



Matawa
First Nations Management Inc.

2011-12 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared for the 24th
Annual General Meeting
July 31 to August 2, 2012 //
Hosted by Webequie First Nation



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Matawa
First Nations Management Inc.

VISION



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

MISSION



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

VALUES



Matawa First Nations Work Together

We have the opportunities to grow and reach our maximum potential as a regional group. The diversity within our regional communities is valued and a source of local and regional pride. We are proactively involved in the economic, cultural and political development of the Matawa territory.

Matawa First Nations are Dynamic and Sustainable Communities

We integrate modern social and economic development practices with our traditional culture and heritage. We build capacity and economic wealth for present and future generations and are well positioned to succeed in the national economy.

Matawa First Nations Uphold Quality of Life

We invest and protect our quality of life – socially, economically, culturally and environmentally and ensure that the Matawa First Nations are prosperous and healthy communities in which to live, work and raise a family.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT INC. 25TH ANNIVERSARY



On March 30th 1988, Matawa First Nations Management Inc. was officially incorporated to provide advisory services to nine bands who were signatories to the making of a tribal council, the result of devolution of services by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). The objectives that are more specific to our communities were as follows:

- To promote the social, cultural and economic welfare of persons of aboriginal origins who are members of the following Indian Bands: Fort Hope, Lansdowne House, Summer Beaver, Webequie, Marten Falls, Aroland, Long Lake No. 77, Long Lake No. 58, and Constance Lake;
- To initiate, support and manage projects and programs which further the goals of self-determination and improve the social, spiritual, cultural, economic, educational, and recreational life of the members of the Bands as aforesaid;
- To carry out educational programs in relation to the social, spiritual, cultural, economic, educational, and recreational development of those persons who are members of the Indian Bands as aforesaid;
- To provide assistance to the members of the said Bands, and to the council of the said Bands in the areas of program development, Band administration and Band management;
- To liaise and consult with, and to provide direction and advise officials of federal and provincial government agencies, or to private, independent and other agencies who provide services in the areas in which the members of the said Bands reside;
- To provide support for recognized benevolent and charitable organizations, societies, agencies and enterprises engaged in assisting in the social, spiritual, cultural, economic, educational and recreational development of the members of the Bands as aforesaid.

As you can see the objectives of Matawa were broad, and since 1988 Matawa has grown in its services and its mandate, but I truly believe we have remained true to our purpose which is to provide advisory services to our nine member First Nations. ►

25TH ANNIVERSARY CONTINUED...

- In January 2012, the Chiefs directed the Board to undertake a review of our advisory services and programs, our financial policies and procedures, and our communications systems. The Board has initiated that review and we expect to provide a final report to the Chiefs by December 2012. We expect the recommendations and the implementation of the approved report to begin in 2013.

Through this review it's our intent that Matawa will improve its services, the overall performance of the organization, and its mandate to provide effective, transparent and efficient advisory services to its member First Nations and our Peoples. This is an on-going process and the commitment of our Board of Directors and staff is commendable. With the dynamic conditions in our communities, it is important that the organization continually enhance and grow service and program delivery to respond to the collective and individual needs of our member First Nations.

We as a Board have heard from the leadership that the organization may have strayed from our primary objectives. Instead of providing advice, Matawa was actually advocating and doing the work that was the mandate of the Chiefs and the First Nations. We are listening to the concerns of our member First Nations and value their input which has helped us identify the need to increase the organization's presence in the communities. We will continue to strive to meet and exceed the expectations set out by our Chiefs Council and are honoured to be working for a better quality of life for our Peoples.

Throughout the review we will be visiting the communities to hear from the Chiefs and Councils, senior Managers at the First Nations offices, Elders and the community members. The success of the review will depend on how successful we are in getting the views of our leadership and our Peoples. We will be communicating widely to reach as many people as we can in undertaking this review.

Finally, I hope that in 2013 we as Matawa communities will celebrate the 25 years that Matawa has worked to provide service to its member First Nations. Hopefully the potential opportunities over the next 25 years will bring prosperity for our First Nations and our membership. We are mindful that the only way to advance our mission is by always putting our community needs first.

The organization thanks you and looks forward to your participation and your support.

Gichi Miigwech

Wayne Moonias

President

Matawa First Nations Management Inc.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



PEOPLES OF THE LAND

In the last three years I have had to face my past, more particularly, my experiences while I was in the Indian residential school from late 50's to mid 60's. Those years are a blur in that brief time of life which I am afraid to discuss, even with my own family.

But I am just one of the many that faced hardships during those times of our lives when we should have spent many happy times with our siblings, parents and grandparents. It should have been a time when we could have spent our lives on our lands learning about the wonders that our land can give us. Yes there are many things that could have happened, but the reality is that the events of the residential school for me and my siblings happened for a reason. I faced the fact that I must accept that, and that I had to move on with my life and the path that the Creator has given me.

In 1972 I began my career working for my Peoples of the Land and I am glad to say it has been a great experience. I have met many people who share my vision, but I also have friends who are still lost and who have given up on a future for themselves and our Peoples. At the same time I have met many great leaders who had the vision and the will to fight for our rights, and who inspired young people like me to look at the positive paths of life and to use the not so good things that happened in our lives in order to be stronger in who we are as Peoples of the Land. It has been that path I have followed since then.

The inspiration to follow the path of a good life did not come easy. I had many falls along the way. I had many times when I thought about just giving up. It was through the inspirations of what I learned from my parents and my grandparents that I was able to keep my hope and the will to move on. It was the love of my family that inspired me to be what I am today. Certainly I don't think I am perfect, I still have many flaws, but the lessons I have learned will help me deal with them.

When I think about the future of our People of the Land I believe our Nations have learned from our past, and it is those lessons learned that help us become even stronger. Today as mining development encroaches into our lands, our people and the leadership are divided on how they should move forward to maximized benefits for their Peoples of the Land. Our leadership is struggling about their own personal fate as leaders, who may be elected for two years and try to demonstrate to their members in that short time period that they will do whatever it takes to maximize benefits for their membership. Therefore the united vision ►

PEOPLES OF THE LAND CONTINUED...

- for all of our Peoples gets lost. Our Peoples are also very concerned about their trap-lines, the lands that were licenced to them by the Ontario government in 1947 to trap and harvest fur-bearing animals to sell to the Hudson Bay Company for the wealth of the King and Queen of England. Our Peoples are sick from the alcohol, drugs and the unhealthy foods. Our Peoples for many generations have become dependent upon the governments for their existence. Yes, there are many negative impacts that we are all facing today.

I believe as People of the Land we need to think and act as one Nation, not as one community, which is the direction the Governments of Canada and Ontario are trying to steer our leadership. We need to remember what our ancestors envisioned when they signed the James Bay Treaty, Treaty Number Nine, in 1905 and 1906, that it was for the People of the Land, for the current generations and for the many generations that were to come. Too long we have been indoctrinated and brainwashed into believing we should only think about ourselves and only about our people in our little communities. I believe if we are to act together as one, as one Nation, we will benefit all of our Peoples of the Land for many generations. There are unlimited opportunities for all of us coming our way. We must act together as one People to protect our Lands, our Waters, our Air, so that our Culture and our Nations will prosper and be healthy from the wealth of our Lands.

If we are to prosper, we must become healthy as individual people. Many of our people are still lost, they don't believe in their leadership and they don't believe there is a future. But I believe our young people are ready to take their place to move our communities and our Nation forward. Let's give them a chance. Let us work together and take the vision of our ancestors that we must protect the future of our Nations. Our lands will always be there, and we must act as Nations to protect them.

With all my respects to the Chiefs, Elders, Board of Directors and the Peoples of the Land, may our ancestors guide us as we move forward in this time of our history. I am sure our future generations will face many challenges as well, but I believe we have the opportunity today to make our Nations stronger for a better tomorrow.

I am looking forward to serving our Peoples in the next three years.

David Paul Achneepineskum
Chief Executive Officer
Matawa First Nations Management Inc.





CHIEFS COUNCIL 2011-2012

Matawa Chiefs Council provides guidance and direction for the CEO and Board of Directors of Matawa First Nations Management Inc. The Chiefs Council also comes together to work on common issues that impact their communities.



AROLAND FIRST NATION
Chief Sonny Gagnon



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION
Chief Celia Echum



NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION
Chief Peter Moonias



CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION
Chief Roger Wesley



LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION
Chief Allen Towegishig
Chief Veronica Waboose
(January 2010-2012)



NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION
Chief Johnny Yellowhead
Chief Roger Oskineegish
(November 2009-2011)



EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION
Chief Harry Papah



MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION
Chief Elijah K. Moonias



WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION
Chief Cornelius Wabasse

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

► **PRESIDENT**
Wayne Moonias
Neskantaga First Nation

VICE-PRESIDENT
Maurice Waboose
Ginoogaming First Nation

SECRETARY / TREASURER
Charlie O'Keese
Eabametoong First Nation

Robinson Meshake
Aroland First Nation

Darius Ferris
Constance Lake First Nation

Frank Onabigon
Long Lake #58 First Nation

Stanley Oskineegish
Nibinamik First Nation

Randy Jacob
Webequie First Nation

Paul Achneepineskum
Marten Falls First Nation



UNLIMITED
OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNICATIONS

*Listening to our communities and
strengthening our voices*



COMMUNICATIONS

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Communications Department provides communications advisory and support to Matawa First Nations Management Inc. (MFNM) departments, Matawa Chiefs Council, and MFNM Board of Directors as required. It develops and delivers consistent effective communications messages and information materials to external audiences (governments, industry, agencies, and the public at large) and to internal audiences (Matawa First Nations, and affiliated corporations and organizations.) It is responsible for developing and implementing effective MFNM media relations and assists the Chiefs Council with media relations.

Matawa Communications Department also assists member First Nations to improve communications within their communities, and between First Nations, by providing training and support for Community Communications Liaison Officers (CCLO). The department also works to enhance the MFNM new media presence through website improvement and intranet development.

The department works with the Matawa marketing and advertising agency of record in the development of strategic plans for effective marketing, brand development, implementation and maintenance. The department was initiated at the end of September 2011 with the hiring of a Communications Manager and an Internal Communications Officer.



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

July 2011- July 2012

- ▶ Media Relations: Develop media advisories, releases and organize media events for Chiefs Council and MFNM departments, and distribute media releases for individual member First Nations as requested.
- ▶ Develop updates, brochures, briefings, letters and other information materials
- ▶ Develop a Matawa First Nations Management Video; Gathering of Communities Video; Videos for Four Rivers Environmental Services (Three Educational Videos in English and Oji-Cree;
 - 1) The Mining Sequence
 - 2) Environmental Monitoring
 - 3) The Boreal Forest and Wetlands
- ▶ Organize Gathering of Matawa Communities Conference
- ▶ Develop Quality Assurance systems including policy, workplans, templates, forms etc
- ▶ Develop Communications workplans and budgets
- ▶ Support and train CCLOs
- ▶ Tender and select Marketing and Advertising Agency of Record
- ▶ Tender and select Website and Intranet Developers



HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Environmental Assessment Media Coverage

Although the Federal Government has shown no intention of reversing its decision on the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, the Matabwa Communications Department was instrumental in refining the Chiefs message and delivering it with impact to the media, gaining national and international media coverage. One of the highlights of this year's media coverage was a national media conference held by the Chiefs Council on Parliament Hill in the National Press Gallery in Ottawa.

Development of Videos

The Department developed a Matabwa First Nations Management Inc. video to help communities and the public understand the MFNM and its services. The Department also collaborated with Four Rivers Environmental Services Group in the production of three educational videos for Four Rivers to assist communities in their understanding of mining and the importance of environmental monitoring. The three educational videos have been translated to Ojibwe-Cree as well.

Quality Assurance

Although ISO QMS development began in September 2010, Communications Department is proud of its efforts to get up to speed and comply with the necessary work for certification, even though our department was only initiated in the fall of 2011.

CCLO Support and Training

Communications worked closely with the CCLOs this year, bringing them together for the first time in a way that helped them understand their roles and also delivered important tools and training for better communications at the community level.

New Media

New media and social media cannot be ignored as significant communication tools. We are proud to have raised Matabwa's profile on social media and on the world wide web.

Media Contacts

We are pleased to have developed a comprehensive media contact list that can be used by our organization, or Chiefs Council and Board of Directors, our First Nations and our affiliated agencies.

Assisting our Advisory Services

We are most proud of the fact that we were able to deliver communications assistance to all of our departments and communities this year in one way or another.

COMMUNICATIONS

CHALLENGES

Consistent and Clear Messaging

Producing clarity in messaging for media releases has been difficult, specifically as to how the Chiefs Council and Matawa First Nations Management are related and connected, and how member First Nations are related and associated. The public tends to view anything associated with Matawa member First Nations as being under the umbrella of Matawa First Nations Management Inc. This perception needs to be clarified with clear language in all of our communications, and supported with policy surrounding spokespersons for MFNM and Matawa Chiefs Council. Policy has been developed and is pending further direction and approval.

Growing Pains of a New Department

Up until September 2011, MFNM communications had been wholly contracted out. As a result all aspects of communications had to be developed including messages and appropriate language and rhetoric for public relations. The organization lacked resources in the area of contacts, media lists, policy, templates, documents, procedures and systems. These areas are slowly coming together as the department develops a body of written work and design work to build upon.

Defining what the department is and what it does has also been a challenge. The department deals with a multitude of requests from other departments and a variety of expectations from the staff and from Chiefs and First Nations. It needs to develop a list of services to clarify what it reasonably can and cannot do. Human resources are limited.

Departments within Matawa have had to adjust to a new system for communications including a new Agency of Record, which began work with Matawa in May 2012. Development of the relationship between an organization and a new Agency of Record takes time and it is a learning curve for both parties. From September 2011-May 2012 a transition was taking place which impacted most departments when the previous agency departed from Matawa. The communications department along with various print and design agencies filled the temporary void.

The Communications Department was challenged by the current Matawa website in so much as it is outdated, difficult to navigate and not user-friendly. However, we worked to update it and make it more user-friendly. We will be developing a new website and intranet this year.





OPPORTUNITIES

Branding and Strategic Planning

Matawa First Nations Management Inc. is beginning a branding and strategic communications planning process that will help clarify what MFNM is to our communities and to the world. It will help to promote our services to our communities and increase the profile of Matawa and its member First Nations to industry, government and the public, locally, nationally and internationally.

