyles through recreation, healthy eating and other activities.
- Industry to fund parenting and family programs.
- Money management courses needed to budget for bills and invest for the future.
- Entertainment opportunities.

### **MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION**

NA

### **NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION**



- Many issues related to Residential Schools - what is lost must be regained/relearned.
- Must educate our young people on traditional culture (i.e. how to fish).
- Need to bring youth out on the land; maybe create a camp area for them.
- Must embrace the teachings of our Anishnawbe ways (i.e. rules and responsibilities).
- Must focus on taking care of family and encouraging healthy living/lifestyles.
- Need to focus on healing and having access to traditional cultural practices and proper facilities in our own communities.
- Need a treatment centre and housing.

#### **NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION**

Issues/needs:

- Need our own lumber mill/materials.
- Mold.
- Bed bugs.
- Need our own supplier (i.e. Home Hardware).
- Look at regional design and building (prefab housing).
- Addictions, support, treatment facilities.
- Water issues (infrastructure).

- Spring water company.
- Healthy food (central gardening, shipping

#### **LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION**

Issues:

- Mould, drug testing, physical activity, prenatal awareness.
- Home visits for counselling (i.e drugs, grief, healthy living, alcohol and nutrition).
- There is a lack of funding to address, health and social issues.

Solutions:

- Need own doctors and nurses in the community.
- Need professional services/educators to promote health and nutrition.
- Must utilize other services and resources available including traditional practices for medicine, food gathering and healing (i.e detoxification - Western medicine is not working).

#### **WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION**

See G) Other Topics

#### **AROLAND FIRST NATION**

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### **SUMMARY**

**QUESTION: How do we move forward together on a regional strategy on mining?**

#### **G) Other Topics**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Communication

Good communication means:

- Everyone is in the loop.
- More frequent gatherings within communities (i.e. to provide information and receive input).
- Meeting with whole community - bring information to everyone.
- Include out-of-town membership.

Communication Protocol:

- CCLO - standard announcements and postings (use best practices).
- Create a framework within the region.

#### **CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION**

Communications:

- Must communicate to all community members, especially young students and local youth must be a major consideration moving forward.
- All citizens should receive updates on Ring and Arc of Fire developments, Mining 101, potential impacts to lands and waters and opportunities for jobs and careers.
- The Four Rivers Group and Matawa Communications should host workshops in the First Nations; local Community Communications Liaison Officers must be involved in workshops and other communications.

Capitalize on Opportunities:

- Must remember there are strengths and opportunities in each member First Nation. Consider fellow member communities when there is a specific need such as a con-

struction company and qualified people to fill positions, services and programming and more.

- The spirit of unity must extend throughout all aspects of the planning, services, programming associated with the potential for mining, infrastructure and energy development.

#### Coordinated Approach to Negotiations:

- The candidate selection process for the proposed Negotiation Lead and Team must involve the Chief and Council from each member First Nation. Each Council must have input into ensuring the qualified people are selected for the Team.
- Nominations, screening and selection of each team member must be deliberated by each First Nation Chief and Council.
- Additionally, diligence suggests that two alternates be named in case of emergencies or other issues.
- Consider succession planning to reduce delays in negotiations and source people from local economic development authorities during the candidate search.

### EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

#### Regional Issues:

- Families are coming together.
- Programs and resources.
- All communities perform their own strategic plans - on/off reserve members are involved.
- Very comprehensive and gives us direction.

### GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

#### Other Issues/Concerns:

- Retail shopping opportunities.
- Treaty implementation and other government relations.
- Resource revenue sharing for all.
- Natural Resources from First Nation traditional territories.
- Nation political issues.
- Ontario/Canada's responsibilities to First Nations (i.e. traditional knowledge for 10-year Treaty)
- Access bridge, land erosion, toll road, Canadian National right-of-way, timber claim, water diversion.

### MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION

#### Education Act:

- The government is not talking to us; we can use this issue to open dialogue.
- Control over native education - nothing has been done yet.
- Assembly of First Nations and Ontario work this out with the band – we're not relying on the AFN or Ontario.
- Bring in the Education Minister to improve quality of discussions.
- Need education in all areas - not just mining.
- Have the table open to talk directly with the province.

#### Relationships with Government:

- The history of our relationship with government is we always have to fit into their systems.
- Throughout history, the environment has been put into poor shape by government - they fail to see environmentally concerns.
- We have been fighting with the government for many years – have been treated like we are not important. We have to force them to talk about issues important to us.

#### Impacts on Culture:

- Need capacity through education because of the changes of the economy.
- Language, hunting, fishing and teachings – need to offer these things in the school system.
- Fall teachings and spring culture week - mining companies to fly employees out for cultural purposes.

### NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

NA

### NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION

NA

### LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION

#### Education

#### Issues:

- Lack of funding, special needs funding, teachers.
- Need specialized programming and curriculum policies (i.e. gear towards inclusiveness).

- Lack of child assessments and parental involvement.
- Need a better formula for tuition funding.
- Lack of shop programs in schools.

#### Solutions:

- Seek increased funding and obtain more resources.
- Develop more shop programs in schools and develop training centres to prepare students for jobs in the mining industry.

### **WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION**

#### Issues:

- Need community to be involved - a good way to capture input.
- Need to encourage participation, needs to be more awareness.
- To move forward on a regional strategy, there are things that have to happen in the community first.
- Webequie has a community strategic plan that includes mining and the Ring of Fire.

#### Challenges:

- Need a better communication system.
- Need a better understanding of Matawa and what Matawa does.
- Communication should target outside companies who are not engaging the community. Need community participation.
- Land-use planning must be completed.
- Environmental Assessment issues should be dealt with at the regional level (funds are required) and there needs to be a community engagement process.
- Each community needs to define its own goals, needs and expectations.
- Communities need to establish their own committees to work within a regional structure.
- Direction will come from the community (grassroots level).
- Each community needs to set up their own negotiation team

#### Needs:

- A community representative must be supported through community feedback.
- Hold regular regional meetings with community representatives within a time frame.
- There needs to be facilitator of a regional committee, ensuring that remote community feedback is heard.

- Community representative would also sit on their community committee.
- Need funding to support regional committee, community committee and provide training to committees.

