



# CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Aroland First Nation to be effective from and after 1:00pm Eastern Standard time on July 30, 2015

## RESOLUTION #12 -30-07-15

### ELDERS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**WHEREAS** the Elders of Neskantaga First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation met in Thunder Bay on July 7, 8, 9, 2015, to develop a shared land protocol for development within their traditional lands; and

**WHEREAS** the Elders identified that the Guiding Principles for the shared lands protocol will be based on these principles which recognize that the people's culture is deeply rooted into the lands and these lands and the air and the water must be protected;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Guiding Principles that were developed at the Elder's Conference (attached to and forming part of this resolution) be supported and adopted by the Chiefs Council as vital guiding principles for ongoing negotiations and other work to steward our traditional homelands; and

#### FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Elders Guiding Principles are recognized as a living document which will continue to evolve as Elders from all the Matawa First Nations attend Elders gatherings to engage in dialogue and discussion and work towards a broader set of principles that is supported across the Matawa First Nations; and,
2. The Elders Guiding Principles in its present and evolving form will provide practical guidance for negotiation efforts.

**MOVED BY:** Interim Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation

**SECONDED BY:** Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

**ABSTENTIONS:** (1) Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation

**CARRIED:**

(8)

Chief Executive Officer

QMS #: COM TEM 008

DEPT: Communications

ISSUE DATE: May 8, 2014

REVISION # / DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BY: x\_\_\_\_\_





## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### Elders Guiding Principles:

The elders identified guiding principles for the shared land protocol discussions will be based on following;

1. The **Grandfathers' Seven Teachings**: love, respect, truth, humility, wisdom, courage and honesty
2. Honesty and trust is paramount in our dealings with each other
3. Sharing with each other is our tradition and we must share traditional knowledge with each other
4. Assertion of our ancestral, historical and inherent right and title to the land. We belong to the land and live off the land.
5. Recognize that the People's culture and identity is deep rooted into the land and must be promoted and protected. First Nations people value the lands, the water and the air.
6. Utilize traditional knowledge of the land users and teach our young (future) to respect and protect the land.
7. Use traditional names of the lands, the names are significant and tells a special story why they are named.
8. Ensure special ceremonies are conducted before any activity occurs on the land.
9. Protect the burial sites and birth places.
10. The development of the protocol shall be community driven.
11. Discussions to be done in our language.
12. Respect all First Nations' decision-making processes and protocols.
13. Work with one voice to be strong Nations.
14. Three most impacted communities must lead discussions in the Ring of Fire.
15. We need a symbol that will identify that we are one nation with one voice working together.

We have to protect the words of the Elders.