Website and Intranet Development

Matawa First Nations Management is seizing the opportunity to become a community hub portal for our staff and First Nations through the development of a state of the art, user-friendly intranet for the sharing of information. We will also be increasing our web presence and enhancing the experience users will have through the development of an interactive website that can be effectively accessed by any device including mobile devices and not excluding slow band width computers. This will greatly assist our communities in accessing information and staying up-to-date on events and happenings as they unfold. It will also provide a tool that can be used with our quality assurance systems.

Translation

Communications would like to make translation and interpretation of information a priority. We are working towards translating the Four Rivers videos to Ojji-Cree and will also be translating other materials. We are hoping to find a funding source so that we may be able to hire a full-time in-house translator.

Expansion

Communications has identified an opportunity to develop an internship program for marketing, business and communications graduates. The internship has the potential to enhance our media monitoring systems and thereby keep our community members informed as to what is being reported in mainstream media and new media. We currently have a summer student who has been developing media lists and contact lists and a system for media monitoring.



Congratulations to Jason Rasevych, our Internal Communications Officer. He will be moving over to head up the Economic Development Programs at Matawa. Thanks for all your hard work with the Communications Department this past year Jason.

UNLIMITED
OPPORTUNITIES

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

*Advocating for healthy lifestyles
and promoting community wellness*



HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Health Department provides advisory, advocacy and technical support services in all areas of health and wellness programming. Health oversees the management and administration of annualized and one-time specialized funded projects.



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

July 2011- July 2012

- ▶ Community Health Coordination (SLKT Zone Health Canada): services include advocacy, advisory and technical support for Eabametoong, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie First Nations. Priority was dealing with PDA/M in all FNs.
- ▶ Transition Housing & Support Program (Violence Against Women, Min. of Community & Children Services): a flow through annualized program to assist seven First Nations – Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie, to deal with domestic violence. The program helps and supports women and children who are experiencing violence in the homes.
- ▶ Family Violence Training (NAN-FV): coordination of Health Directors and Front Line workers training in the areas of PDA/M and Family Violence.
- ▶ Regional Crisis Intervention Worker Program (AHWS/NAN): program provides technical and crisis support service to eight First Nations – Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Ginoogaming, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie.
- ▶ RCTC Training (AHWS/NAN): coordination of Community Crisis Team Coordinators training in the areas of PDA/M and Family Violence.
- ▶ National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (Mental Health & Addictions, Health Canada): a flow through, management, advisory and technical support for six First Nations – Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga and Nibinamik, for youth suicide prevention activities in their community.
- ▶ SPI--Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse Project: project for the continued development of a Regional PDA/M Strategy and Proposal.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Key Success – Collaboration, partnerships and networking with First Nations Health & Social Programs and their Communities through Matawa Health & Social Services Task Group. The membership includes all Health Directors who contribute to the overall key successes.

Key Success – Design, development and implementation of the Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse project.

- “Back to Our Roots Gathering II: “Our Journey to a Prosperous Tomorrow to Overcome Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse” held in Long Lake #58 First Nation in January 2012 was well attended by health staff, Chief and Councils, Band staff, presenters from other agencies and organizations.
- Completion and revision copies of “Back to our Roots: Chii Kee Way Meno Biimadeseyung” – the Strategy to Overcome Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse in Matawa Communities. This document was distributed to our communities, various organization and funders and presentations made to various groups.
- Implementation of Opioid Withdrawal Management Projects in four Matawa First Nations.





CHALLENGES

1. Inadequate resources for Matawa First Nation Health Department and First Nations in all areas, such as staffing, travel, training and programs.
2. Accessing capital and operational funding for proposed wellness and healing centres for Eabametoong and Constance Lake and proposed Land Based Healing projects in all Matawa First Nations specifically to deal with Prescription Drug Addictions.
3. Lack of facilities & equipment in the First Nations for office space, place to deliver programs and activities, and lack of office and program equipment.
4. Lack of specialized and professional services and/or inconsistent services delivered to First Nations, such as mental health and addiction specialists, child psychiatrist/psychologists, therapists, doctors, nurses, educators, etc.
5. Increase demand for accountability and communication (reporting, monitoring & surveillance.) Contribution agreements does not provide adequate resources and/or no resources for training, personnel and computer upgrades.

The above are the on-going challenges that we face both at the regional and community level which contributes to inadequate service, untimely reporting, delayed project start-ups and limited site/community visits.

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for wellbeing - potential resources to deal with PDAM. Matawa First Nations are upfront in addressing the issue and often quoted for the work being pursued and implemented by our First Nations.

UNLIMITED
OPPORTUNITIES

EDUCATION

Transforming lives through learning

EDUCATION

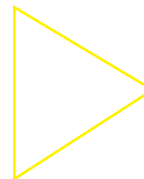
DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

Matawa First Nations Management Inc. (MFNM) Education Department provides advisory and support services to eight elementary and/or secondary member First Nation schools and Education Authorities:

- Johnny Therriault Memorial School (Aroland First Nation)
- John C. Yesno Education Centre (Eabametoong First Nation)
- Migizi Wazisin Elementary School (Long Lake #58 First Nation)
- Nimiki Migizi Secondary School (Ginoogaming First Nation)
- Henry Coaster Memorial School (Marten Falls First Nation)
- Neskantaga Education Centre (Neskantaga First Nation)
- Nibinamik Education Centre (Nibinamik First Nation)
- Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre (Webequie First Nation)

To effectively provide these services, the Department networks with a variety of Aboriginal organizations, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), the Ontario Ministry of Education and other provincial agencies, regional school boards, and post-secondary institutions.

The Education Department also has the responsibility for post secondary administration for Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58, Neskantaga, and Webequie First Nations. In addition to these support services, the Department operates the Matawa Learning Centre, an alternative secondary school located in Thunder Bay.



Vision Statement

Matawa First Nations delivers quality, accessible and student-centered education in a culturally appropriate environment to accommodate diverse needs and to ensure success for our children's education and future. We offer regional capacity in education & training and promote learning to people of all ages, ensuring self-awareness, a healthy workforce and the nurturing of future community leaders.

Mission Statement

With the support of our leaders, Elders, parents and youth, we will identify and foster the skills and resources learners need for future success in life, including those that promote academic success, cultural appreciation, self-confidence and creativity.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To provide quality, accessible, community-based advisory and support services as requested;
2. To coordinate educational needs based on comprehensive planning in order to address any issues and concerns of member First Nations;
3. To work independently and collectively to support the success of Matawa First Nations students, schools, and communities.

EDUCATION

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

July 2011- July 2012

► **Advisory Services**

Education Advisory Services has four primary goals:

1. To assist Matawa First Nations communities in providing quality education that is responsive to the needs of all learners and all communities;
2. To assist Matawa First Nations in improving student achievement;
3. To assist Matawa First Nations in accessing quality educational resources; and
4. To assist Matawa First Nations in establishing ownership and accountability in education.

► **Matawa Learning Centre**

The Matawa Learning Centre provides a unique learning environment to support students and assist them to move toward the successful completion of their secondary education. Students have opportunities and support to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to continue on their pathways to work, training or post-secondary education programs. The Learning Centre is approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education to offer secondary school credits and to issue the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

► **Pathways to Achieve Student Success (PASS!)**

With funding provided through the FNSSP, Pathways to Achieve Student Success (PASS!) has three primary target areas: literacy, numeracy and student success. Assessing and tracking student achievement is a critical component of the new program and provides the foundation for data-informed decision-making in our schools and at the regional level.

► **Post-Secondary Education**

The Post Secondary Education Assistance program provides services for Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58, Neskantaga, and Webequie First Nations. These services include financial administration (post secondary student funding), counseling support services, liaison for MPS Board members, and post secondary institutes.



HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Advisory Services

The Education Department has been involved in two initiatives under the Strategic Partnerships Initiative (SPI). The first has been the development of curriculum to provide a continuum of programming for adult learners. Curriculum has been created for students to prepare for the General Education Development (GED) test, which leads to the Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate. For those who require additional preparation, a Basic Literacy Skills (BLS) curriculum has been created covering Grades 3 to 12, as well as a pre-GED curriculum to help learners prepare for the GED course. Meetings have been held with potential partners for the delivery of these programs. Related to this initiative is the development of a report on the feasibility of community learning centres in Matawa First Nations through which this new programming, and other education and training, can be delivered. Comprehensive feasibility studies have been completed in Aroland, Eabametoong, and Webequie First Nations, and plans are in place to develop feasibility studies in other Matawa First Nations for the future development of learning centres in their communities.

Matawa Learning Centre

The Matawa Learning Centre has completed its second year of operation. In its first year, the Centre had three graduates. In its second year, two more students completed the requirements for their OSSD in February 2012, and one in June, with a student retention rate of approximately 80%. A strategic plan and business plan have been developed to guide the further development of the Learning Centre.

Pathways to Achieve Student Success (PASS!)

PASS! staff have visited schools to provide on-site support in the areas of literacy, numeracy and school success. Technical support has also been provided in the schools to ensure the Outcomes database is installed and operating in each school in preparation for the start of the new AANDC Education Information System (EIS) in September 2012, including the installation of hardware and networking as required. Additional resources have been provided to the schools to support older readers (Gr. 6-12) and hands-on materials for math. Coordinators provide on-site support to individual teachers and school staff during their community visits. From February 28 to March 1, 2012, Matawa Education Department hosted its annual Education Conference: Engage! Creating Pathways to Achieve Student Success. Approximately 200 school, board, and education authority staff members attended the conference, along with board members and a variety of presenters. Workshops covered a wide range of topics in areas such as classroom teaching, school operations, administration and board training.

Post-Secondary

In partnership with the Bowmanville Rotary Club, the Matawa Education Department created a bursary program in 2009 to recognize the academic and personal achievements of Matawa youth. This initiative is sponsored by the Bowmanville Rotary Club in Southern Ontario, and the neighbouring Port Hope Rotary Club. These Rotary clubs have contributed \$9,300 for this year's program and have confirmed they will contribute an additional \$1,000 for next year's bursaries. This initiative is being recognized and considered for other similar programs to be initiated with other First Nations throughout Ontario and Canada. Winners of the 2012 bursary program were recognized at the Matawa post-secondary graduation dinner and at ceremonies in the students' schools.

EDUCATION

CHALLENGES

Changing Regulatory Environment

A key challenge in First Nation Education is the changing regulatory environment. Recommendations of the recent report by the National Panel on First Nation Elementary and Secondary Education and the Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples appear to have been accepted by the federal government and the recent federal budget indicates a national "Education Act" will be created, in collaboration with "willing partners". Matawa First Nations declined participation in the National Panel's data collection process, however input was provided to three alternative reports which were prepared and submitted by Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Chiefs of Ontario, and a group consisting of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Federation of Saskatchewan First Nations, and the Quebec First Nations Education Council. It is not clear how the proposed Education Act will affect current initiatives in governance and jurisdiction, or how funding for education may be impacted.

The new Education Information System

The new Education Information System (EIS) is being implemented in September 2012 for all First Nation schools. There have been delays in the development and implementation of the program, and funding for the implementation of the program in Matawa schools has not been adequate. As well, concerns have been raised regarding how the data will be collected and used, the implementation process, and the need to address the OCAP principles related to information gathering, storage and sharing. (OCAP stands for Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession.) Several First Nation jurisdictions across the country have called for the program to be put on hold until concerns have been addressed.

Third-Party Options for the Administration of Funding

The current federal government is exploring third-party options for the administration of funding for post-secondary education. Right-wing think tanks have been commissioned to provide opinions on the administration of post-secondary funds, as well as opinions on moving from a grant- to a loan-based program. The options presented could reduce or eliminate community involvement in determining how post-secondary funds would be distributed, as well as limiting available funding and restricting opportunities for students to access funds to support their post-secondary education.



OPPORTUNITIES

Community-Based Programming

Several Matawa communities have expressed interest in having secondary and adult education programs provided within their communities. With the establishment of the Matawa Learning Centre and completion of the Learning Centre's Strategic and Business Plans, the Centre is positioned to support alternative delivery of these programs into the Matawa communities. Options include both face-to-face and distance delivery, recognizing that successful programs must focus on meeting the needs of the learners, whether they are secondary students or mature adults seeking academic upgrading or specific courses and training. The Matawa Education Department will proceed with the development of the Learning Centre to help meet the education needs of Matawa members both on- and off-reserve.

UNLIMITED
OPPORTUNITIES

KIIKENOMAGA KIKENJIGEWEN EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING SERVICES(KKETS)

Unlocking potential and increasing employment possibilities through training and skills development



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

KKETS Mission Statement

To provide culturally appropriate opportunities for education, training and employment through professional advisory, support services, relevant systems and programs to empower individuals to take initiative and make change in their own lives.



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

July 2011- July 2012

► Pre-Apprenticeship Carpentry Level 1 Training Program

A tri-fold partnership was established between Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS), Manitoba Regional Council and Tasaweyak First Nation to deliver a 30 week Pre-Apprenticeship Carpentry Level One Training in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The training program is comprised of six weeks of upgrading and 24 weeks of Carpentry Level One, training which has been approved by Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

KKETS is taking a unique approach to this training program by embedding cultural competency and providing direct learner supports through the utilization of Elder(s). Eight clients of Matawa First Nations started the program on May 7, 2012 and will graduate from Level One Training on November 23, 2012 at which time the apprentices will be employed in their field of work with the assistance of the Partnership Development Officer. Upon acquiring the required apprentice hours, the trainees will then enrol into Level Two Carpentry Training at a registered Education Institution continuing their Apprenticeship career path, becoming mentors for future trainees interested in the trades.

► Employment Readiness Workshops

In partnership with Northwest Employment Works (NEW), Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services has delivered employment readiness workshops at the Matawa First Nations Management office located in Thunder Bay. Participants learned about resume/cover letter writing, interview skills, job searching and employer's expectations. Quarterly workshops are being offered in Thunder Bay.

► Skills Inventory

A skills inventory has been completed using the database information that has been compiled in each First Nation. The skills inventory captures the employment and training aspects of each First Nation through a survey tool. Identified from surveys are: number of female and males surveyed; educational attainment; training experience; and the number of employed and unemployed participants. The information from the database has been compiled and formatted in order to be used as a supported resource for proposals and the development of a Regional Training Plan.

► Strategic Planning Retreat

In June, KKETS held a department retreat at the Mink Mountain Resort in Thunder Bay. As the organization is going through a period of growth and transition, the strategic planning session focused on mapping out the future, updating programs and prioritizing goals. The staff also invited the KKETS Board of Directors, Service Canada and three Employment Community Coordinators.



HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Working Words

"Working Words" Program was delivered during the month of March that ran for six weeks and focused on soft skills for the workplace. There were a total of nine clients that completed the in-class sessions and later moved on to co-op placements to attain high school credits. This program was a collaborative effort between KKETS and Lakehead Adult Education Centre.

Regional Training Committee

Under the direction of the KKETS Board of Directors, a Regional Training Committee has been formed in order to assist with the development of a Regional Training Plan for Matawa First Nations. A Terms of Reference, Vision and Mission Statement have been identified. The Regional Training Plan is in its draft stages and the Regional Training Committee has met in order to discuss and finalize these drafts.

Client Service Delivery

KKETS' Project Officers serviced a number of clients between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012. The following are statistics for clients that were funded and non-funded:

94	Funded individuals in areas of Training, Pre-Employment and Mobility
21	Funded projects within First Nations Communities (total of individuals 246)
34	Non-approved applications due to missing information
22	Deferred applications
103	(database) Academic Upgrading Clients combined in Eabametoong First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Thunder Bay & Region.

Academic upgrading in Eabametoong First Nation and ACE/Literacy Basic Skills (LBS) in Ginoogaming First Nation will be closed for the summer and re-open on September 10, 2012. Constance Lake First Nation LBS will close for the month of August and will reconvene on September 10, 2012.

Colleen Moonias of Neskantaga First Nation –
Completed her ACE Certificate through Northern College

Krista Bouchard of Aroland First Nation –
Complete her diploma in Human Resources Administration through Mactech Distance Education

Brent Wesley of Constance Lake First Nation was the successful recipient of the Bowmanville
Bursary for Trades and Apprenticeships

3,961 CLIENTS

Non-Funded Participants
that received Employment
Assistance Services (total
overall within
the Thunder Bay site and eight
First Nations communities)

34

Non-members serviced in the
Thunder Bay site

29

Completed their training
programs in areas of Welding,
Cook/Medic Training,
Surface Diamond Drillers,
Heavy Equipment, Masonry,
GIS Training, Fire Fighting,
Personal Support Worker,
Medical Administration and
Practical Nursing.

KKETS

OPPORTUNITIES

Aboriginal Skills Advancement Pilot Program

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services will be delivering a one-year Aboriginal Skills Advancement Pilot Program (ASAPP) starting in September 2012. ASAPP is an innovative, collaborative and integrated approach with “cutting-edge” practices that will help learners build a pathway to positive educational and employment outcomes. This culturally appropriate education employment program will include academic upgrading/GED/high school credit accumulation, access to cultural and direct student supports through the utilization of the Elders and “wrap around team”, along with skills and labour market relevant curriculum to support individual employment and education options. Upon completing the foundational component, learners will have the opportunity for entry level employment, modular training, careers in the Apprenticeship Trades, other training certifications or furthering post-secondary education. ASAPP is an opportunity for low skilled job seekers to acquire the foundational essential skills and academic upgrading needed in order to acquire and retain employment, further education and to assist employers in their need to hire and retain workers.

Transition

KKETS has been undergoing restructuring of internal staff positions and day to day operations to ensure effective delivery of services and programs as according to its ASETS Agreement (Aboriginal Skills Employment Training Strategy Agreement). Below are the existing and new staff positions of KKETS:

Morris Wapoose – Program Manager (existing) is responsible for the leadership and management of the organization.

Carolyn Zadnik – Partnership Development Officer (existing) is responsible for the planning and implementation of programs and establishment of partnerships.

Joanne Cheechoo - Finance Manager (as of July 2, 2012) is responsible to ensure efficient organization's financial, information, human resources & administrative systems (new).

Beedahbin Desmoulin - Outreach Development Officer (*as of April 1, 2012*) is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the development and promotion of KKETS program services and activities.

Doris Wabasse - Project Officer as of (*as of April 1, 2012*) the services pertaining to clients that include planning, employment counseling, supports to trainees and in general promoting employment in order to secure opportunities for First Nation members.

Project Officer – vacant (*as of July 2, 2012*)

Marietta Patabon - Finance and Administrative Assistant (*as of April 1st*) is responsible for routine financial processing and daily office administration activities.

Employment Community Coordinators (ECC's) are responsible for client intake, employment and training counseling/ services, maintaining client databases, working closely with KKETS staff, partners and other external groups, deliver employment readiness workshops and assist with implementation of new programs. Our ECC's are: Robinson Meshake (Aroland), Samantha John-George (Constance Lake), Derek Yellowhead (Eabametoong), Maureen Echum (Ginoogaming), Wendy Coaster (Marten Falls), Edward Moonias (Neskantaga), Victoria Wabasse (Nibinamik) and Timothy Sofea (Webequie).



UNLIMITED
OPPORTUNITIES

FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Excellence in governance and financial management

FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Financial Advisory Department is available to help enhance member First Nation management, operations and life by delivering community finance, management and governance advisory services upon request.

These services may include working with the Band and Program Managers along with various administration staff members to address financial and personnel management capacity development. The Financial Advisory staff can work with the community finance personnel in the areas of computerized accounting and bookkeeping, financial planning, policy development, internal reporting and audit preparation. Communities can also access support for preparation of funding proposals for a variety of community-driven initiatives.

The Financial Advisory office has compiled resources on management practices, policies & procedures and governance codes to assist First Nations with community, administrative and project governance and management development.



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

July 2011- July 2012

- ▶ Assist with Community-level Governance – this department has built a foundation of resources available to member First Nations, including information on Election Codes, Community Planning and Strategic Planning.
- ▶ Assist with Administrative-level Governance – assisted two First Nations with personnel policy manuals. A third project remains on-going. Assistance to policy manual update is also on-going with a First Nation-owned corporation.
- ▶ Management development services are always an e-mail or phone call away for our member First Nations. Over the past year, drafts, samples and information have been provided for requests such as job descriptions, interview questions and formats, form samples, template samples and draft wording for single policies or other communiqué.
- ▶ Advocacy from this department include: participation on the Thunder Bay Police Service - Aboriginal Liaison Unit, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and the Community Cup Sports Committee. Also participation as a general member with Aboriginal Finance Officers Association (AFOA) and the AFOA's national Council for Certified Aboriginal Professional Administrators.



HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Two First Nations now have updated personnel policies and procedures, one of which is fast becoming a leader in using a community-ratified series of policies and procedures to assist in addressing substance abuse in the workplace and in the community. Respectfully, this community has expressed that they feel that now would be too soon to advise other First Nations in such a process. They are prepared to assist once they have gone through trials and successes over the next year or two.

The Band Managers Committee, as presented to the Chiefs at the 2011 AGM, has moved forward and now has a Regional Strategic Plan for Community-level and Administrative-level Governance Development, along with goals for general management and communications development.

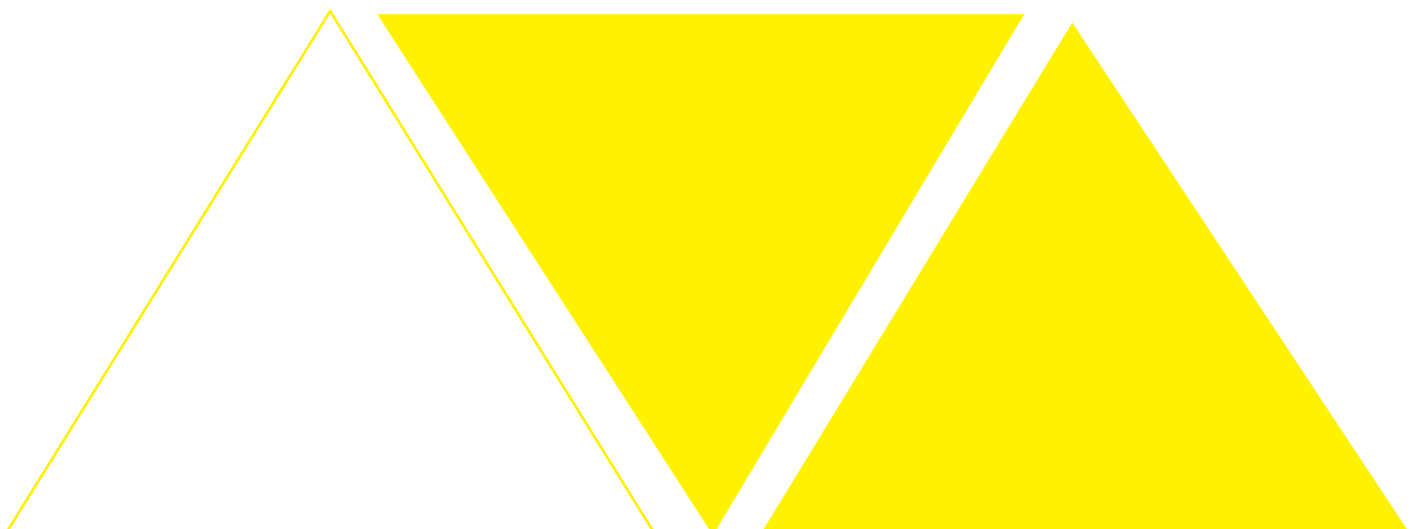
FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

CHALLENGES

Where can First Nations leaders, managers and personnel find time and funds to tackle the many governance related projects that are needed? When considering activities and development such as updating election codes, membership codes, personnel policies, financial management policies and management systems, leaders and managers in the community are faced with adding to heavy workloads of their personnel and securing funds from an already stretched fund base within the Band's budgets. Personnel who already have too much on their plates may be asked to add time for governance and management development, and time for training that is required during the process. Finding a balance of continued operations and building capacity is a challenge for each First Nation. These will be topics for discussion at Band Manager Committee meetings and workshops.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Band Managers Committee is an excellent opportunity for regional governance and management development. This Committee will be the hub of planning and activity for annual, mid and long-term goals and objectives, such as a First Nation Band Managers Manual, updated policies and procedures throughout the community administration system, capacity building and more.



UNLIMITED
OPPORTUNITIES

QUALITY ASSURANCE

*Integrity, accountability
and transparency through
quality management*

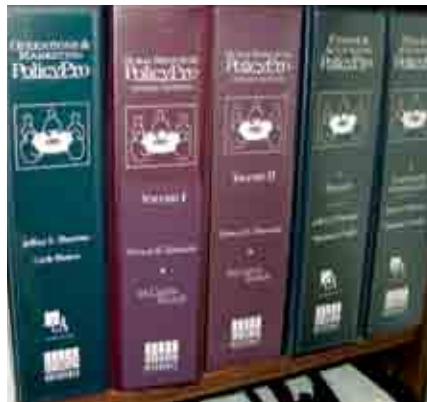
QUALITY ASSURANCE

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

To coordinate the enhancement of Matawa First Nation's Quality Management Systems up to ISO 9001:2008 compliance. Beginning in September 2010, Matawa First Nations staff and management have been working with QMS specialist, Darlene McCulloch, to ensure MFN's Quality Management System is ISO 9001:2008 compliant, in preparation for a formal Certification Audit under the auspices of the International Organization for Standardization. The documentation phase of the QMS development is to be completed by July 2012. Internal QMS Audits will take place leading into the fall 2012 just prior to the initial Management Review Meeting in October 2012. November 19-23, 2012 is the scheduled week for MFN's Certification Audit.

MFN QMS helps ensure that there is an excellent, effective and efficient standard of service for the member First Nations, its leadership, personnel and membership. Quality Assurance (QA) is the core of MFN QMS maintenance, evaluation and development. The QA Coordinator, working cooperatively with departmental QA Representatives, ensures that all policies, procedures, forms, work instructions and other documentation are developed, implemented, adhered to, evaluated and improved. Feedback from member First Nations (leaders, personnel and members) is crucial to MFN's QMS and Services.

Basis of MFN QMS: "Say what you do, do what you say, prove it and improve it".



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

July 2011- July 2012

- ▶ Staff and management have received training since the start of QMS development in September 2011. There is on-going awareness of Matawa QMS through PowerPoint seminars, staff and management meetings, and other forums such as Board and Chiefs meetings that will take place by the QA staff.
- ▶ July 31, 2012 – marks the target date to complete all documentation for each Department. Documentation includes policy, procedures, work instructions, forms, charts, checklists, templates and more. Documentation is taking place by department and for Matawa First Nations Management as a whole.
- ▶ Each department has been a leader or has demonstrated best practices in various areas of our project – Finance Administration led the way for forms and work instructions, Education for records management and Four Rivers Environmental Group for creativity in reaching our goals. This is ideal for cross-departmental sharing of tools, best processes and training.
- ▶ Target date for certification is November 19-23, 2012. Surveillance Audits are annual afterwards and every three years is a Re-Certification Audit.



HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Four Rivers Environmental Group has been exemplary in its documentation activities. Sarah Cockerton, Kim Jorgenson, Kyle MacLaurin, Michael Ritchie and the rest of the staff have excelled at building, adopting and implementing all their documentation. They have demonstrated innovation through a dynamic forms tracker, effective work instructions and templates and so much more.

Education has been our leader in records management and retention – any community or organization, world-wide, could benefit from learning about how the Education department has tackled records systems development and implementation. The end result will be a coordinated and standardized system of records between staff, management, the Learning Centre, Information Technology and Education's other programming.

CHALLENGES

While Quality Assurance remains relatively new to everyone, a real challenge has been including QA in our daily work routine. This is magnified by the fact that we are currently enhancing and building our system's processes and documentation while continuing to offer the best possible services to the member First Nations. Thank you to every employee, Board member and Chief for your patience and dedication as we venture through this worthwhile undertaking.

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunity is two-fold: first, building our Quality Management System will help ensure that MFNM offers our member First Nations, community leaders, personnel and members excellent, effective, efficient and ever-improving services.

Second, ISO 9001:2008 Certified QMS indicates to government and, more importantly, to global industry that Matawa First Nations is ready and capable of providing a superior level of services, expertise and communications.

Matawa First Nations Management Inc. can act as a pilot project for all member First Nations – each member of Matawa's staff and management now have skills and experiences available to First Nations considering development of their respective management system.

UNLIMITED
OPPORTUNITIES

TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Better infrastructure for healthier and safer communities



TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

Matawa Technical Services assist member communities in the development and maintenance of community infrastructure. This includes assisting with communities with all aspects including the environmental component and Aboriginal Affairs capital approvals process.