#### Concerns:

- Process and decisions must come from the community. Decisions and direction cannot be made by Matawa.
- Decisions on how communities will work within a regional strategy must be made by communities.
- Matawa's role must be more clearly defined.
- Community needs to define their own positions, then decide how they will work with external groups like Matawa.
- Need an internal communication process that outlines how communities will provide input into lands, resources and environmental issues.
- Communities need to define how they would work within regional process based on individual community needs and priorities.
- Remote communities have increased challenges due to geographic location.
- There needs to be additional work planning for issues specific to remote First Nations - these issues can only be addressed by remote communities and they should take the lead on these specific issues.
- Need to build on community capacity, skills trades and expertise.
- A study needs to be conducted on remoteness and high cost of living by remote communities, and should include:
  - funding availability and adequacy;
  - consideration of levels of Ontario Works support; and
  - the education level of residents.
- Must look at levels of Ontario Works support to consider availability and adequacy of funding.
- Remote communities should have some discussions with other remote communities relating to issues and needs (i.e roads, power, broadband etc.).
- Remote communities are more impacted by Ring of Fire.
- Needs to be a discussion of differences, remote communities need to deal with issues in remote communities.
- There are lower levels of training in remote communities than in road access communities.
- The level of Ontario Works needs to be increased in remote communities.
- Must ensure woman are involved in planning-engage-

ment processes (as many as possible). Women should be encourage and empowered to participate.

- We are one people - have an awareness program and encourage participation.
- Also need to encourage and recognize Elders. Must encourage their participation and involvement - community needs ratification defined.
- A regional strategy must come from the communities. Each community defines its own process and how they work within its region. Leadership need to get mandate from community (grassroots level).
- Community must operate internal communication-ratification process to inform residents of community

decisions.

- Processes and decisions cannot be made by the regional body (Matawa).
- There are many needs and considerations to establishing an effective regional strategy.
- For land-use planning to be complete, need to understand how to operate the environmental assessment process.
- Need a clear definition of individual community goals, needs and expectations.
- Work needs to be done to address the needs of communities in different situations and areas.

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## SUMMARY

### PRESENTATION: RAYMOND FERRIS (RING OF FIRE COORDINATOR)

Raymond Ferris, Ring of Fire Coordinator, presented a report on legal review regarding government assessment. A unity declaration was made on July 13, 2011 in Webequie with a common vision, consensus and joint statement. He said Chiefs gave a warning to Ontario but also held their hand out, saying that we are not going anywhere and our members will not allow themselves to be pushed to the sidelines. If Ontario is willing to work with us we must have a way forward.

He said it is important to consider all potential impacts and benefits of resource development - local and regional (i.e. infrastructure, training and development). There needs to be internal discussion and response from Ontario. We need to work towards setting up a process and begin community-based regional negotiations. Other local processes may continue but this does not negate the community process. Some communities have their own MOUs and those may be pursued as well. He pointed out that some issues are local (i.e. education) and not necessarily to be dealt with at the regional level.

He said the recent judicial review regarding Cliffs' Natural Resources' environmental assessment process was good news. He said one of tactics used by the federal government and Cliffs was to delay the case for eight months but they lost that motion as the court ruled that they caused unnecessary delay and ordered an expedited schedule hearings.

### QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Wayne Moonias (Neskantaga):

- This has to be community driven - only way it is going to work. Need to acknowledge and respect processes already in place at the community level.

Chief Sonny Gagnon (Aroland):

- Respect what Wayne Moonias said, but very important for all communities to recognize importance of moving process forward. Sometimes processes stall when one group is waiting for others to do things. Also important to recognize that all communities really need this process to move forward together.

David Paul Achneepineskum:

- Clarification of Matawa news release re: Cliffs decision being draft and distributed to Chiefs for review before distribution (see attached). Live streaming of meeting stopped for this portion but being recorded for internal purposes.

Peter Moonias:

- Need to discuss things like media releases before they go out. Was disappointed with Toronto - don't just go to meeting with the Premier without caucusing with the Chiefs. Need to start doing things right. Received calls regarding this decision and said I'm not talking about it until I can talk with other Chiefs.

Raymond Ferris:

- Contribution agreements were in the news yesterday. In Saskatchewan, Chiefs are getting together and refusing to sign these agreements - something the communities need to look at. According to the news the government is putting conditions in the agreements - it is important we look at these things. Should not be signing without knowing what's in there. We have no leverage to negotiate and are forced to sign - First Nations need to talk about this and work together. Has to be a community-driven process so we will all understand the impacts and the benefits.





## APPENDIX C

### WORKING WITH OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERS - NOTES

#### **PRESENTATION: Nian (Nick) Qing Zeng , FOUNDER AND CEO OF KEYSTONE ASSOCIATES**

Nian (Nick) Qing Zeng, Founder and CEO of Keystone Associates, explained that he was appearing on behalf of Chinese mineralogical exploration interests and works for China National Genebank (CNGB), a state-owned company and one of biggest exploration organizations with 30,000 employees in exploration alone. He said they are paying attention to Ring of Fire development and work closely with the First Nation community.

He said he was told to consult with First Nations during initial exploration and has slowly tried to build relations and make sure communities feel comfortable. He was invited to come and show what they want to do. They have watched the area closely and are wondering what's the plan and where can they help? He said they can bring development to the area and benefits at the same time and believes the Ring of Fire could be a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

He said he has been talking to several stakeholders about how they can be involved. He gave an example of how his organization has signed an MOU to build a railway in Africa – the country can't afford to build it but they have natural resources, so the Chinese company can benefit from those and build the railway. He said he was not here to say they are trying to build railway or road in the Ring of Fire but that they want to be part of the discussion, as CNGB knows how to develop a mine. He said there is interest and he wants to help and be part of the activity.

#### **PRESENTATION: PAUL PARISOTTO, INTERIM CEO, BOARD CHAIR, NORONT RESOURCES**

Paul Parisotto, Interim CEO and Board Chair and Paul Semple Chief Operating Officer for Noront Resources, provided an overview of their Ring of Fire project. He said Noront has always recognized the potential of developing the Ring of Fire and that First Nations have to be on board with them step-by-step from the beginning.

He said it is important that they be transparent in everything they do, engage with communities and be respectful when working on Matawa traditional lands, by following due process and using best practices to ensure the environment is protected.

He said they do a lot of work in the communities through youth programs and they try to engage in their potential for the mining industry by keeping up their education to help them get into training programs. He said they need to start looking at how to get the infrastructure side moving forward.

## QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

Chief Peter Moonias (Neskantaga First Nation):

- Thank you to delegation and to the people from the communities. Note importance of this gathering – the second year we have done it. Important for us to understand that we have to come together and to work together - we have to move on together. Development is happening as we speak and we know that the government is going to go ahead with or without us. They say nothing is going to happen without First Nations but I don't believe until I see it.
- Understand that MINISTER OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES MINISTER MICHAEL GRAVELLE WILL BE HERE BUT DISAPPOINTED THAT THERE WAS NO RESPONSE FROM THE PREMIER.
- We know our people in the Matawa area. We care about our land, we use it for our survival, we use our land to get food, water, and that is why the environmental issue is so important to us. As of yesterday we stand behind that environmental assessment that needs to be done - in a way our people understand. We need to understand what's going on, what's going to happen, and what the mine is going to produce. The chromite mine has hazardous, cancer-causing materials. . Our people are very worried about that. The animals the waterfowl and the fish will be destroyed because of that. We're going to be chemically infested. We're not against development, but companies must understand our concerns.
- When we talk about our Treaty rights, we believe we are strong partners of the government, we believe we are Treaty partners. As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows. It doesn't say Mr. Harper can change it, or Premier Wynne. I haven't heard anywhere that the river has stopped flowing - unless you stop it. Day and night still exists in my community, so that is why I believe my Treaty still exists. Encourage everyone to think about the land, think about the children and the future. We have to do it right so let's do it right.

Chief Cornelius Wabasse (Webequie First Nation):

- We need find out how we are going to make this work for us, for our communities. Look forward to working with the communities and also with the government. Look forward to next two days of meetings and would like to see these meetings take place in future.
- Concur with Chief Moonias's comments on working together. Need to make sure we consider all aspects we have to think about. Have to include our grassroots people - the people living in our communities and all those people we have to work. Getting together, moving forward and making progress - that's what I'd like to see as Chiefs. Develop a plan that will work for all our communities and with industry and government. Hopefully we can continue to move forward.

Chief Celia Echum (Ginoogaming First Nation):

- Former Chiefs have discussed many things and there's a lot of work that needs to be done, but communities don't understand what needs to be done. We have to communicate at the community level for them to be able to accept what is happening.
- In the southern part of Matawa communities have been raped by forestry and mining. We weren't consulted by all the mining and forestry activities and today we are living with that. Our trap lines are almost bare and our traditional areas have very little to offer in terms of hunting fishing, herbal medicines, and other aquatic life is almost destroyed.
- Can offer our experiences to our northern communities. There was no such thing as an environmental assessment in those days. Industry has to go to the communities and explain exactly what they intend to do. As Nishnawbe people we are not industry-minded, we don't have the technology etc. By the time we know what's happening our areas have been destroyed.
- I am trying to send a message to the industry members in this room right now. We have to look out for our children, they are being born with deformities due to contamination in our area. Some things we don't even know are happening are creeping up today. Last night a young man called me: My girlfriend is dying, what's going on? She's 34 weeks pregnant. She has this disease that is eating her flesh. We don't know what we're touching, what we're eating. I'm behind the Chiefs that are facing this now. Right now the government is going ahead and doing what they want to do. It's not too late but we need to be discussing it.

Chief Johnny Yellowhead (Nibinamik First Nation):

- Matawa Chiefs give me strength. With unity, we have to stand up for our lands and resources, to have a better development with industry and government. In these meetings we talk about how we are going to accommodate our people. Our direction as Chiefs comes from our people.
- I studied the history of our Aboriginal people. Where I learned is that what's going to happen if we don't work together. These are the things we tried to teach our friends. We try to teach them traditional knowledge - how to respect the land, as Chief Moonias and Chief Echum said. I support them and we need to come up with a plan on how we can work with industry and government.

Chief Allan Towegishig (Long Lake #58 First Nation):

- We have to work together, listen to our community members. We have lots of knowledge in our own com-

munity.

- Nature is so good and I think about the mining that's coming up - that's why we have to let the people know it is going to change but it is going to change on our time.
- We have problems with drugs and alcohol, lack of education, financial resources but we are going to work. I want to be where the people are at, not up high, to be where the people are at, working together.

Chief Sonny Gagnon (Aroland First Nation):

- We were kind of reluctant to sit at the same table. I think this is the longest I sat with Paul without having to raise my voice.
- A question was asked by the first presenter: Where do we need to be to move along? The answers are in communities, through courts and the duty to consult and accommodate. Early exploration agreements to get into early starts with the companies - I think that is what is missing from the Ring of Fire. These agreements set the tone and the stage for how we move along.
- I have said time and time again - we want to work with industry and with the governments. We are the keepers of the land. We know what's best for the land, but it always falls on deaf ears. I think it's time they start listening, to hear what we want. We are not the culprits slowing down the process - it's the lack of communications. This sets the tone for the work and gives a framework on how to move ahead, to advanced exploration and the mine itself. My community wasn't part of this Noront deal.
- What I said three years ago, today I see results of it. I said at the beginning - this is where we are at, where we want to go. It seems we're spinning our wheels here, no traction. I echo what Peter had said - it's a good opportunity to maximize, working together, speaking with one voice. I think industry and government play this game of divide and conquer. Neither are going to happen. Need to make plans to move forward. There were days when we were tricked into these kinds of things.
- We are one nation, one people. The government put us on these reservations. We should take their rules and throw them in the garbage and live by the natural laws, We are related and I know my ancestors came from the James Bay coast. They all moved inland. There were no boundaries, no reserves, just one nation.
- Let's get to work and get the maximum. We cannot afford to make mistakes today. This here is a good sign of how we move forward together. We are one nation and we should treat it at that and get the maximum benefits out of it. We could own the railways and own the trucks, own everything proposed. Companies just want to take the ore out of the ground, so let's do the work for them. This will go a long ways to our lack of education, social issues, underfunding and living off government handouts, etc. I know I'm going to get what I want, not going to move if I don't get what I want.

Chief Harry Papah (Eabametoong First Nation):

- There is no way to construe this as accommodation or consultation process. I do agree with what everyone is saying here and echo what we're all facing. As Chiefs do have meetings and we do stand together. It is important for the communities to come together and stand together.
- We have live stream right there - community web-casting we can do. This is an area we need more concentration on - how we're going to work for our communities. We'll do the legwork, once we get those things in place, from that we will build ourselves what we want.
- Overall I think we face the same issues. Must get the best benefits for our First Nations.

