

MEDIA ADVISORY

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT HOST 10TH ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

THUNDER BAY, ON – Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM), in partnership with Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO) Education, hosted the 10th Annual Matawa Education Conference from March 7 – 9, 2017 at the Valhalla Inn in the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation. The theme was: *Dazhiikewining Kaakakiidawetaanmoowaac – Celebrating Heroes/Celebrating our Communities*.

Teachers from Matawa and KO schools engaged in workshops together as excellent opportunities to create meaningful connections, share their successes and celebrate their learning experiences. The conference focused on building positive relationships with students in order to support their learning.

Professional learning opportunities for school staff were provided through 80+ workshops in the areas of: curriculum development, assessment and evaluation, early learning, First Nation language immersion programming, anti-bullying, technology, effective strategies for literacy and numeracy, post-secondary programming, mental health, cultural activities and nutrition, amongst others.

A banquet took place on March 8, 2017 when *Dazhiikewining Kaakakiidawetaanmoowaac – Celebrating Heroes/Celebrating our Communities* took place. Keynote speaker was Ted Nolan, an Ojibway from Garden River First Nation and former NHL-er who played for the Detroit Red Wings and Pittsburgh Penguins and coached for the Buffalo Sabres and New York Islanders. A number of people and communities were recognized for their commitment to education.

Keynote speakers who concluded the conference included Inspector Alex Misewace of the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service and Lewis Yesno, an Air Canada pilot. Chief Johnny Yellowhead of Nibinamik First Nation and MFNM CEO David Paul Achneepineskum also provided closing remarks.

Members of the media are cordially invited to attend.

Date: Thursday, March 9, 2017
Location: Valhalla Inn Ballroom, Thunder Bay, Ontario
Time: 3:00 p.m.

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For more information, please contact Carol Audet, Communications Manager – Matawa First Nations at (807) 632-9663 or by email at caudet@matawa.on.ca.

Matawa First Nations Management is a Tribal Council providing a variety of advisory services and programs to 8 Ojibway and Cree First Nations in James Bay Treaty No. 9 and 1 First Nation in the Robinson-Superior Treaty area. Follow them on Facebook or Twitter @MatawaFNM.