Matawa First Nations respond to First Nation requests. Services provided vary according to individual community needs, levels of individual capacity, technical proficiency, and management expertise. Consequently, the services we provide may vary and could include:

- Project Planning, Development and Reporting
- Operation and Maintenance of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure
- Coordination of Water and Wastewater Operator Training
- Environmental Remediation Project Support
- Housing Inspection and Programming
- Fire Safety and Protection
- ACRS and CAIS Reporting
- Additional programs as available (i.e. Fuel Tank Registration, Go Green, LEAF, etc)



TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

July 2011- July 2012

- ▶ Assisted in First Nation Housing Internship Initiative, Section 95, and CEAP application processes (INAC & CMHC)
- ▶ Finalized ACRS
- ▶ Matawa Environment Conference
- ▶ ICMS Data Collection & Reporting
- ▶ Source Water Protection (road-access inventory and drainage for all)
- ▶ Ring of Fire inspection
- ▶ Other proposal developments
- ▶ Housing training provided for communities in the area of Housing Policies, Arrears Management, Housing Committees that work, various building code courses
- ▶ First Nations 10th Annual Northern Housing Conference organizing committee member (Saverio)– various meetings and planning sessions took place between August and February for housing conference (February 14-16, 2012).
- ▶ Bulk Fire Purchase Committee (Wes and Mo Douglas) – Matawa received funding of approximately \$118,000 in addition to a Fire Truck for Aroland First Nation through OFNTSC
- ▶ Matawa generated approximately \$80,000 towards Fire Training and Prevention by coordinating training (Mo and Monica) through ONFFS and OFNTSC on the topic of Emergency Management (Wes)
- ▶ Modernization of Environmental Approvals FN Technical Group (Sarah Cockerton & Wes)

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Aroland First Nation:

- Submitted O&M plans with Band administration
- Ordered new main well pump
- Communicate operator regularly to discuss operations

Constance Lake First Nation:

- Communicate regularly with operators regarding operations and training
- Assist community with water hauling
- RRAP inspections/ reports
- Section 95 inspections & reports
- Assisting with landfill issue
- Assisting with well drilling and installation of watermain with connection to WTP
- Assisting with Water Treatment Plant project





Eabametoong First Nation:

- Sewage Lift Station emergency, coordinate back up pumps, charter, repair personal, minor capital submissions
- Coordinate the delivery of the sewage trailer hauler, and complete final report
- Enhanced funding O&M reports
- Assisting with Load Forecast Study
- Assisting with Remedial Options and Analysis
- RRAP inspections/ reports
- Section 95 inspections & reports
- CEAP inspections & reports
- Assisting with Capital Planning Study
- Assisting with Water Treatability Study

Ginoogaming First Nation:

- Bridge Replacement – Assisting with development of alternate bridge location and road access project
- Participating in community / AANDC capital projects meetings
- Coordinate repairs to sewage lift stations, pump repairs and replacement
- Work with contractor to assess infiltration issues in Ginoogaming
- Complete minor capital application for manhole repairs, culvert replacement and road work
- Sewage lift station on-site training with contractors
- PCR inspections / reports (Physical Condition Review)
- RRAP monitoring

Long Lake #58 First Nation:

- Highway water main repair
- Sewage Lift Station on site training, with contractors
- RRAP inspections/ reports
- RRAP monitoring
- Assisted with Community Based Housing Plan

Marten Falls First Nation:

- Assisted with consultant selection and BCR for water treatability study
- Enhanced funding for water and wastewater reports are complete
- CEAP inspections & reports
- PCR inspections / reports (Physical Condition Review)
- Assisted with Community Based Housing Plan
- Assisted with lot serving cost estimate
- Assisted with multi-unit teacherage preliminary sketch and cost estimate

Neskantaga First Nation:

- Coordinate RO unit maintenance and repairs
- Coordinate pump repairs to main sewage lift station
- Work with emergency team regarding contamination of water treatment pump station
- Work with project team on filter media study and evaluation
- Work with project team on treatability study
- Work with operator and contractor on filter maintenance and intake and hydrant flushing

- Completion of meter and chlorination system replacement, final report completed
- Work on curb-stop repairs, furnace repairs and electrical repairs in water plant and sewage plant
- Enhanced funding for O&M reports completed
- Assisting with School Fuel Tank Upgrade
- Assisted with Community Based Housing Plan
- Assisting with Capital Planning Study
- Assisting with Water Treatability Study

Nibinamik First Nation:

- Assisting with Diesel Generating Station Emergency
- RRAP inspections/ reports
- Misc Inspections / reports

Webequie First Nation:

- Assisting with Capital Planning Study
- Coordinate water plant deficiency list upgrades
- Sewage plant repairs to rotating biological contactor
- Heating repairs to boiler unit,
- Enhanced funding for O&M report is complete and submitted
- Assisting with School Fuel Tank Upgrade project
- RRAP inspections/ reports
- Assisting with Capital Planning Study

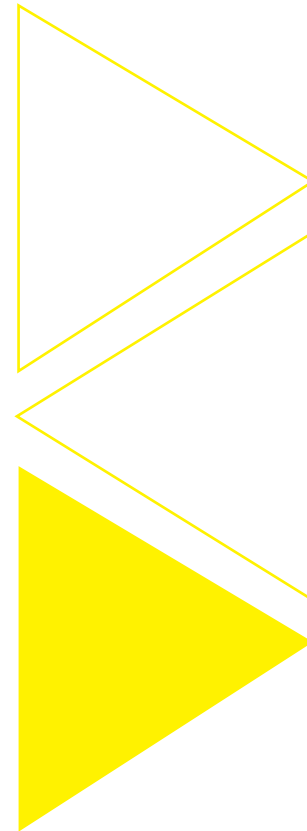
TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES

CHALLENGES

Cuts to Aboriginal Affairs Northern Development Canada (AANDC) capital budget has drastically reduced the number of major capital projects in all First Nation communities. These cuts have also impacted AANDC's travel budget and there have been few if any community visits scheduled for existing project meetings.

We are also seeing changes to AANDC which are making First Nations utilize their minor capital to address immediate health and safety projects identified in ACRS for 2012/2013. It is implied that this will be expanded to include all the projects in the next couple of years. This will make it difficult if not impossible for communities to utilize their minor capital for other purposes (i.e. housing, feasibility studies, etc.).

We are still currently waiting to see what impact cuts to AANDC's programming will have on the Thunder Bay office located on Fort William First Nation. They are attempting to reduce staffing through voluntary retirement and we expect to see additional staff reductions in the upcoming months.



OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities regarding infrastructure have and continue to be extremely limited. There have been some request to identify possible funders for grants/funds for recreation, unfortunately we have not seen any promising programs to meet these request.

We will inform Chiefs and Councils of any perspective opportunities.

UNLIMITED
OPPORTUNITIES

GATHERING OF RIVERS FOR COMMUNITY CARE

Brighter futures through charitable giving

GATHERING OF RIVERS FOR COMMUNITY CARE

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Gathering of Rivers for Community Care is devoted to providing support to improve the life of Aboriginal peoples of Canada, specifically, the economically and socially disadvantaged children, youth and families in the Matawa First Nations Communities.

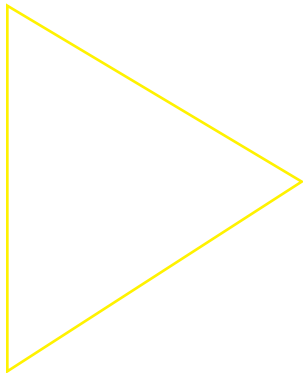


PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

July 2011- July 2012

"Let's start thinking about a unique fundraising program for the youth. I believe we need to be innovative and think strategically..." -- David Paul Achneepineskum

▶ Work has begun on building awareness of the charity and finding out how the communities would like to use this opportunity to raise money for sustainability through philanthropy. Presentations have been made to key stakeholders such as the Matawa Education Authority, Community Communications Liaison Officers, MFNM Board of Directors and staff as well as community updates on Wawatay Radio.



HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

On Thursday, November 17, 2012, Gathering of Rivers for Community Care (GRCC) hosted a media conference and the charity was launched. At this time the first donation was announced and children in local Matawa communities received 10 new Young Explorer Computers compliments of IBM. The units are housed in brightly colored Little Tikes furniture and are equipped with award-winning educational software to help children learn and explore concepts in math, science and language. The computer centres can also help children learn important socialization skills such as how to work together and share. Exploration and socialization skills are important to prepare children for future success in school, help level the playing field and ensure all children have access to educational tools.

CHALLENGES

Start up of a new organization is always a challenge, however the foundation is being built to work with the communities to identify their needs and begin the process of collaboration with potential funders.

OPPORTUNITIES

The resource rich North offers economic development opportunities and challenges for our communities. It is imperative the youth and community members who want to be educated and trained to participate in this new economy have the tools and the training. GRCC can open doors to business, government and developers to engage them in dialogue about what is needed and how they can support these efforts.

Youth are the future and GRCC hopes to develop and launch a youth leadership fundraising program that will help youth create community-based projects that will change or enhance their communities and their own future prospects. The community fundraising initiative will be based on youth input and support to make it happen.

It is imperative the communities drive their fundraising projects. At the Gathering of Matawa Communities Conference there was discussion regarding community needs and GRCC can provide leadership in supporting some of the projects including an Elders Summit, creating bursaries and helping to resource community Learning Centres.

UNLIMITED
OPPORTUNITIES

FOUR RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

*Preparing for development while preserving lands
and heritage with tomorrow's technology*

FOUR RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

Four Rivers is the Matawa Environmental Services Group established to assist the Matawa First Nations with actively managing land and water resources within their traditional territories. Four Rivers has a team of environmental and technical staff who provide information, education, training and support services to Matawa First Nations on environmental concerns.

Four Rivers facilitates capacity building within Matawa communities to help them identify the potential for the environmental impacts of resource development. Four Rivers also helps the First Nations to develop environmental preservation and monitoring plans. We work in collaboration with the people so that they can make informed decisions about their land and water resources.



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

July 2011- July 2012

- ▶ Key areas of program focus in between July 2011 and July 2012 was in the areas of mineral development, aquatic ecosystems, land use planning and geospatial information systems (GIS). To this end, Four Rivers delivered:
 - Projects and Environmental Assessments Program
 - Freshwater Habitat Program
 - A GIS Program
- ▶ The principle goal of all Four Rivers environmental programs is to enable Matawa First Nation communities to actively managing their land and water resources and to have capacity to make informed decisions about their land and water resources. To accomplish this, Four Rivers programs focus on the provision of:
 - Environmental Training;
 - Environmental Education & Outreach;
 - Regional Lands and Resource Databases and Database Systems;
 - Information Collection Project or System Development (Research & Field Collection facilitation);
 - Coordination Assistance Services; and
 - Environmental Advisory Services.

FOUR RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Ring of Fire Project Information & Environmental Assessment Tour

Four Rivers undertook a "Ring of Fire Project Information & Environmental Assessment" tour of all of the Matawa member communities from September 2011 to January 2012. The tour included meeting with Chief & Council, visiting schools to discuss the environment and potential careers in the environment/natural resources sectors, and holding an evening open house. During the open house events, information was presented on the Ring of Fire project descriptions submitted by Cliffs and Noront, Environmental Assessment (EA) process and the potential environmental impacts from mining developments. The tour was well-received, with information collected on the environmental concerns of communities relating to the proposed Ring of Fire developments.

At each community visit, letters, petitions and postcards documenting environmental concerns in relation to the Environmental Assessment process for the Ring of Fire projects were collected. These documents demonstrating public concern, and in support of a Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment (as per the Chiefs Council Resolution 07 dated May 20, 2011), were presented in Ottawa to Members of Parliament in November 2011. Community members were given a strong voice in Ottawa.

Benthos Biomonitoring Training Program Development

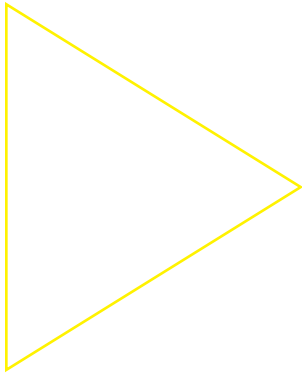
Over the course of the year, Four Rivers developed a training program and resource materials relating to monitoring lake and stream health through the Four Rivers Freshwater Habitat program. Four Rivers focused on the development of a training program including training manual and series of five factsheets on monitoring through benthic invertebrate (water bugs) collection. A highlight for the program was piloting a shortened version of the training course at the Northern Ontario First Nation Environment Conference in October 2011. Participants of that training opportunity learned how to collect and identify benthic invertebrates and learned about what benthic invertebrates can tell you about freshwater habitat health.

Environmental Training Workshops

Throughout the year, Four Rivers provided environmental training opportunities to member First Nation communities. Four Rivers hosted environmental workshops for community land use planners, values collectors, environmental monitors and lands and resource staff. Two workshops were delivered this past year, one at the Northern Ontario First Nation Environment Conference hosted in October 2011 and the other at the Land Use Planning and Climate Change Workshop hosted in January 2012. Four Rivers in coordination with Matawa Technical Services, MNR and Laurentian University had the opportunity to host a Land Use Planning and Climate Change workshop in January 2012. This workshop provided Matawa First Nation participants with more information on the Land Use Planning process, information and tools relating to Land Use Planning and information on climate change and the environment. Participating First Nation members were also able to discuss and share information about processes and activities in their communities in a sharing circle forum.

Organized by the Northern Ontario First Nation Environment Committee, Four Rivers was invited to host GIS, GPS and Benthic Invertebrate Workshops at the fall conference. Participating Matawa First Nation community members had the chance to receive hands-on training in shortened, higher-level versions of the Four Rivers week-long training programs.





GIS Program is Showcased by ESRI Canada

The Four Rivers GIS program was initiated to bring Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) capacity to member First Nation communities. In the 2010/2011 fiscal year GIS software and hardware were purchased for communities and training programs were developed. Over the course of the last year training courses were provided to Matawa First Nation communities and steps were taken to make the program more accessible to Matawa First Nation communities. In January 2012, Matawa First Nations Management entered into a new agreement with ESRI Canada, the world leader in GIS software to provide GIS software to all Matawa communities, anyone under contract with their community, or Matawa First Nations Management. The new agreement allows for communities to access any level of the GIS software depending on their needs.

In Spring 2012 ESRI Canada asked Matawa First Nations Management if they could write a case study on the GIS programs offered through Four Rivers. The case study, titled "Preserving traditional land & heritage with tomorrow's technology" was published by ESRI Canada in June 2012 and showcases how land, history and cultural values can be protected with the Matawa GIS program.