Chief Elijah Moonias (Marten Falls First Nation):

- History has proved that the Indian Act and Indian reserves are unworkable - there's no future in them. There's a big colonial problem to settle. I know you denied colonialism a few years ago. You said at the international forum that Canada has no colonial history - how you can say that? I don't know what to call the reserve and the Indian other than colonial instruments.
- The residential school apology was the beginning of reconciliation process. A big one is the reserves and the Indian Act. We are doing to need some principled leaders, people that will acknowledge history and what they have done. Hopefully the future generations will meet up with leaders like that.
- There's a story someone told me once: he took a glass like this one and they put a fish in it, let it stir for a while then they put this glass in a bigger glass, the fish kept swimming in there, it was conditioned to stay in that little glass. The same thing as the reserve. We have to get out of our confinement. The Ring of Fire is that opportunity.
- If there is going to be development there. we want maximum benefits without shooting ourselves in the foot (destroying the land). We don't want to do what's happening with in the tar sands, chemicals seeping into the rivers etc. There's no accountability there - the feds are not accountable, the environmental assessment was involved there, just its involved here.
- They streamlined this process already so that's how we oppose that environmental process with Canada. That's why we went to court, so a longer process is in place. I don't know what chromium 3 or chromium 6 is - we need to study that. We need to know what is it they are going to deposit in the water before we say go ahead.
- We also got into an MOU with Ontario. The MOU is just a list of things we agreed to look at. Back in May Ontario came up with five items to look at. The MOU was signed in September. We added 8 terms so there are 13 items in that MOU. We also agreed that other items could be added later on.



- We have that opportunity, to have the treaty tables that the governments visited in 1905 at the committee level. This is a great opportunity to do that. To revive those Treaty tables that have been sleeping since then.
- What we are trying to do here is bring a Treaty implementation process with two levels of government. . Treaty 9 is listening. Ontario is unique. There are three partners. Saw an opportunity to bring to communities, the grassroots level, and use this Treaty to maximize the developments.
- We are trying to revive this Treaty table with Ontario and Canada. There is an opportunity to work on tri-party issues with the federal government as well. There is a great opportunity to do that, to bring the Crown as well.
- For example: education. There's a terrible mess there, due to the lack of quality control at ministerial level. The Minister doesn't care about the education system. We need educators to come in and revive our system, give us quality education. We thought there was this opportunity to do that, where the province can come in and help us with the system. We've been at this for 40 years now - if they're going to do this for another 40 years, that's the opportunity here to do that, with this process.
- It is imperative that we improve education. You need to be educated to work at the Ring of Fire. We need to improve the systems and bring in training, so our people who have failed can get their grades and prepare for the work that will be there.
- That's why I think it's important to go with this MOU with Ontario and Canada. Start at the community level first, before here at regional level, so it doesn't swamp this process. The community process must be a paramount process.
- (AFN National Chief) Shawn Atleo has talked about Treaty implementation for years but never went there - we need to go there.. Do this with grassroots initiative, whatever it is we are going to do. We talked about the environment, positive development., decided against industry and Canada. I'm sure the industry sitting here are thinking differently but it was good for us to have that joint panel process where grassroots will have that opportunity.
- We have had some really difficult times in the communities with drug addiction etc. Drug addiction is a symptom of this thing I talked about at the beginning - the Indian Act and the reserve. Not doing anything, no employment, no education. We have all had that for years. Industry helped us a lot in this issue. They helped us to pray for our drive to get healing. Government didn't help us much in the beginning, when they finally did it wasn't much either. In fact, I think government has been very unresponsive to the problem - reinstating the drug that was causing the problem. Clearly they were not responsive to this item at the reserve community level.
- Finally, the regional issue we try to do - we need to build this corridor together, the road, railway whatever it is so people can work in the construction and maintenance

of it. If we sit back and do nothing we're not going to be employed there. The issue is work. Development of mines - we need our people to work there. Revenue sharing? IBAs? That's a given, will come to each community. I think Bob Rae was hired to work out something that will be better, so we don't end up with a deal that is questionable. He needs help, financial help. Last week somebody told me lawyers and consultants won't make you rich - it's the finance, business people that will.

Chief Celia Echum (Ginoogaming First Nation):

- Clarification for government and industry. Had a meeting a month ago and they called it consultation. Make that noted today - we did not meet here to consult.

Unidentified Speaker:

- Question to mining companies, Paul (Noront). We want a guarantee about pollution, from the extraction, in the near future after operations begin. We don't want to feed our children, our nieces and nephews... we want to feed them normal food... that is my question.

Response - Paul Parisotto (Noront Resources):

- Environmental concerns are the biggest issues. All the waste from the mine will be put back underground in openings we've created. Only water discharge would be treated water from operation of our camp. Our plan will minimize potential impacts.

Question - Tim Sophia (Webequie First Nation):

- I'm really in the middle of favour for development. I have concerns as well for my kids and the future. Clarification from presentation - are there any trap lines identified and are there any traditional medicines?
- Like to see the communities benefit happen. Starts from individuals, healing, substance abuse and physical abuse, grief. We have those services available. We have AA meetings, health staff, councillors, training that come into our community, but there is a lack of interest from the people. They sign up but they don't show up.

Response - Paul Parisotto (Noront Resources):

- First question - traditional land use. The layouts we have now are based on our best knowledge. Next steps is engagement with traditional territories. Trap lines are not to be impacted/minimized, will confirm final routes, part of the EA process we're trying to go through with the communities.
- Second part of the question - we recognize it as a problem. Some of the social issues are very difficult for us as a mining company to deal with. Healthy communities and workforce we would want to be part of our opera-

tions. We are making our best efforts and we try to engage youth as much as possible with things like mining camps to help them realize what their opportunities are.

- Result of the project is more than a guy working underground. It could be an environmentalist, accountant, etc. Help the young people stay in school to take advantage of these opportunities.

Comment - Raymond Ferris (Ring of Fire Coordinator):

- With respect to concerns with the EA process – steps have been taken already. Come in and talk to the First Nation before they set foot on the ground. How to move forward – need some kind of agreement on how that is going to happen. The way it's going right now, legislation has some time line, government makes some decisions, a paper-based process. Our communities are not participants in this process. No resourcing has been provided to conduct studies to get the information they need to make good informed decisions.
- Need to look at environmental issues and how training will be done. Need an EA on social economic impacts, but no resources for studies on that. These issues should be addressed now. Don't understand how this is going to work. We're caught up in legislation, pitting industry against First Nations. Like the Chinese companies are talking about - doing the steps before you get to that stage. First nations can participate in this environmental assessment actively and effectively once they have that information.