Mining and Environmental Monitoring Tour

Four Rivers coordinated an environmental education field tour on March 26-29, 2012. Delegates from the member communities of Matawa First Nations travelled to the traditional territory of Constance Lake First Nation where they got the chance to tour a mine and see its operations first-hand, as well as gain real-life environmental monitoring experience.

On the first day of the tour delegates got to see and learn about the open pit mine, waste rock piles, tailings ponds, and water treatment facilities at the mine site. The group also received information on the construction of the mine including the relocation of an entire lake, and how the mine will be rehabilitated and the land will be returned to a stable condition at the mine's closure. This information contributed to a better understanding the mining sequence as well as different components of a mine's life.

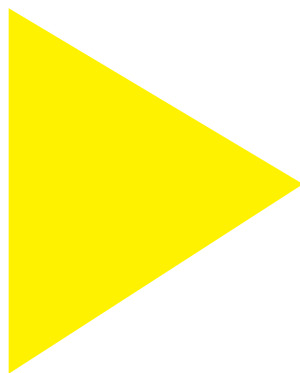
On the second day of the field tour, delegates travelled to Constance Lake where they were provided with hands-on environmental monitoring training from the Four Rivers staff. After creating a sampling plan and learning about field equipment, everyone traveled to five locations around Constance Lake to collect water samples. The group practices using the field equipment and preparing samples for submission to a lab for analysis.

The tour concluded with an open house at Constance Lake First Nation where community members could view pictures from the entire tour. Four Rivers staff provided a short presentation on the Mining Sequence at this event. Overall the entire tour provided an opportunity for all participants to understanding the mining sequence, the environmental concerns associated with mining, and the monitoring plans associated with mines.

FOUR RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Production of Environmental Videos

Throughout the winter, Four Rivers, along with Matawa Communication, worked on the development of three environmental and mining videos. The first video titled "Environmental Monitoring" discusses the potential developments to come and the need for environmental programs including environmental monitoring. It discusses programing delivered by Four Rivers and how these programs fit in the larger picture. The second video titled "Mining Sequence" provides a high level overview of the various phases of the exploration and mining. The third video, titled "Traditional Territories" provides information on the boreal forest ecosystems and relates this information to the potential developments. Footage for the videos was collected during the Mining and Environmental Monitoring Tour. All three videos contribute to a greater collection of information resources that community members can draw on.



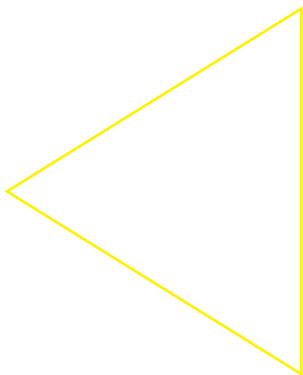
Launch of Community Cultural Impact Assessment Projects

Over the past year and a half, Four Rivers has been providing project development assistance to communities wishing to develop proposals for community projects aiming at assessing the effects of mineral development and participating in permitting processes. Resulting community proposals include the foundations of community lands and resource departments and environmental monitoring programs.

Four Rivers was pleased to have been invited to contribute to these community projects which will be important in the future, with so much resource development potential. These projects may help to serve as potential project models for other communities encountering resource development activities in their traditional territories. After so much effort on behalf of the communities to develop and negotiate for these projects it was a highlight of the year for Four Rivers staff to see Long Lake #58 First Nation's Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) Project officially launch in March 2012 with the hosting of a community celebration. The next highlight for the year was the launch of the Ginoogaming First Nation CIA project with the hosing of their initial open house in May 2012.

Launch of BEAHR Environmental Monitoring Training

On June 11, 2012 Four Rivers kicked off the delivery of their first BEAHR Environmental Monitoring Training Program. The Building Environmental and Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR) program provides members of the Matawa First Nations with up-to-date training in a variety of environmental protection sciences and helps community members obtain environmental certification and employment in the green sector. Over the course of the last year, Four Rivers had worked to become certified to deliver these training programs through ECO Canada and later to find funding to deliver these training programs to interested communities. The start of the seven-week Environmental Monitor Program represents a major milestone for Four Rivers and definite highlight of the year.





CHALLENGES

As in the previous year, major challenges relating to Four Rivers program delivery were all related to time. The Four Rivers programs focus on building capacity within Matawa First Nation communities in the face of large scale mineral development projects. The timelines for these developments are relatively rapid when compared to the amount of time it takes to prepare for the changes these developments will bring. Ultimately, the timeline objectives of mineral development are at odds with Four Rivers program timeline objectives. Four Rivers programs focus on the types of capacity building required for long term self-sufficiency in lands and resource management at the community level. The resource development timelines push for development as soon as possible. Specific examples of where these differences in values have affected programing are listed below.

GIS and Mapping

The intent of the Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) Program is to provide communities with the ability to map and then later manage their on lands and water resources within their traditional territories. To this end, Four Rivers provides communities with the technology (computers, GPS, and GIS software), and training required to operate GIS within their communities. GIS however, is not something that can be learned or picked up immediately. It is something that takes months, or even years to learn and be completely proficient in using, but the benefits of having people who can use GIS in the end will be enormous. The timelines for development and pressures on immediate maps often result in communities still having to hire others to do mapping for them. In some of these cases the mapping data is being removed or stored outside of the community and the experience a community member would gain from doing the mapping themselves is going to someone else outside of the community.

Scheduling Training and Information Tours

Communities are often overwhelmed with the demands of industry and government on their time and attention. Often it is the same core group within a given community who are responsible for attending meetings, and organizing events. It is therefore often very difficult to find times when open houses, meetings or events can be hosted, where they do not conflict with other open houses, meetings or events. This made it challenging for us to schedule training courses within communities, to deliver the Ring of Fire and Environmental Assessment Tour and to schedule environmental conferences and workshops. Ultimately it resulted in the timelines for tours to have to be extended and in some cases, not all communities could participate in all events.

FOUR RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

OPPORTUNITIES

Success of Four Rivers programs in the last year have contributed to many opportunities moving forward. Some that are important to highlight include:

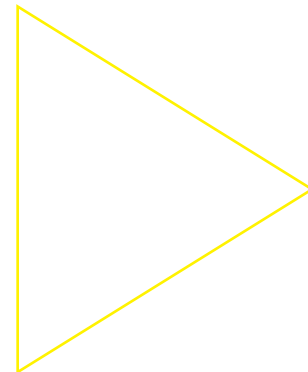
Enhanced Ability to Meet Community Specific Needs

Representatives that participated on the Mining and Environmental Monitoring Tour in March 2012 had a much better understanding in the mining sequence and the environmental concerns associated with mining. In the case of one community, this has allowed the community to identify the types of information they feel their community needs and develop and plan a tour of their own to another mine. Four Rivers will be assisting any communities wishing to develop their own mining or environmental information tours upon request.

As a result of other information tours, such as the Ring of Fire and Environmental Assessment Tour, communities are more aware of the services Four Rivers provides. Recently there has been a shift from Four Rivers proposing a specific information sharing session, to communities inviting Four Rivers to their community to speak on a specific topic of their choosing. Should this trend continue, Four Rivers will have greater opportunity to meet specific community needs.

Research Partnerships

Over the course of the year, Four Rivers was invited to a number of university events and had the opportunity to work with different universities on some different projects. With the development of appropriate research and other approval protocols there is enormous potential to solidify research partnerships with a number of different institutes. This will allow Matawa First Nation communities access to a huge network of academic professionals and unlimited research potential.



Publishing and Recognition

Building on the uniqueness of the Four Rivers GIS program, Four Rivers has been approached by Lakehead University to embark on a new training program that will target the youth in schools and to write an academic paper with Lakehead University on the program. The result of this excellent opportunity will not only be the exposure through publication, but more importantly, the potential opportunity to raise awareness about TEK and GIS in youth at a younger age, and having a greater potential to encourage them to further their education.

Forest Resource Inventory

The Ontario government has included a requirement to include First Nations in Forest Resource Inventory (FRI). As the programs delivered by Four Rivers has provided Matawa First Nation communities with key pieces of equipment required for FRI, such as GIS, communities are poised to become involved. While there is additional requirements, such as additional computers, trained staff, and business planning, there is none the less a huge opportunity for Matawa First Nation communities should they wish to pursue it.

UNLIMITED
OPPORTUNITIES

RING OF FIRE OFFICE

*Supporting our First Nations to make informed
decisions about resource development*

RING OF FIRE OFFICE

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Ring of Fire Office within the Matawa First Nation's Tribal Council organization was set up January 2011 and is led by the Ring of Fire Coordinator that is dealing exclusively with mineral exploration and mining development including the related infrastructure in support of the Matawa First Nations and assisting Matawa Chiefs in negotiations. The office is currently staffed by the Ring of Fire Coordinator, the Administrative Assistant, Logistics Coordinator, and the Mineral Exploration Mining Advisor.

The primary objective of the Ring of Fire Office is to develop a comprehensive strategy on the Ring of Fire that will respond to short, medium and long term goals and will include detailed work plans and budgets, staff responsibilities, coordination between Matawa First Nations and collaboration with government and industry. The Ring of Fire office will also play a supporting role for the negotiator, the Chiefs and Matawa-wide mining Mineral Technical Committee. It also includes political support, advisory services, logistical and administrative support.



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

July 2011- July 2012

► Community Visits

All nine Matawa First Nations communities have been visited with meetings taking place with both Chief and Council Members. Meetings have also taken place with Technical staff and Community Members by attending and participating in community meetings. Plus, community membership participation has taken place through open houses in the following communities by invitation of the respective noted First Nations:

1. Eabametoong First Nation
2. Nibinamik First Nation
3. Neskantaga First Nation
4. Webequie First Nation
5. Marten Falls First Nation
6. Constance Lake First Nation
7. Long Lake #58 First Nation
8. Ginoogaming First Nation
9. Aroland First Nation

► Consultation Protocols

The Ring of Fire office has assisted three First Nations with developing a Consultation Protocol to be established with mutual understanding with Premier Gold in respects to the potential opportunities for developments with the First Nations respective territories. The barrier with attempting to establish this Consultation Protocol is that Government does not believe in the First Nations' right to jurisdiction over their respective First Nations territories, and this is continuing to be the main obstacle in moving forward with a mutual understanding in the Consultation Protocol development.

The main items of concern when developing a Comprehensive Strategy were governments' inability to recognize First Nation jurisdiction over the First Nations Territories in the proposed industry developments, and also, the lack of funding due to the proposal being turned down by government at both Federal and Provincial levels.

The Ring of Fire office has been assisting the communities with developing a Consultation and Accommodation Protocol with government at both levels, Federal and Provincial, and including industry. There have been several meetings discussed with First Nations on occasions, such as, the follow-up Strategic Planning Meeting that was held in Webequie First Nation on July 12-13, 2011. This was following the Regional Summit that was held in Neskantaga First Nation on June 6-8, 2011. The Consultation and Accommodation Protocol was finally ratified by unanimous decision by all First Nations at the Strategic Planning Meeting on July 13, 2011 at Webequie First Nation by way of Matawa Chiefs Council Resolution.

Matawa Mineral Technical Committee has met eight times last fiscal year 2011-2012 and has met two times this year April 2012 – June 2012. Currently there are nine members from each of the Matawa member First Nations which are as follows:

1. Lennie Spence, Webequie First Nation
2. Lias Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
3. Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
4. Charlie O'Keese, Eabametoong First Nation
5. Tom Moonias, Marten Falls First nation
6. Larry Baxter, Aroland First Nation
7. Darcy Waboose, Long Lake #58 First Nation
8. Ron Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation
9. Calvin Taylor, Ginoogaming First Nation



► Regional Summit Neskantaga 2011

The Ring of Fire office has assisted with the Regional Summit surrounding the Ring of Fire prospective developments, issues, concerns, strategies and actions to be implemented by the Chiefs. The meeting was attended by the Matawa Chiefs with two other delegates per community to help facilitate the process of mutual understanding and developing a process of working collectively as First Nations. The idea of a unified approach was born at this meeting where it was proposed that the Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin Unity Declaration be further developed and agreed in principle at that time. The actual signing ceremony for the Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin was signed in Webequie First Nation on July 13, 2011.

RING OF FIRE OFFICE



► Advisory Services

The Ring of Fire office has offered an advisory service to the First Nations with regards to their prospective Exploration Agreements with Industry. The Ring of Fire office advised Constance Lake First Nation in their dealings with Zenyatta with their drilling in their territories and also facilitated the process with government and Zenyatta in terms of effective community accommodation and consultation. Also, the Ring of Fire office has advised the three First Nations – Aroland First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, and Long Lake #58 First Nation, in their dealings with Premier Gold in their territories. Furthermore, the Ring of Fire office has advised the five remote fly-in First Nations in dealing with Industry with Noront and Cliffs. The issues surrounding the corridor developments that will be occurring in the North was addressed at length. The opportunities for the First Nations are limited and the communities identified their challenge with getting government to support them in terms of getting their right to jurisdiction recognized. Finally, communities have recognized other First Nations experiences, such as, DeBeers Victor Mine in the Attawapiskat First Nation territory, as not producing benefits for the communities as promised.

A concept has been developed of building capacity in every stage of the mining sequence. This is proceeding by conducting meetings with First Nations Chiefs and Council, and holding community presentations and is being formulated into a regional approach that was developed in Neskantaga Chiefs Summit in July 2011.

The Ring of Fire Office has been assisting KKETS Employment and Training agency with Matawa by ensuring that there is effective coordination at the political level to ensure proper opportunities for each First Nation within the Mining sector.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

In November 2011, the nine member First Nations of Matawa launched a Judicial Review (JR) to force the Canadian Government to change the Environmental Assessment (EA) Process from a Comprehensive Study to a Joint Review Panel EA.

Not Opposed to Development: Chiefs reiterate to the public and to the government and Cliffs that they are not opposed to development but they want to ensure a negotiated EA process that will ensure First Nation participation, consultation and accommodation and will address all the impacts associated with the mine and the infrastructure.

Comprehensive Study EA vs. Joint Review

Panel EA: The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency selected the Comprehensive Study EA, which is a one year, mostly paper-driven process with that allows for very limited participation by First Nations and does not address all of the impacts of the mine and the infrastructure associated with it. It does not address the cumulative effects of more than one mine in an area.

The Joint Review Panel EA would allow for First Nation participation and would consider all the impacts of a mine, including health and social impacts.

The Chiefs have been demanding a Joint Review Panel EA for almost a year. Only the Minister can order a Joint Review Panel and he has chosen not to.