Comment - Spokesperson (Nian Nick Qing Zeng) for Chinese Industry Delegation:

- When people come to new territories that should put everything on the table - who are they, what they did, what they are going to do. Consulting with First Nations is key - so important. Wherever we work in the world people care about their rights. People always tell me First Nations are a challenge, but in my experience it is not a challenge - you just need to have a better communication.
- How you can do the EA and all those things? An early-stage grassroots project. It should make people feel comfortable. Talking to them before doing the airborne survey. A lot of times we're not sure what we are looking for. Hopefully we can get a return.
- There are a lot of challenges in the mining industry. All the challenges are workable, but the key is how you work with your local partner. For First Nations the Ring of Fire is a lifetime opportunity. How can we grab the opportunity? How we can minimize the bad effects and how can we benefit?
- The Mining industry should be open, say what we are going to do. Chemicals, I can promise you, is safe if you handle it properly. Two-way communication is a good start. Don't think the mining industry is bad and we do

have a modern word. We need minerals, and the Ring of Fire has the best chrome in the world right now. Saw Africa, so rich sitting on natural resources but the people are poor, always poor. Why? Trying to fix problems, trying to start fresh and start right away.

Comment - Paul Semple(Noront Resources):

- I think it's about partnership and how we do things together. Our approach on the EA has been not to do it as a document and produce for public comment at the end. Have First Nation input in the design of the EA. That is our approach and we are still trying to pursue that with the communities. We're not trying to do it as ourselves.
- Alliance created with KKETS. We are really acting as an industry adviser, helping guide with careers and are willing to discuss economic development, creating companies and businesses.
- The wellness issues mentioned are difficult - we cannot solve those. The community cannot solve those by themselves.
- The reason we are putting education as a high priority is we want to create as much opportunities during the construction phase as possible so we have a trained workforce employees - that's been our approach and what we're trying to do. We'll look for people to come and operate it for us, graduate into a transition with trained mechanics, millwrights to support our operation. There will be a big wave of jobs during construction, with 1,000 people working on-site and 400 during operations.

Question - Jason Rasyevich:

- Question related to Raymond's - 2011 assessment, our Chiefs asked for review of the Cliffs project. The comprehensive EA doesn't support our community needs. Industry got off on the wrong foot, not supporting or partnering with communities. When you have a project this massive, 100 bodies of water and three main river systems, our First Nations want to do the research to see what these environmental impacts will be. There's also legal costs and our communities don't have the budget.
- The PIDA recommendation paper showed need to partner in business and environmental issues. Those recommendations were not taken and now we're here. Like to ask industry about their opinion on this process.

Response - Paul Semple(Noront Resources):

- It's not my place to comment on the Cliffs project - we have our own project. We would like to develop and have input from the communities for the EA. Concerns are mitigated during the development of the EA rather than after-the-fact. Have had that position for about two years now.
- We've gone into communities, had open houses, we have a table in the next room with a summary of our

project translated for those who would like to see it. We're trying to engage and get involvement directly from First Nations in the EA rather than after-the-fact. Will make a better product, a more complete package around the social, economic and environmental impacts of the project.

Question - Marcel Gagnon (Aroland First Nation):

- Regarding environmental problems and industry and safety, to the Asian industry here - looking at Thunder Bay news we see that China's environmental legacy is not that great, plus their industry records are not too great. Are you changing your practices when you're coming to Canada, or simply ignore our environmental legislation?

Response – Nian Nick Qing Zeng for Chinese Industry Delegation:

- There's always good people and bad people. China you're right, lot of accidents, especially with underground with coal mines. Safety issues becoming very important back in China. China tried to grab the development opportunity, after 30 years, have made some mistakes with safety and environment. Last couple years are trying to shut down small scale coal mine for the safety issues. More than a couple of governors were fired because of accidents. Finally realize need to balance the development with environment - too bad it took almost 30 years.
- I can tell you the Chinese government and the Chinese companies are working very hard to fix the problem. Some companies are forced to shut down due to environmental issues. Not saying it's perfect, but we are not going to repeat the mistakes here. At same time trying to screen investors. I talk to government of China very often. Always good people, always bad people. 1.3 billion people in China - cannot say everyone is good.
- Let's become brave, grab opportunity and be part of the development. Make sure you got the right people in this area to develop the mine. I cannot guarantee every single Chinese company is good, but you can talk to us. You should select the people, the partner. We want to show the people who we are and make the people feel comfortable about who we are.

Comment – Wayne Moonias (Neskantaga):

- I believe our First Nation has been very consistent with the decision-making process. It is important that companies coming in our traditional lands, each individual, decision-making process for each community based on free, informed consent.
- Development occurs in our area, it's sad to say, the company sitting beside you, hasn't respected that. Numerous letters to cease and discontinue their activities - they still

do their activities. It is not right to engage in those kinds of practices. I heard Noront say they're going to try and put a mine in production – 4,000 jobs is another number I heard. Let's be realistic, I don't know how a company that's trading at 30 cents per share or whatever will be able to do that. It's important that our protocols and how we do things in our own communities have to be respected. We have a protocol in place.

- Government and industry say we respect you and we want to work with you - it's difficult when words are said to you in that fashion then something else happens that shows no respect. We need a partner that is going to respect how we conduct our own governance in our individual communities - that is a form of relationship-building. If you don't have that then it's going to be difficult to pursue those long-standing developments or partnerships.
- The decision-making process in our community rests with our people. Chief Moonias has been vocal about that, which is how we work. Industry and government took advantage of our people, but we are starting to assert our Treaty rights.
- It's a common thing throughout the communities - the protection of land and environment is critical. Resources taken out of their respective lands require something in return. Community must be informed – can't just pick and choose which information is going to be provided. They need something to allow them to make an informed decision.
- The government tends to channel it's duty to First Nations and industry - they continue to do that, They sit here with us and say we respect your Aboriginal and Treaty rights, yet they turn around and do something else. That is going to create a challenge for these developments to progress. That's the reason Matawa Chiefs took the initiative to meet with the Premier. I haven't heard anything about how the province is going to respond to the statement that Matawa Chiefs made - it's important that industry understand that. Every community is different, every community has a process in place, but there has to be respect regardless.

Response - Paul Semple (Noront Resources):

- Thank you, we've continued our discussion on how we can work together. We would gladly make presentations to the communities, spend time to answer all the questions and have that direct dialogue.

Question - Unidentified Speaker:

- With respect to FIPAs, foreign investment and protection. Take control and ownership over some of this assets, they're making this move without consulted First Nations - sometimes what our foreign partners and investors don't understand is that this is a nation-to-nation country, different than international business. Wondering your opinion on Canada's move to make this agreement?

Response - Spokesperson (Nian Nick Qing Zeng) for Chinese Industry Delegation:

- Hard for me to say anything. The political system in China - I wish our government know what they're doing. Sometimes they don't know what they're doing. I personally think it's a great moment for both countries, booming population, lots of resources, lot of Chinese companies, huge investments in Canada. Look at the investment in the oil sands - how can attract money from China to Ontario? Keep trying to tell them Ring of Fire could be one of the best opportunities.
- I think better to work with China rather than only USA.. I think it's a good moment.

Comment - Lewis Nate (Eabametoong First Nation):

- Idle no More speaks to everybody, all levels - industry, government, local government. Tired of decisions being made by other people, time for people to listen to, talk about the environment.
- Agree with Wayne on process and protocol. There is a lot of fear. People are tired of hearing Ring of Fire - who's going to benefit? It's the government and industry - and the landscape, There's going to be a lot of change in the landscape.
- Environmental assessment yes, but are we going to get an Environmental Impact Agreement. I think that is the key to it all.
- Grassroots means people want transparency and accountability at all levels. Even our own leadership will instill fear at times, We hear at times what our First Nations want to see, but is that the truth? I don't think so. When we talk about the land we get teased, mocked. They say we don't see any footprints - you guys are not using it.
- They assimilate us to be white man, put us on reserve. If you look at the map and where we came from, Fort Hope is made of different communities and different challenges - who's going to benefit? We're going to have to start looking at what the people want.

- We don't know anything about China. We know what we see on TV – riots. I'm sure there are better people, but that's our concept. What we see on TV is what we believe. We have to have better communication in all areas.
- Billions of people, a lot of money, pros/cons, environmental concerns - that's what it is all about. I talked to people who gave up their land - you'll get jobs and houses and things, but what's running through your veins is you're native - that you cannot hunt, do what you want to do.
- Exploration companies are going to other countries – they are scared of Ontario, and the reason is the government is not doing its job. If they start doing that I think we will all be in for a good ride.
- Other one issue is revenue sharing with industry - Ontario or Canada are not going to share with us.
- There are a lot of issues - you gentlemen have one thing in mind: we want to get to that muskeg. In the old days they used rail to open the country. Just imagine what it's going to do with our country in our portion - at the community level that is not the only thing bothering them. To understand that you have to be from there. You can talk for hours and hours and write books but you'll never understand what First Nation people are going through. They're still reeling from the residential school - the churches that imposed that, abuses that they have to deal with, blood in our land we haven't dealt with. Protocol is to go see Chief and Council, not just fly in and fly out, make a presentation. First Nation leaders and industry leaders - we were created from one person, which is God, no matter what language you speak.



## **Presentation : HONORABLE MICHAEL GRAVELLE, MINISTER OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES**

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL GRAVELLE, MINISTER OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES, ADDRESSED THE GATHER AT THE REQUEST OF CHIEFS FOLLOWING A RECENT MEETING BETWEEN MATAWA CHIEFS AND THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO ON MARCH 6, 2012 WHERE THEY WERE LOOKING FOR A COMMITMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE REGIONAL STRATEGY. THE MINISTER SAID THIS POTENTIAL REPRESENTS A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PROVINCE AND FIRST NATIONS IN PARTICULAR TO MAKE ADVANCEMENTS ON REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING.

He said the government is conscious of the fact that they want to maintain work with each individual community - not necessarily on the Ring of Fire but on long-standing issues related to capacity. He said he is committed to all aspects of development progress in environmentally and sustainable manner. He said the environmental process is very important to First Nations as they are the closest to the development, and that they must meet with government regarding specific issues.

He explained that the Ontario government has taken a number of initiatives that will ensure their partners can be full participants in this historic opportunity. At the March 6 meeting Matawa leadership sat across at the Cabinet table with Premier Wynne, Minister Zimmer and himself to discuss a regional approach to their Ring of Fire discussions. He acknowledged that communities need to be front and centre as well, and said the government has been working with Matawa communities for direct benefits. He suggested that one of the challenges, he said, is not just for individual communities but infrastructure planning on a regional basis.

He referenced the fact that Matawa First Nations have asked Bob Rae to represent Matawa Chiefs and have asked Ontario to appoint a negotiator, and said the response to that recommendation is crucial. He suggested that they first set out a structure for this so both sides understand how the communities will be engaged on regional issues - how concerns will be accommodated, and how we can design a process that provides significant and meaningful benefit to meet our mutual goals. He said a very well-defined terms of reference, specific time frame and budget are needed. He said Mr. Rae would be a good choice to guide these discussions, as he understands how government works, and his government's belief and hope is that once this step is taken they'll have a better idea on how the discussions will move forward, and a better understanding of the approach to negotiations and facilitation.

Getting to this stage is important, he said, and that's what he has been asked to bring forward to Matawa Chiefs today. He said he is keen to hear from Chiefs and to respond to their questions. He said he is proud that the government has been able to provide significant support to individual communities over the last number of years for land use planning and capacity development, and that they are keen to continue to build this relationships, which is important in his new role as Minister of Northern Development and Mines. He said it has been an honour to work with Matawa communities and if he has learned anything in the last five years as MPP it is that a close working relationship with First Nations is very much about showing respect. There's no question that that gathering between the Chiefs and the Premier was an important step in that process – it was an historic meeting.

## QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Chief Roger Wesley (Constance Lake First Nation):

- Regarding feedback on the proposal from March 6: has hoped this would have helped direct and lead the province towards some action for working with us. We laid it out pretty clearly as to how we thought we could continue working in that relationship. I guess we're a little bit taken aback by the fact that we put a proposal in respect of the province and new premier and ministers. There's an opportunity to discuss, challenge in responding in an open forum like this - did it really take two weeks to say this? If this is the route we're going to go, we'll draft up a terms of reference and draft budget to start moving in the right direction.
- The magnitude of this project is so great. I keep referring back to a report by a diverse group of expertise, recommended that the province invest hundreds of millions of dollars in the North and more specifically to the First Nations. All the experts at the time came together in full agreement this was the way to go.... That report is shelved and we don't know where it is today. Nevertheless, \$2 million and \$3 million amounts significant enough, but to go the full distance the hundreds of millions will be what's required. We'll be as effective as we can. First Nations and Ontario can walk through this hand-in-hand in a fashion that's supported by real means to get real things done and not the situation we're in right now.
- For example: \$2 million to CCLOs - I had to issue a layoff notice to my CCLO, no commitment for funding. A good supporting letter but finance people tell me we cannot move on it until guaranteed funding. These are piecemeal approaches - let's move into a long-term fully-funded and fully-resourced partnership to move forward in full partnership.