The case is based on the government's failure to consult with First Nations and will most likely be heard in winter 2013. If First Nations win, Cliffs, Ontario and Canada will have to begin the EA process all over under the Joint Review Panel process.

CHALLENGES

JUDICIAL REVIEW

While the Judicial Review is proceeding the Comprehensive Study has also been proceeding. This is the reason Cliffs desires to visit First Nations, in order to complete what they are required to do for consultation under the Comprehensive Study.

Canada's Record: The issue of the Crown's record is resolved. Canada had not provided all of the information being asked for in the Judicial Review process. The Crown has now filed a supplementary record that has some of the materials that were missing. Webequie First Nation withdrew from the Judicial Review on May 14, 2012.

Changes Environmental Legislation: The Federal Government has pushed through extensive changes to Canada's Environmental Legislation which will water down the EA process. It intends to make even a Joint Review Panel EA no more than two years long leaving an EA more rushed than it already is. The legislation will apply to EAs already in progress, in essence a retroactive law.

The new law will leave it up to the Minister to decide whether he/she believes there is significant impact to the environment or to communities before he/she orders a Joint Review Panel. EA decision-making will be more political and subjective, not driven by specific criteria.

The new legislation is controversial and there is growing opposition to it, especially in BC where First Nations are involved in a Joint Review Panel EA for the oil pipeline.

UNITY DECLARATION

The Unity Declaration that was signed in Webequie First Nation has become a challenge for all nine Matawa First Nations. First Nations do not all agree on issues and the public sees that as a lack of unity.

Another challenge to upholding the Unity Declaration is that not all Matawa First Nations or their proxies attend Matawa Chiefs meetings on a regular basis and therefore making plans becomes repetitive, ineffective and difficult. All nine Chiefs do not have all the same information at the same time and Chiefs do not share all their information with each other for various reasons.

Again governments and industry are using the lack of commitment to the Unity Declaration by First Nations to their advantage. They continue to go to communities and record every meeting, visit and telephone call, and are construing this as "consultation".

Government and industry are continually making promises but no agreements have been signed.

Recommendations:

- Ensure leadership make a commitment to attend a meeting to strategize on a plan to work together
- Ensure lines of communication are established both regionally and locally
- Implement the structure designed by Elders in Neskantaga
- Develop Terms of Reference for the structure

GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE FIRST NATION JURISDICTION

The failure of the government on both the provincial and federal level to recognize First Nation jurisdiction on their traditional lands, is an obstacle to all forward movement in the Ring of Fire and a threat to First Nations achieving fair benefits for resource development and adequate involvement in all levels of decision making.

RING OF FIRE OFFICE

OPPORTUNITIES

GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

On May 8, Chief Eli Moonias received a call from the government to come to a meeting that day. Chief Moonias spoke with Chief Gagnon and decided both of them should attend. At the meeting the government made some promises. It was the evening before Cliffs announced the smelter would be in Sudbury.

Province has stated:

- There are several communities in the Ring of Fire – the key is to understanding and working together to achieve goals
- They have heard the communities say that they are not opposed to development, but want to reap the benefits from these developments in the Ring of Fire and they don't want to be excluded
- Want to undertake a new approach to working with First Nations
- Broader Scope of Participation: Tripartite approach: Federal/Provincial/First Nations
- Want to formalize and address key concerns and issues
- Commitment to regional environmental monitoring
- Support for social, skills training, health, regional and community infrastructure and broadband
- Resource revenue sharing to be structured for directly impacted communities
- Federal and Provincial governments to form an oversight committee to focus on the specific issues of the First Nations

The Chiefs told the Ministers that they could not agree or discuss these issues without the other seven Matawa Chiefs present. They also told the Ministers that they need time to look at the proposal for a month or at least two weeks. The Ministers had pre-arranged a conference call the next morning thinking the First Nations would automatically come on board with the Minister's plans and announcements.

Recommendations:

- FN's need to develop a counter proposal



MINAWSHYN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

This corporation was approved by the Chiefs to capture economic opportunities on behalf of the Matawa First Nations. It is designed to take on major contracts that will require a regional approach such as construction of roads, railway, transmission grid, etc.

Instead of First Nations competing against each other on contracts, Minawshyn will be the corporation to control the major contracts on behalf of the First Nations. Minawshyn could develop joint ventures with companies that have the financial and bonding capacity to take on these contracts.

Once capacity is built up, Minawshyn could develop joint ventures with First Nations to do community projects and thereby keeping the profits recycling through the communities instead of other companies taking the money. The main reason for the First Nations support for this corporation is to separate the politics from business. Questions raised with regards to the Regional Economic Development Corporation, Minawshyn (MDC) have centred around the structure, who's going to be involved, when will this start, how will the Board be set up and how benefits will be shared. Most people have said that a Regional Economic Development Corporation is required to accommodate large scale infrastructure contracts associated with the Ring of Fire developments.

No joint review, no Ring of Fire: Matawa chiefs

Rick Giesek
Wawatay News

The chiefs of Matawa First Nations have withdrawn their support for development in the Ring of Fire. The Oct. 21 announcement comes after the federal government announced plans to conduct an environmental study of a potential mine project in the Ring of Fire, an area in the James Bay lowlands near several Matawa communities.

But Matawa chiefs said they want a more thorough study of the chrome mine proposed by Cliffs Natural Resources, a company based out of Cleveland, Ohio.

Constance Lake Chief Roger Wesley said their request fell on deaf ears by the federal agency responsible for environmental studies.

"We will be forced to react to whatever happens in Canada and Ontario and continue to ignore the First Nations

that are being impacted by Ring of Fire development," Wesley said. "We want development, but we also want to make sure that our lands, waters, wildlife, and our way of life are not destroyed in the process."

Wesley did not say what those alternative measures would be, but it's the government that is forcing the communities to come up with a plan of action.

"They are not listening to us or consulting us in a meaningful way, and they are certainly not accommodating us," Wesley said.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) announced Oct. 17 that it is moving forward with a Comprehensive Study of Cliffs' planned project in May. Cliffs of Cliffs' planned project description to submitted its project description to the agency, leaving the agency to move forward with the study. The move comes even though the Matawa communities, for several months, have called for a Joint Review Panel envi-

ronmental assessment, a more thorough process involving the federal and provincial governments.

"The joint panel is more detailed, and the First Nations are effectively involved in the process. Whereas the comprehensive study is limited," said Chief Cornelia Wabuse of Webogic.

"They are not listening to us or consulting us in a meaningful way."

Wabuse said Matawa wants the joint review process because of concerns with environmental impacts the development will have on First Nation traditional territory.

"The land over there is all marsh

and they are talking about an open pit mine," Wabuse said.

The Matawa chiefs feel the government's approach to development will slowly destroy their treaty rights and life, extinguish their knowledge and destroy their knowledges and their children's future.

Jim Jorgensen, environmental assessment officer for the Matawa First Nations Environmental Services Group, said the joint review process is the best option to ensure more opportunity for public participation, allowing for oral hearings in First Nation communities.

"Ideally a new process would be developed to address all the potential environmental impacts from all proposed development in the Ring of Fire area, but for now a Joint Review Panel is the most appropriate environmental assessment for these projects," Jorgensen said.

The project, outlined in Cliffs' description filed with the CEAA, involves an open pit/underground mine, ore processing facility, a transportation corridor and a refining facility.

The predicted rate of extracting minerals for the proposed 30-year mine is at a rate of 6,000 to 12,000 tonnes per day. The transportation corridor includes a north-south all-season road from Arundel First Nation to the mine site east of Webogic.

Jorgensen said the roads proposed in the Cliffs project would cross about 100 bodies of water, including three major rivers.

"The Cliffs project will re-route three waterways and drain several ponds at the mine site," Jorgensen said. "These activities will definitely impact fish habitat and wildlife in the area."

see CONCERNS page 3

Concerns mount in Ring of Fire

from page 1

Mattie Fells Chief Ed Moorhead said government-to-government dialogue is needed to deal with the ongoing frustration of Matawa leaders.

"We need the Ontario premier and the prime minister to intervene and come to the table," he said. "A lot of ministerial representatives level talking to what is happening instead of asking to help us want to participate in not consultation or accommodation."

Moorhead is perturbed by the CEAA's public involvement process on the proposed project. He said the CEAA had furnished a map of northern Ontario that makes it look like no one lives near the Ring of Fire project.

"The map didn't have a single First Nations community on it," he said. "We weren't even on their radar. That is offensive to our people. That is exactly the way government views the people who live where these developments are happening. We're not even on their radar."

Despite the concerns of some First Nations, Cliffs said it has a two-fold approach to meeting the environmental requirements of the federal and provincial governments. While the Cliffs will be conducting its own study following provincial guidelines, it will also be following



Warten Fells Chief Ed Moorhead speaks about Matawa's concerns with the environmental assessment process for Cliffs Natural Resources' chrome mine development plans in the Ring of Fire during an Oct. 21 press conference in Thunder Bay.

Environmental Assessment Act. Their approach will look at the different components of the project as a whole instead of individual parts.

Patticia Perrico, Cliffs senior manager of global communications, said in the coming months Cliffs will engage with First Nations and Métis communities and other interested parties in get feedback on the project.

Perrico said Cliffs expects to complete and submit its report by late 2012.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines said it is taking Matawa's concerns very seriously and will be working with the Ministry of the Environment and the CEAA to clarify next steps.

"We want Aboriginal communities to share in the economic benefits of natural resource development," said Rick Winson, senior communications officer with MNDM in the email.

In the mail, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Sam Beaudy said the Matawa chiefs want to ensure there is a future for upcoming generations.

"They are talking about our knowledges and how they want to see those protected. In a lot of ways they are talking about creating an economic future for our people," Beaudy said about Matawa's leaders. "What they are calling for is a joint panel that would allow the community to have meaningful input into the assessment. Right now they are being decided that right. There is a tendency to fast track the project just to get the previous decisions out of there."

Beaudy said other NAN communities are also concerned about the situation in the Ring of Fire.

"If there is going to be development, it's the First Nations people who live there that have to have a major say in how that happens when it happens or when it happens," he said. "If the environment is damaged, it will impact the people living there. You are now in the future. You are talking about swamp and water everywhere. If there is a leak somewhere within the project, it is going to affect the whole

northwestern Ontario. Half of NAN."

Asklud Chief Sonny Gagnon agrees.

"The area being affected is mostly one of the largest groups of intact wetlands in the world," Gagnon said. "These Ring of Fire developments are going to impact everyone in the region, one way or another, but especially the First Nations that live there. These are their traditional territories and we need the best environmental assessment process out there to protect them."

First Nations Demand Participation

First Nations, backed by Ontario Nature and other nongovernmental organizations, are working to ensure that mines in northern Ontario's "Ring of Fire" undergo thorough environmental assessments, with the full participation of Aboriginal communities from the development regional planning process. First Nations communities may be in for a battle, as federal and provincial governments insist on carrying out limited consultation that will focus on the impact of the Ring of Fire within the Ring of Fire, northeast of Sudbury, on a 10,000 square kilometre mining claim. The claim, which includes the Metchosin, Matawa, and other communities, has been asked the Federal government to review the initial chromite mine plan and Cliffs Natural Resources development, but... with environmental assessments currently available in the area, people, our children, our ways, and the wildlife, said Chief of Neskanantaga.

Environmental Assessments ordered a "comprehensive" assessment, within 90 days, of all written submissions. The government would not allow for any input from interested parties to participate, the government, as they have decided.

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While most of the up to 12,000 tonnes per day of ore would be processed at the smelter, the company says it intends to send some in "concentrate" form to Chinese smelters.

Concerns about the type of environmental assessments that will be conducted, as well as about where the ore would be processed, highlight the need for regional planning, says Julie Boan, Ontario Nature's boreal program manager. "Cliffs

EARTH WATCH

project alone requires building, operating and safely decommissioning two open-pit mines, the smelter, dams to contain mine waste, power generation and distribution infrastructure, and transportation corridors - all in one of the world's most hydrologically complex and ecologically sensitive wetlands."

Page 1 of 2

The Sudbury Star

THE SUDBURY STAR

Your news. Today.

First Nations must be able to have a say - Column by Brian MacLeod

Updated 5 days ago

As Ontario cabinet ministers were sworn in Oct. 21, Matawa First Nations were demanding that the environmental assessment (EA) process on the Ring of Fire development must be changed -- and they want an answer by Tuesday.

The Ring of Fire is a 5,120-square-kilometre chromite, nickel, copper platinum and palladium deposit in the James Bay lowlands.

It's possibly the richest undeveloped deposit in the world, maybe even akin to the riches in Sudbury. Aside from the mining royalties collected by governments, the enormous infrastructure required-- including a \$2-billion, 350-km railway -- will provide a hefty economic boost for Ontario.

Cleveland-based Cliffs Natural Resources wants to start processing chromite, which is used to make stainless steel, at its Black Thor deposit in 2015, and Toronto's Noront Resources, which has spent \$100 million on exploration in the area, wants to start nickel mining along the same timeline.

Environmental legislation at the federal and provincial levels is being co-ordinated. On Oct. 17, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency announced it would initiate a comprehensive study on Cliffs' project. The open pit and underground operation and ore processing facility. That, say Matawa First Nations, is not on. They want a joint-panel process.

Matawa First Nations consists of nine remote and fly-in communities with a combined population of about 8,200. The chiefs think senior levels of government are trying to fast track the EA to help the economy. And since massive development could have significant environmental impacts -- all-seasons roads, for example, will cut nearly 100 bodies of water -- they want to be more involved.

Larry Innes, who is with a Toronto law firm specializing in environmental and aboriginal issues, works with Matawa First Nations. The comprehensive process, he explained, is largely a paper procedure with written reports and responses.

A joint-panel process would involve First Nations in developing the terms of reference. It would also involve travelling to communities, and taking and making oral presentations. That, said Innes, would allow community members to talk among themselves and consult experts about their concerns.

of the Volsey's Bay nickel deposit in Newfoundland and Labrador involved the federal government and Inuit in just such a process, said Innes.