Response - Minister Gravelle:

- We want to move to that next step, that understanding, that agreement, to be able to form the terms of reference, deal with issues such as budget, time lines, environment that are important to your communities. I appreciate that this has gone forward, but in terms of how it's been managed I cannot respond to the funding referenced to the end of March, I can only say as sincerely as possible I do believe we have an opportunity to build this relationship in a very positive way. We are committed to capacity building, on a collaborative or regional framework basis.
- I did not want you to have any sense that you were being put on the spot. I thought this was a forum I felt you would like me to respond at. I believe the suggestion we put forward is one that will help us move forward. We are committed to making this work from capacity, environment, growth. I trust we can continue to have this

discussion and move forward.

Comment – Chief Peter Moonias:

- In 1905/1906 we signed Treaty with the two levels of governments. At that time we said we would share and work together - that is over 100 years ago. Today I keep hearing the same thing I heard when I started over 40 years ago. I'm getting to be a little bit nervous whether we are going to go in the right direction. When we met with the premier we asked the premier to consider the presentation that we made. We also want to have our own tables at our own communities, but to be considered part of the funding agencies. \$2 million is peanuts compared to what's been taken. We've lost so much over the 100s of years. It's like a marriage between man and woman - you don't sell your house unless you ask your spouse, and that is what the Treaty is supposed to be all about. Before you extract from the land you have to ask, We don't steal from each other, we don't sneak in agreements with each other.
- We better be serious about this agreement. It was a very historic meeting. I was really happy to come home thinking I would get the response. I'm sorry I have to speak like this - I wish I had spoken like this 40 years ago, maybe things would be different.
- I would like to uncover some of the things that need to be seen and heard from the public - that's what they have to tell the public. Instead of saying we are using tax dollars, the tax dollars are from the lands that the native people owned, that's where the tax dollars came from. And why we are asking for a little bit back? Otherwise there's no hope, we might as well forget it.
- Don't let these little projects and programs be distracting us anymore, we had to challenge these people, we have to get the regional strategy with the government or forever we'll be asking for help for programs that show up, for housing dollars, unless we come equal footing with the government and then we'll be successful.

Response – Minister Gravelle:

- I don't think anyone thinks of you as a troublemaker, you are fighting for your people and always have and that is as it should be. I appreciate your straight-forward comments. Perhaps I regret the fact I laid out a list of funding aspects. The point I was strongly trying to make is we are very committed to working as partners with the Matawa communities.
- I can only state as strongly as I can, we are very serious about working with you. We have great respect for your Treaty rights and the long-term benefits to your communities. We are committed to resource revenue sharing as well as other aspects.
- To advance to next stage, setting up terms of reference

would be an important part of that process. Need to have a have person credible and acceptable, embraced by Matawa. That is potentially a good way to develop. We are very serious about wanting to get to that next stage. I'm hoping that at the end of this discussion that you will feel the same way.

Question - Chief Sonny Gagnon (Aroland):

- In the past I have tried to get information about predetermined agreements between industry and the government. If that's still the process today, then I think we made it clear it's time to pause the project. Decisions are going to be made that will affect our communities. We should be the ones making these decisions - any response to that?
- The agenda's predetermined - in your back pocket. I come here in good faith, wanting to work with industry and governments. There will be opportunities lost if we show raw ore and don't process it here. I wouldn't want to take that opportunity from First Nation.
- Governments changed their course when (RICK) Bartolucci resigned. Information was given to me, who I am sitting with, but if it's predetermined then I'm there for no reason. If First Nations are going to be in the driver's seat they better have the steering wheel in front of them. I just wanted to ask the federal negotiator - Tony Clement, didn't have anything. I know they're meeting today, should be meeting with First Nations.

Response - Minister Gravelle:

- I'll do my best to respond to that. Premier Wynne, at the meeting, priority move forward in discussion related to discussions related to Ring of Fire. Certainly want to make every effort I can to express that strongly as I can today.
- Cliffs made the announcement, a positive announcement was proposed to put processing facility. I am the for Thunder Bay-Superior North as well and would have loved to seen that built in Greenstone or Thunder Bay, but they made a decision based on a business point of view. Certainly we are having discussions, have spoken to Cliffs. We want to move along a very specific track in terms of our partnership with First Nations, specifically to the Ring of Fire. Am very grateful for specific proposal two weeks ago.
- Lots of things that needs to go with this project. Committed to process and respecting Treaty rights, needs to be done in the right way and my statement today is we want to move forward in that relationship. Need a formal discussion with you and how we can partner and make this happen.

Comment – Chief Gagnon:

- You didn't answer what I wanted to hear. I don't think Cliffs should dictate what the government is to do. It's the Crown, the First Nations that have control of the land, and not to meet their needs. If the Crown wants to give in to the company's demands and if you guys don't want to look after the land then we will look after the land.
- Cliffs is an international company, clearly the project requires significant private sector support to move forward. I don't know how to recognize any more strongly - this project will not go ahead unless we are working with the Matawa communities. That's why our initial response is what it is. This is a project that could have significant consequences - not just the environmental issues.

Question - Chief Johnny Yellowhead (Nibinamik First Nation):

- Two weeks ago our meeting I specifically asked the Premier how determined she is to work with each First Nation. Today would have been a good opportunity for dialogue with members here. I am disappointed she's not here. To me there's no commitment - but you say you are very committed to work with the First Nations.
- I'd like to see that happen. Just like the Chiefs have been saying, we should have government-to-government discussion. I think that needs to happen. We need to have better communication, better dialogue, perhaps you could elaborate why she is not here. In front of us she said she is very committed to work with the First Nation - it would have been a good opportunity for her to be here.

Response – Minister Gravelle:

- The Premier would very much like to be here. I do think she made it very clear, she asked me as the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, as the person responsible, that does not mean the Premier will not be involved in direct conversations. As noted two weeks ago, it's been a long time since a premier was involved in discussion with the Chiefs. She made her position clear - she can't be at every gathering, will be at ones in the future.
- She did ask me to send along the message, obviously her best wishes, and she looks forward to future opportunities to meet with you. You saw how sincere she was about her commitment to the project. We are very determined to work with you, to build that partnership, and it still stands firm today.

Comment - Chief Harry Papah (Eabametoong First Nation):

- I could have sent my councillor to participate but I chose not to - there's that commitment to be here. There is an open forum in this room, I could speak for myself as a Chief.

Comment - Chief Elijah Moonias (Marten Falls First Nation):

- Some comments about that meeting in Toronto with the Premier and the two ministers. As I said at that meeting in Toronto, a historical occasion, voted to sit in meetings, in the decades when we would meet in very large forum, with 133 chiefs, in forum like that we could not move anything. The forum is just too big. Chiefs of Ontario initiated something called the ICO Indian Commission of Ontario) to accommodate that problem of the large audience. After 30 years the Minister of Indian Affairs dismantled and said it was unworkable. Bob Nault in the '90s that did that - ever since nothing to replace it.
- I thought that was as very great opportunity after all those years to deal with items at that very high level. I urged colleagues here sitting with me to try to set up their own tables at their level, then go from there to the regional level after the community had been consulted at that level without these items.
- I think this is what people are marching about the Idle no More movement - they want the opportunity to be consulted at the grassroots level.
- Regarding the MOU with the government - I thought the gesture was a forthcoming gesture. I thought that was a sign, to do a positive agenda and I thought too that the premier had been sincere in what she told us at that meeting, that she wanted to pursue this dialogue. I don't think she can come to every meeting like this.

Comment – Minister Gravelle:

- I appreciate that. It is important to emphasize, response today relating to how we would like to move forward regarding the statement you made. We are committed to working with you to working with Matawa. It is important for us to get to next stage. It was my understanding she wasn't actually invited today, but believe me she is very keen on me to report back to her.

Question - Chief Cornelius Wabasse (Webequie First Nation):

- Thank Minister Gravelle for listening to our concerns and to share information with him. Will relay information to higher level. We hope a response will flow back at that level as well.
- We had a blockade in the Ring of Fire a couple of years ago. Webequie was also involved in that blockade. List of demands that we wanted the government to address and also the industry. Check marks not there yet. Hearing the government say we are committed to working

with us to address the issues we present. Those demands on table haven't been addressed yet.

- I think the way those demands were set, these items have to be addressed before any development or continuation of development happens. They have to be addressed, and government and industry came to our community to make that commitment, and address these, to eliminate these items and make sure we are moving forward.
- The housing situation in our communities, Webequie itself has a backlog of 50 houses. The well-being of our people is very important to us. The housing issue is very severe - 30 people in one house. It is very crowded and it get very frustrating for them. We have to deal with that at the community level.
- The government is planning the Ring of Fire, but those demands haven't been addressed yet. Need a processes in place, MOC with Ontario, haven't stated working on that yet - that's where we are going to put the demands - into that process. Hopefully there will be an understanding and funding to make progress on those demands, then we can move forward.
- We need these items addressed first before we continue. We have made presentations here and there. We have said the same thing, what is it that we need to do, we want work, training, skills to be in place before major developments happen in our area. Information is there - all we have to do is find a way to make it happen.

Response – Minister Gravelle:

- I appreciate the positive comments.. In some significant ways we are more poised to work together, in a positive way on the issues and demands that you made. The federal government has significant role to play as well. Clearly some areas where the federal government can provide some significant capacity building as well. Again, my strongest message put forward - committed to responding.

Question - Chief Allan Towegishig (Long Lake #58 First Nation):

- Disappointed the Premier is not here. We waited for a response for a long time.
- I don't understand how come Cliffs and the government, how they're making plans to build bridges. Nobody has come to consult with us. We need to be consulted.
- Our brother from China - why so many poor people living in Canada with all our rich resources?
- My comment is we're committed to work with each other. What you hear and what you see. The government not listening to us and the companies are not listening to us. We're not going to wait no more.

Comment - Councillor Morris Waboose:

- I'm worried about the mining activities and what there is to do in respect to mining activities. This will be a slow transition. There's too much in the past.
- The Minister from MNDM spoke about what they could do for us in housing. Promises were made to fix the roads, the Ginoogaming bridge built in 1947 would be upgraded. This team would be there to start the planning to bring forth improvements. Five years passed and nothing has been done. Minister Gravelle and other ministers are giving weak promises. I'd be very fearful about these developments and how the government keeps talking and making weak promises they don't intend to fill.

Response - Minister Gravelle:

- I think we do understand. I said this earlier in our discussion today. This project is exciting and has great opportunities. It will only go ahead if you see the benefits and your receive the benefits, and they are there for you.
- It is absolutely crucial we are able to come to agreements. There's clearly opportunities to build. We are very sincere about our commitment to working with you in partnership in this. We are very touched and moved by the experience of two years ago as well. I certainly heard some positive comments today, and it's a different kind of relationship we are building.

Question - Raymond Ferris (Ring of Fire Coordinator):

- I was at the meeting with the Chiefs, meeting with Premier Wynne. The one thing I am concerned about was the proposal was given to the premier to the government, condition to pause the environmental assessment that is very important for the First Nations. That step is taken then we can see we can trust. Otherwise we will be heading into framework negotiations that we need to participate in.
- Our people have to know that there has to be some kind of environmental assessment done, a very important step. If allowed to go on then it is going to disrespect the Treaty relationship. We need some comments on when this is going to continue.

Response – Minister Gravelle:

- I am concerned, and a decision is before the courts. We will have to look at how we move forward with terms of reference, time lines, issues related to the budget. Probably fair for you to expect a more formal response, will try to bring a more formal response.

Question - Mark Bell (Aroland First Nation):

- Little bit concerned. Hear new commitment to working with us, but over the past two years I've wrote applications/proposals for environmental, not just for Aroland but also other communities, have been denied. Proposals looking at developing our capacity building, in Ring of Fire communities, denied. Just this past month I had to layoff worker in Aroland, no funding for our mining coordinator.
- It is scary talking about mining development and no funds for a mining coordinator. These are the issues facing our community.

Response – Minister Gravelle:

- I haven't seen the specific application, any more details, let our officials know. Lots of people don't know this but Mark made a presentation to the federal and provincial ministers. It was very cool and he did an amazing job. I'm going to try to find out what happened.

Question - Tim Sophia (Webequie First Nation):

- In this potential mining development in the area, how big is it going to be in terms of size?

Response – Minister Gravelle:

- I'm probably not the right one to answer that. The potential, Noront is moving ahead, ultimately we're talking about, if this project is able to move forward, environmental assessment process done, potential for thousands of jobs, mining sector and certainly jobs for generations to come. Don't want to speak in advance of what the Chiefs want to say.

Question – Unidentified Speaker:

- Lot of things still up in the air. Always wondered when looking at time lines, we're doing this, we're doing that, going to go ahead anyway. If all these questions, mines go ahead, without the full consent of the First Nations.

Response – Minister Gravelle:

- Well no. This is an opportunity, we have the governments, the industries here, unless we are able to make this a project that benefits the community.