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MEMBERSHIP

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

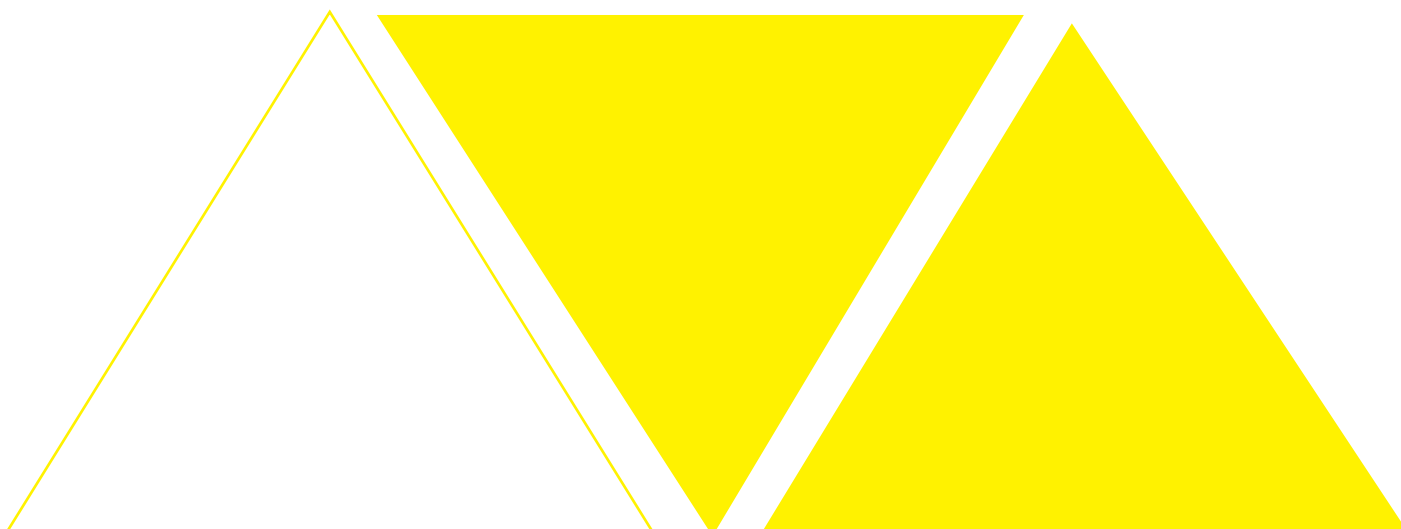
The mandate for the Membership program is to provide membership services to the six First Nations of Matawa Tribal Unit. The communities consist of Aroland, Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie. The Membership Department provides service for status card issuance and recording events such as birth, death, etc. The common role is shared by all Indian Registration Administrators to maintain, update and preserve the integrity of the Indian Register.



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

JULY 2011- JULY 2012

- ▶ Develop and maintain communications with the First Nations/Liaisons and individuals, to ensure that all concerns and issues are met.
- ▶ Inform the First Nations of the new Secure Certificate of Indian cards that were targets for release this year. INAC has provided pamphlets to each First Nation.





HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

Placed a major focus on the Healthy Babies/Healthy Children program where the coordinators are promoting the awareness of birth registration and Indian registration.

The Ambassador Networking is continuing to develop ways to improve and educate parents about early birth registrations.

Indian Act Amendment Bill C-3 was introduced and are handled through HQ INAC.

CHALLENGES

Delayed registration of a child results in longer delays for services related to registration. This delay of registration of a child results in no coverage for NIHB so parents/First Nation carry the costs.

OPPORTUNITIES

More promotional materials and have two community visits per year for each First Nation.



GATHERING OF MATAWA COMMUNITIES SPRING CONFERENCE

March 20-22 / Valhalla Inn / Thunder Bay, ON



GATHERING OF MATAWA COMMUNITIES

Close to 200 people attended the Gathering of Matawa Communities on March 20-22 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay from the nine member First Nations of Matawa. The participants worked on an action plan for the future. On the last day they stood in a circle together in a demonstration of unity.





A photograph of a person wearing a yellow hoodie and dark pants walking across a wooden bridge over a stream. The stream flows over rocks and has fallen logs in it. The background is a dense forest of tall trees. The image is framed by a yellow and red geometric design in the top left and bottom left corners.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Matawa First Nations Management
Consolidated Financial Statements

March 31, 2012

Matawa First Nations Management Contents

For the year ended March 31, 2012

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To the Members and Board of Directors of Matawa First Nations Management:

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements, including responsibility for significant accounting judgments and estimates in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and ensuring that all information in the annual report is consistent with the consolidated statements. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting principles and methods, and making decisions affecting the measurement of transactions in which objective judgment is required.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the consolidated financial statements, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of consolidated financial statements.

The Board of Directors and Audit Committee are composed primarily of Directors who are neither management nor employees of the Organization. The Board is responsible for overseeing management in the performance of its financial reporting responsibilities, and for approving the financial information included in the annual report. The Board fulfils these responsibilities by reviewing the financial information prepared by management and discussing relevant matters with management and external auditors. The Board is also responsible for recommending the appointment of the Organization's external auditors.

MNP LLP, an independent firm of Chartered Accountants, is appointed by the Board to audit the consolidated financial statements and report directly to them; their report follows. The external auditors have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Board and management to discuss their audit findings.

July 5, 2012



Chief Executive Officer

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members and Board of Directors of Matawa First Nations Management:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Matawa First Nations Management, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at March 31, 2012, and the consolidated statements of operations, changes in fund balance and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Matawa First Nations Management as at March 31, 2012 and the results of its operations, changes in fund balance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Thunder Bay, Ontario

July 5, 2012



Chartered Accountants

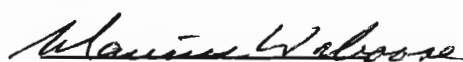
Licensed Public Accountants


Matawa First Nations Management Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2012

	Matawa Operating	Matawa Restricted	Matawa Capital	2012	2011
Assets					
Current					
Cash	1,432,922	-	-	1,432,922	1,696,357
Temporary investments (Note 4)	-	147,774	-	147,774	135,565
Accounts receivable (Note 5), (Note 6)	1,151,307	-	103,153	1,254,460	1,418,330
Income taxes receivable	300	-	-	300	-
Prepaid expenses and deposits	202,350	-	-	202,350	208,346
Due from Operating Fund	-	77,713	-	77,713	107,906
	2,786,879	225,487	103,153	3,115,519	3,566,504
Capital assets (Note 7)	-	-	6,575,920	6,575,920	2,802,396
Long-term investments (Note 8)	2	-	-	2	2
	2,786,881	225,487	6,679,073	9,691,441	6,368,902
Liabilities					
Current					
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 6)	2,589,348	-	140,564	2,729,912	1,762,479
Deferred revenue (Note 9)	709,592	73,465	-	783,057	1,509,274
Income taxes payable	-	-	-	-	752
Due to Restricted Fund	77,713	-	-	77,713	107,906
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 10)	-	-	43,187	43,187	143,498
Deferred contributions related to capital assets	-	-	177,961	177,961	-
	3,376,653	73,465	361,712	3,811,830	3,523,909
Long-term debt (Note 10)	-	-	1,220,723	1,220,723	1,263,910
Deferred contributions related to capital assets	-	-	3,155,233	3,155,233	281,198
Future income taxes (Note 12)	2,057	-	-	2,057	2,143
Fund Balance					
Fund balance	(591,829)	152,022	1,941,405	1,501,598	1,297,742
	2,786,881	225,487	6,679,073	9,691,441	6,368,902

Approved on behalf of the Board


Director


Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Matawa First Nations Management Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2012

	<i>Matawa Operating</i>	<i>Matawa Restricted</i>	<i>Matawa Capital</i>	2012	2011
Revenue					
Federal Government (Note 18)	7,667,950	-	-	7,667,950	7,014,517
Provincial Government (Note 18)	915,539	-	-	915,539	1,038,038
First Nations and Organizations (Note 18)	513,191	925,245	-	1,438,436	2,550,837
Other (Note 18)	554,177	36,324	1,411	591,912	493,234
Transfer of funding to Capital Fund	(1,602,836)	(11,848)	1,614,684	-	-
	8,048,021	949,721	1,616,095	10,613,837	11,096,626
Transfers from (to) deferred revenue	730,849	(51,432)	-	679,417	(1,065,432)
Total revenue	8,778,870	898,289	1,616,095	11,293,254	10,031,194
First Nation Flow Through/Project Contributions	1,231,950	-	-	1,231,950	2,327,350
	7,546,920	898,289	1,616,095	10,061,304	7,703,844
Expenses					
Advertising and promotion	271,876	-	-	271,876	128,806
Amortization	-	-	737,185	737,185	384,574
Annual General Assembly (Note 16)	225,162	-	-	225,162	134,774
Bad debts	123,115	28,108	-	151,223	16,211
Board and Chiefs' meetings	285,743	-	-	285,743	309,927
Consultants	1,033,743	-	-	1,033,743	554,089
Crisis and donations	55,669	-	-	55,669	34,900
Insurance	35,741	-	-	35,741	30,984
Interest and bank charges	12,183	-	-	12,183	10,605
Interest on long-term debt	64,323	-	-	64,323	70,997
Meetings	423,356	-	-	423,356	326,647
Occupancy costs	137,858	-	-	137,858	250,366
Supplies and equipment	301,751	-	-	301,751	205,000
Professional fees	307,767	-	-	307,767	273,123
Professional development/training	332,779	-	-	332,779	327,453
Program co-ordination (recovery)	(110,840)	110,840	-	-	-
Repairs and maintenance	88,532	-	-	88,532	84,033
Resource materials	422,111	-	-	422,111	199,212
Salaries and benefits (Note 17)	3,150,870	-	-	3,150,870	2,443,823
Student and Client allowances	547,174	762,974	-	1,310,148	1,256,274
Telephone	72,742	-	-	72,742	94,498
Travel	428,212	-	-	428,212	290,144
Total expenses	8,209,867	901,922	737,185	9,848,974	7,426,440
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses before other items	(662,947)	(3,633)	878,910	212,330	277,404

Continued on next page

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Matawa First Nations Management Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2012

	<i>Matawa Operating</i>	<i>Matawa Restricted</i>	<i>Matawa Capital</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses before other items <i>(Continued from previous page)</i>	(662,947)	(3,633)	878,910	212,330	277,404
Other items					
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	-	(8,422)	(8,422)	(9,747)
Income tax recovery (expense)	386	-	-	386	(282)
	386	-	(8,422)	(8,036)	(10,029)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(662,561)	(3,633)	870,488	204,294	267,375

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Matawa First Nations Management Consolidated Statement of Changes in Fund Balance

For the year ended March 31, 2012

	<i>Matawa Operating</i>	<i>Matawa Restricted</i>	<i>Matawa Capital</i>	2012	2011
Fund balance, beginning of year	70,732	156,093	1,070,917	1,297,742	1,029,887
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(662,561)	(3,633)	870,488	204,294	267,375
Refundable portion of Part I tax	-	-	-	-	(272)
Changes in unrealized gains (losses) on the available-for-sale financial assets during the year	-	(438)	-	(438)	752
Fund balance, end of year	(591,829)	152,022	1,941,405	1,501,598	1,297,742

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Matawa First Nations Management

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31, 2012

	2012	2011
Cash provided by (used for) the following activities		
Operating activities		
Cash received from government, First Nations and Organizations, and other	10,717,530	10,809,319
Interest earned	13,377	10,563
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(9,293,804)	(9,429,384)
Income taxes paid	(752)	(955)
Interest paid	(76,506)	(81,602)
	1,359,845	1,307,941
Financing activities		
Repayments on long-term debt	(143,498)	(143,566)
Proceeds from long-term debt	3,051,996	281,198
	2,908,498	137,632
Investing activities		
Purchase of temporary investments	(12,647)	(4,413)
Proceeds of disposition of capital assets	2,579	-
Purchase of capital assets	(4,521,710)	(1,037,797)
	(4,531,778)	(1,042,210)
Increase (decrease) in cash resources	(263,435)	403,363
Cash resources, beginning of year	1,696,357	1,292,994
Cash resources, end of year	1,432,922	1,696,357

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Matawa First Nations Management

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2012

1. Incorporation

Matawa First Nations Management, the "Organization" is incorporated under the *Canada Corporations Act* as a not-for-profit organization. The Organization operates as a tribal council, providing services to the First Nations listed in Note 6 to these financial statements.

2. Significant accounting policies

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles as issued by the Accounting Standards Board in Canada using the following significant accounting policies:

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of Matawa First Nations Management ("MFNM"), which controls the following corporations: Matawa Project Management Group Inc. ("MPMG"), a construction management corporation; Matawa First Nations Property Inc. ("MFNP"), which owns the land and building at 233 Court Street South, Thunder Bay; and Matawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation ("MNPHC"), a not-for-profit housing corporation.

These consolidated financial statements include financial statements for MFNP for the fiscal year from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

Fund accounting

In order to ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Organization, the accounts are maintained on a fund accounting basis. Accordingly, resources are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds. These funds are held in accordance with the objectives specified by the contributors or in accordance with the directives issued by the Board of Directors. The Organization has the following funds:

The Operating Fund is used to account for all revenues and expenses related to general and ancillary operations of the Organization.

The Capital Fund is used to account for all capital assets of the Organization and to present the flow of funds related to their acquisition and disposal, unexpended capital resources and debt commitments.

The Restricted Fund is used to account for monies for the post secondary education activities of MFNM and the capital reserves of MNPHC.

Revenue recognition

MFNM follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the appropriate fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the appropriate fund when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Revenue is recognized when it is earned according to the terms of funding agreements, provided that the amount is measurable and collectibility is reasonably assured.

Rental revenue is recognized as it is earned over time according to occupancy agreements.

Project and engineering fees and recoveries are recognized as services are rendered, provided that the amount is measurable and collectibility is reasonably assured.

Other project management fees are recognized on a percentage of completion basis, where revenue is matched with the contract costs incurred in reaching the stage of completion resulting in a proportionate reporting of revenue, expense, and profit attributable to the proportion of work completed. Any anticipated losses on contracts are provided for in the period.

Interest income is recognized when it is earned.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash held with a chartered bank. Cash subject to restrictions that prevent its use for current purposes is included in restricted cash.

2. Significant accounting policies *(Continued from previous page)*

Financial instruments

Held for trading:

The Organization has classified the following financial assets and liabilities as held for trading: cash.

The Organization's held for trading instruments are initially recognized at their fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations in an active market. Transactions to purchase or sell these items are recorded on the settlement date.

Held for trading financial instruments are subsequently measured at their fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are recognized immediately in income.

Available-for-sale:

The Organization has classified the following financial assets as available-for-sale: temporary investments.

These assets are initially and subsequently recognized at their fair value. Fair value is determined by price quotations in an active market. Transactions to purchase and sell these items are recorded on the settlement date. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value, except for impairment losses and foreign exchange translation adjustments, are recognized in the fund balance, until the financial asset is sold or otherwise derecognized. Upon derecognition, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognized in the fund balance is transferred to excess of revenues over expenses.

Loans and receivables:

The Organization has classified the following financial assets as loans and receivables: accounts receivable.

These assets are initially recognized at their fair value. Fair value is approximated by the instrument's initial cost in a transaction between unrelated parties. Transactions to purchase or sell these items are recorded on the settlement date.

Loans and receivables are subsequently measured at their amortized cost, using the effective interest method. Under this method, estimated future cash receipts are exactly discounted over the asset's expected life, or other appropriate period, to its net carrying value. Amortized cost is the amount at which the financial asset is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortization using the effective interest method of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount, and less any reduction for impairment or uncollectibility. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are recognized in excess of revenues over expenses upon derecognition or impairment.

Other financial liabilities:

The Organization has classified the following financial liabilities as other financial liabilities: accounts payable and accruals and long-term debt.

These liabilities are initially recognized at their fair value. Fair value is approximated by the instrument's initial cost in a transaction between unrelated parties. Transactions to purchase or sell these items are recorded on the settlement date.

Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method. Under this method, estimated future cash payments are exactly discounted over the liability's expected life, or other appropriate period, to its net carrying value. Amortized cost is the amount at which the financial liability is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments, and plus or minus the cumulative amortization using the effective interest method of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are recognized in excess of revenues over expenses upon derecognition or impairment.

2. Significant accounting policies *(Continued from previous page)*

Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost and are being amortized over their estimated useful lives on the basis described below commencing in the year of addition up to and excluding the year of disposal. The cost of major replacements and improvements to capital assets are capitalized and the cost of maintenance and repairs are expensed when incurred. Amortization is provided for using the following annual rates, except in the year of acquisition when one-half of the annual rates are applied:

	Method	Rate
Buildings	declining balance	4 %
Computer equipment	declining balance	30 %
Computer software	declining balance	100 %
Equipment	straight-line	33 %
Furniture and fixtures	declining balance	20 %
Leasehold improvements	straight-line	20 %
Parking lot	declining balance	8 %

Leases

Leases are classified as either capital or operating. A lease which transfers substantially all of the benefits and risks incidental to the ownership of property is accounted for as if it were an acquisition of an asset and an undertaking of an obligation at the inception of the lease. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases wherein rental payments are charged to operations as incurred.

Use of estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period.

Accounts receivable are stated after evaluation as to their collectibility and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary.

Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets.

Accounts payable and accruals are estimated based on historical charges for unbilled goods and services at year end.

Deferred revenue is estimated based on management's review of revenue received, but not spent at year end.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in excess of revenues and expenses in the periods in which they become known.

Long-lived assets

Long-lived assets consist of capital assets. Long-lived assets held for use are measured and amortized as described in the applicable accounting policies.

The Organization performs impairment testing on long-lived assets held for use whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset, or group of assets, may not be recoverable. The carrying amount of a long-lived asset is not recoverable if the carrying amount exceeds the sum of the undiscounted future cash flows from its use and disposal. Impairment is measured as the amount by which the assets' carrying value exceeds its fair value. Fair value is measured using prices for similar items. Any impairment is included in excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year.

Long-term investments

Long-term investments are recorded at cost, less any provisions for other than temporary impairment. They have been classified as long-term assets in concurrence with the nature of the investment.

Matawa First Nations Management
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2012

2. Significant accounting policies *(Continued from previous page)*

Future income taxes

MFNP and MPMG follow the asset and liability method of accounting for future income taxes. Under this method, future income tax assets and liabilities are recorded based on temporary differences between the carrying amount of balance sheet items and their corresponding tax bases. In addition, the future benefits of income tax assets, including unused tax losses, are recognized, subject to a valuation allowance, to the extent that it is more likely than not that such future benefits will ultimately be realized. Future income tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates and laws expected to apply when the tax liabilities or assets are to be either settled or realized.

Employee future benefits

The Organization's employee future benefit program consists of a defined contribution pension plan. Organization contributions to the defined contribution plan are expensed as incurred.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations

In October 2010, the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) approved the incorporation of the "4400 series" of standards, which discusses the accounting for the unique circumstances of not-for-profit organizations (NFPO), from the CICA Handbook - Accounting into the CICA Public Sector Accounting Handbook ("PSA Handbook"). This set of standards will be appropriately modified to fit with public sector accounting standards. Effective for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, all NFPOs will have the option to apply either the PSA Handbook with or without the NFPO standards. Earlier adoption is permitted. The Organization expects to adopt the PSA Handbook with the NFPO standards for its consolidated financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2013. The Organization has not yet determined the impact of the adoption of the new standards on its consolidated financial statements.

3. Financial instruments

The Organization, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

Fair value of financial instruments

The carrying amount of cash, accounts receivable, and accounts payable and accruals is approximated by their fair value due to their short-term nature.

The carrying value of the TD Canada Trust mortgage is approximated by its fair value, because the interest rate approximates the current lending rate available to the Organization. The fair value of the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation forgivable loan cannot be reasonably estimated because the terms of repayment are based on future events.

4. Temporary investments

	2012	2011
Marketable securities	147,774	135,565

All prescribed housing providers are required to participate in pooling of the capital reserves for investment purposes through the Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC) Investment Fund Program.

The investments consist of mutual funds invested with Phillips, Hager & North Investment Funds Ltd. The investments consist of 92% fixed income and 8% equity with a cost of \$146,816 (2011 - 87% fixed income and 13% equity with a cost of \$134,169).

The investments are recorded at fair value which has resulted in an unrealized loss of \$438 (2011 - unrealized gain of \$752).

Matawa First Nations Management
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2012

5. Accounts receivable

	2012	2011
Trade accounts receivable	1,524,705	1,535,063
Travel and salary advances	27,897	28,577
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(298,142)	(145,310)
	1,254,460	1,418,330

6. Related parties

The Organization is related to the following First Nations, each of which are members of the Organization and have representation on the Board of Directors. Therefore, each First Nation has the ability to significantly influence the operations of the Organization. The First Nations are as follows:

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

The following amounts are included in accounts receivable and accounts payable and accruals at year end:

	2012	2011
Amounts included in accounts receivable		
Aroland First Nation	932	87,999
Constance Lake First Nation	2,161	-
Eabametoong First Nation	-	20,378
Ginoogaming First Nation	28,108	96,324
Long Lake #58 First Nation	12,725	801
Marten Falls First Nation	-	39,600
Neskantaga First Nation	24,000	16,528
Nibinamik First Nation	6,000	12,259
Webequie First Nation	28,931	17,485
Amounts included in accounts payable and accruals		
Aroland First Nation	15,618	59,492
Constance Lake First Nation	57,047	74,231
Eabametoong First Nation	151,309	148,767
Ginoogaming First Nation	46,574	87,605
Long Lake #58 First Nation	22,999	15,679
Marten Falls First Nation	130,562	77,259
Neskantaga First Nation	101,195	96,122
Nibinamik First Nation	181,361	87,334
Webequie First Nation	40,145	111,576

The Organization significantly influences the operations of, and is therefore related to Aatawehike Fire Services Limited Partnership, as the Organization is a creditor and provides support services on an in-kind basis. At year end, no amount was included in accounts receivable (2011 - \$22,500).

The amounts above are non-interest bearing and unsecured. It is anticipated that the amounts will be received/paid in the next fiscal year.

Matawa First Nations Management
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2012

7. Capital assets

	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Accumulated amortization</i>	<i>2012 Net book value</i>	<i>2011 Net book value</i>
Land	1,290,432	-	1,290,432	817,315
Buildings	5,653,473	1,421,980	4,231,493	1,329,577
Computer equipment	-	-	-	1,065
Computer software	52,886	50,674	2,212	7,095
Equipment	1,677,024	927,211	749,813	355,263
Furniture and fixtures	234,900	70,660	164,240	113,513
Leasehold improvements	302,510	172,668	129,842	158,422
Parking lot	15,000	12,111	2,889	3,140
Buildings under construction	4,999	-	4,999	17,006
	9,231,224	2,655,304	6,575,920	2,802,396

The Organization capitalized \$4,999 during the year relating to future development costs towards a six-unit expansion, which is currently under funding review. No amortization on this asset was recorded in the current year as the asset is under construction. There is currently no expected completion date as the project is under funding review.

8. Long-term investments

As at March 31, 2012 MFNM owned 2 Class C common shares of Long Lake Aggregates Ltd. representing 2% of the issued and outstanding shares of the company. The market value of these shares approximates the book value of this investment as recorded on these consolidated financial statements.

9. Deferred revenue

	<i>Matawa Operating</i>	<i>Matawa Restricted</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>
Bowmanville Rotary Scholarship	13,504	-	13,504	1,514
Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation	37,715	-	37,715	18,839
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	13,518	-	13,518	1,046,370
Human Resources Development Canada	467,309	-	467,309	265,842
Nishinawbe Aski Nation	4,720	-	4,720	-
Other	172,826	-	172,826	107,875
Deferred tuition	-	-	-	46,800
Post secondary	-	73,465	73,465	22,034
	709,592	73,465	783,057	1,509,274

Matawa First Nations Management
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2012

10. Long-term debt

	2012	2011
RBC Royal Bank mortgage.	-	102,227
TD Canada Trust, 4.59% first mortgage on multiple properties located in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Repayable at \$8,314 per month including interest, maturing February 1, 2017. Security provided includes a charge on land and buildings with a net book value of \$1,228,107.	1,263,910	1,305,181
	1,263,910	1,407,408
Less: Current portion of long-term debt	43,187	143,498
	1,220,723	1,263,910

Principal repayments on TD Canada Trust long-term debt in each of the next five years, assuming long-term debt subject to refinancing is renewed, are estimated as follows:

2013	43,187
2014	45,192
2015	47,290
2016	49,486
2017	47,067

11. Deferred contributions related to capital assets

Deferred contributions related to capital assets represent the unamortized portion of contributed capital assets and restricted contributions that were used to construct additional residential properties for the Organization. Recognition of these amounts as revenue is deferred to periods when the related capital assets are amortized.

During the year, the Organization received contributions of \$3,051,996 (2011 - \$281,198) in the form of a forgivable loan from Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation. The principal portion of the loan shall be forgiven over a 20 year term beginning at the date of occupancy on an accelerated basis as follows: 3% years one through five, 4% years six through ten and 6.5% years eleven through twenty, provided that all commitments are fulfilled. The Organization anticipates that no repayment will be necessary.

The estimated amount to be forgiven in each of the next five years is estimated as follows:

2013	99,996
2014	99,996
2015	99,996
2016	99,996
2017	99,996

The balance unforgiven at March 31, 2012 is \$3,333,194.

	<i>Matawa Operating</i>	<i>Matawa Restricted</i>	<i>Matawa Capital</i>	2012	2011
Balance, beginning of year	-	-	281,198	281,198	-
Received during the year	-	-	3,051,996	3,051,996	281,198
	-	-	3,333,194	3,333,194	281,198
Less: current portion	-	-	177,961	177,961	-
Balance, end of year	-	-	3,155,233	3,155,233	281,198

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12. Future income taxes

As at March 31, 2012, a future tax liability has been set up for MFNP to record the temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and their tax bases.

As at March 31, 2012 MPMG has \$98,122 in non-capital losses available to reduce future years income for tax purposes, the future income tax effect has not been recorded in the consolidated financial statements. These losses expire as follows:

2030	25,373
2031	<u>72,749</u>
	98,122

13. Refundable dividend taxes on hand

Under the Income Tax Act, MFNP is classified as a private corporation and therefore certain taxes paid relating to investments and dividend income are refundable. Accordingly, these taxes are not deducted in computing net income for the year but are charged directly to retained earnings. These taxes can be recovered based on payments of dividends at the rate of \$1 for every \$3 of taxable dividends paid. The refundable dividend tax on hand as at March 31, 2012 amounts to \$863 (2011 - \$863).

14. Income taxes

The Organization is registered as a charitable organization under the *Income Tax Act* (the "Act") and as such is exempt from income taxes and is able to issue donation receipts for income tax purposes. In order to maintain its status as a registered charity under the Act, the Organization must meet certain requirements within the Act. In the opinion of management, these requirements have been met.

15. Capital management

The Organization's objective when managing capital is to safeguard the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide services to its member First Nations within its stated objectives.

The Organization sets the amount of capital in proportion to risk and manages the capital structure and makes adjustments to it in light of changes to economic conditions and the risk characteristics of the underlying assets, as well as with consideration of externally imposed capital requirements.

16. Related party transactions

Transactions occurring during the year with the related parties outlined in Note 6 were in the normal course of operations and were measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties. Related party transactions included in the consolidated statement of operations are summarized as follows:

	<i>Matawa Operating</i>	<i>Matawa Restricted</i>	2012 Total	2011 Total
Revenue - services and recoveries	337,233	925,245	1,262,478	1,356,211
Expenses - First Nation project contributions	1,231,950	-	1,231,950	2,257,245
Expenses - Annual General Assembly	39,600	-	39,600	-

17. Pension plan

MFNM has a defined contribution plan for which virtually all employees of MFNM are eligible. Pension benefits are determined by the performance of the sponsor's and employee's contributions. Actuarial valuations are normally not required as the pension obligation equals the net assets available for benefits. Employer contributions during the year were \$104,636 (2011 - \$77,509).

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18. Revenue details

	2012	2011
Government of Canada		
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	5,178,660	5,673,948
Health Canada	192,334	189,070
FedNor/Industry Canada	63,078	59,360
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	20,612	22,124
Service Canada	2,143,266	1,070,015
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	70,000	-
	7,667,950	7,014,517
Province of Ontario		
Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry	175,280	261,541
Ministry of Community and Social Services	305,035	304,286
Ministry of Natural Resources	92,286	271,921
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs	282,510	129,777
Ministry of Environment	6,401	70,513
Ministry of Education	1,827	-
Ontario Trillium Foundation	52,200	-
	915,539	1,038,038
First Nations and Organizations		
Mamo-Nuskomitowin	-	887,943
Services and recoveries	1,262,478	1,356,211
Nishnawbe Aski Nation	123,648	144,248
Other First Nations and Organizations	52,310	28,543
Union of Ontario Indians	-	133,892
	1,438,436	2,550,837
Other		
Interest	13,376	10,563
Miscellaneous	410,997	445,882
Rental	167,539	36,789
	591,912	493,234

19. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with current year presentation.



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Hosted by Webequie First Nation

WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION