



CELEBRATING



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

2017/2018 Annual Report

Prepared for the Matawa 30th Annual General Meeting
July 31, August 1 & 2, 2018
Hosted by Nibinamik First Nation

Wolf at Mischikow River - Photo Credit: Xavier Sagutch, Eabametoong First Nation





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Quality

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Matawa First Nations Management Annual Report

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Matawa First Nations Management

Message

from the
President of the Board



Watchyi misi way,

Our AGM is upon us once again this year of 2018 and it's going to be 30 years this year in the making since the Matawa organization has been established. The advisory services provided to our communities within our Tribal Council is a great achievement.

It has been an honor being a part of this great organization for the past several years and an honor working with the Chiefs and Councils. We have a great number of staff who have worked diligently to bring it to succeed to its greatest potential and working hard to meet expectations to be where it's at today.

Let us continue in our journey of success with great pride and joy and courage for years to come moving in the direction that will benefit our 9 First Nations communities and our youth of today for a better tomorrow in education, health, business, mining, etc.

Enjoy your summer folks and remember: "Keep striving together as one in unity for a bright and successful future. We are strong and a resilient Nation with a passion for change and a better

tomorrow."

Thank you,

Darius Ferris
President of the Board of Directors



Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors - 2017/2018

President

Darius Ferris

Constance Lake First Nation

Vice President

Frank Onabigon

Long Lake #58 First Nation

Secretary/Treasurer

Charlie Okees

Eabametoong First Nation

Robinson Meshake

Aroland First Nation

Conrad Chapais

Ginoogaming First Nation

Stanley Oskineegish

Nibinamik First Nation

Sharon Sakanee

Neskantaga First Nation

Roy Spence

Webequie First Nation

Robert Moonias

Marten Falls First Nation





Matawa First Nations Management

Message

from the
CEO

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference

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BOOSHOO/WACHEYA MIISAWEH ANISHINABEK, ANISHINNIWUG MIINA INNINIWUG

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

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

the time of the Treaty, most of the members were living further up the river in a community called Pagwa River, where a Canadian railway passed through.

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

The Chiefs adopted the following as their vision for Matawa:

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

Additionally, they adopted this as their mission statement:

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

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

Ancestors did during their time.

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

Yours in Unity,

David Paul Achneepineskum

CEO, Matawa First Nations Management



Current Matawa Chiefs Council

The Matawa Chiefs Council is comprised of nine (9) First Nations Chiefs of the Matawa First Nations. The Council provides overall strategic direction to the organization and broad governance on collective issues.

For updates on Resolutions passed this year, refer to the 2017/2018 Matawa Chiefs Council Report which is available under separate cover.



Chief Dorothy Towedo
Aroland First Nation



Chief Celia Echum
Ginoogaming First Nation



Chief Wayne Moonias
Neskantaga First Nation



Chief Rick Allen
Constance Lake First Nation



Chief Veronica Waboose
Long Lake #58 First Nation



Chief Johnny Yellowhead
Nibinamik First Nation



Chief Elizabeth Atlookan
Eabametoong First Nation



Chief Bruce Achneepineskum
Marten Falls First Nation



Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequle First Nation



UNITY DECLARATION

Dated in Webequie First Nation at the Matawa Chiefs Meeting on the 13th day of July 2011.

X Veronica Nabors
Chief Veronica Nabors
Long Lake #56 First Nation



Communications

STAFF:

Carol Audet, Communications Manager

OVERVIEW:

The Communications Department provides communications and advisory support to First Nations in Matawa, Matawa Chiefs Council, Matawa First Nations Management departments, services, corporations, and KKETS departments and services in the following areas:

- Media monitoring and support
- Development of informational materials and promotion
- Brand implementation and visual identity
- Website/cultural portal/intranet updates and training (shared role with Matawa IT)
- Social media updates and monitoring
- Radio broadcasting, recording, PA systems
- Translation

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Community Assistance

- Assistance to communities in employment recruitment
- Ginoogaming First Nation in promotion of medical fundraiser for premature baby
- Long Lake #58 First Nation CCLO in development of collaterals for Regional Framework
- Nibinamik First Nation in promotion of fundraiser for suicide awareness event
- Eabametoong First Nation in promotion of court hearing on judicial review of mining permit
- Nibinamik First Nation in promotion of 16th Annual Housing Conference Recognition Award
- Eabametoong First Nation in promotion of girls hockey team fundraiser and games in southern Ontario
- Ginoogaming First Nation in assisting find a vendor for development of community website



- Long Lake #58 in promotion of news conferences regarding Hardrock Gold Mines project
- Ginoogaming First Nation in promotion of fundraiser for youth hockey event
- Aroland and Neskantaga First Nations in new vectorized logos
- Neskantaga First Nation in development of community event posters
- Aroland and Ginoogaming in promotion of court hearing on TransCanada pipeline integrity digs
- Long Lake #58 First Nation in promotion of Community Protectors Program and 2018 Healing Walk

Matawa Messenger Newsletter

- 4 issued this year (meeting target)

Radio Broadcasting

- 28 Bi-weekly radio shows ongoing providing continuous updates on Matawa programming via Wawatay (meeting target)

Media Monitoring and Support

Regular media monitoring and support was provided as follows:

- 5 press conferences (4 took place last year)
- 20 media releases (13 issued last year)
- 9 media advisories (7 issued last year)
- 127 Bi-Weekly Ring of Fire Media clips (80+ issued last year)
- Staff kept apprised of news items, published reports/studies, funding opportunities relevant to respective departments

Informational Materials and Promotion

- Matawa Monday Memo issued every Monday (or Tuesday, if it was a holiday) highlighting schedules of Matawa First Nations Management staff and upcoming events
- For Matawa First Nations Management, internal projects included: outdoor building signage, new trade show display unit and roll-ups, community plaques & posters, 30th anniversary video, social media posters, visual for RFA process, event programs, AGM reports/resolutions
- Communication assistance in special events included Gathering of Rivers charity event, Matawa Post Secondary Student Services and Matawa Learning Centre events, Empowering Entrepreneurs Conference, Shelter House Donation, TBayTel for Good Contest
- Advertising in Wawatay at Christmas and National Indigenous Peoples Day promoting services
- Participation in drafting Thunder Bay Inclusion and Anti-Racism Accord

Social Media Update and Media Monitoring

- Increasing followers and likes on social media platforms (Twitter and Facebook) and continuing to double or triple amount of likes/followers
- Creating content responsive to community/world events and efforts made to engage audiences and educate our Peoples

Website and Intranet Site Development

- Scope of work and wireframe completed on modernization of Matawa corporate website
- Preliminary discussions completed on development of intranet site

CHALLENGES:

Maintaining Adequate Staffing Levels

- Department continues to be understaffed for the amount of users of the services
- Require a minimum of 2+ permanent positions and a 1/2 time translator to support the increased number of departmental/community requests and to fulfill some of the opportunities that are available



OPPORTUNITIES:

- Expansion of radio broadcasts and types of broadcasts (pre-recorded, etc.) and assistance to communities in establishing community radio programming
- Utilization of digital media technologies to keep the Matawa brand fresh, relevant and user-friendly to our Nations
- Expansion of video capabilities and web streaming of events, podcasts, etc.
- Development of publications/research papers/articles
- Development of Communications Training Manual to build capacity in various areas
- Development of a Speakers Series
- Collaboration with various NGOs and media companies on various advocacy campaigns



Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin

STAFF:

Francine Pellerin, Health Director
Leanne Whitehead, Health & Social Administrative Assistant
Tricia Atlookan, Approaches to Community Wellbeing Facilitator
Ila Beaver, Mental Wellness Team Facilitator/Coordinator
Nicole Jacob, Regional Crisis Intervention Coordinator
Simon Magiskan, Regional Victim Services Coordinator

OVERVIEW:

The Health and Social Meno BiimaDesWin (HSMB) department oversees the management, administration and coordination of regionally funded programs and projects. We provide advisory, advocacy and technical support. The HSMB programs and projects offer education awareness, promotion and prevention in areas of wellness and healthy living. We also provide client advocacy and referral services and assist First Nations in area of training & capacity building by conducting one-on-one staff training, organizing regional training sessions and/or community workshops. The HSMB works in partnership with several groups, organizations, agencies and institutions who are affiliated with our First Nations in Health and Social Programming.



KEY PRIORITY AREA:

To strengthen, enhance and promote health and wellbeing within our First Nations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 1. Implementation of Mental Wellness Teams and Crisis Supports.** The MWT/CS provides mental wellness services and crisis supports to all Matawa First Nations.
- 2. Increased Health Department staffing.** Additional staff are: a) Mental Wellness Team Facilitator/Coordinator, b) Regional Victim Services Coordinator and c) Health and Social Administrative Assistant.
- 3. Increased funding for Victim Services Program.** Matawa was granted funding to increase nine community-based VS Workers from part-time to full-time and one full-time Regional Victim Services Coordinator. The victim services program provides services to victims of crime within the First Nation.
- 4. Capacity building and Training.** Back to Our Roots Gathering VII was hosted by Eabametoong First Nation in February 2018. The feedback received was very positive and “most liked” was the exchange and sharing of personal stories. HSMB coordinated with First Nations to increase awareness, build capacity and knowledge for the Front Line workers in areas of wellness, prevention and intervention.
- 5. On-going support, advocacy and advisory services to all of our First Nations.** Since we have increased our staff, we are able to increase community participation, visits and engagement sessions.

CHALLENGES:

The overall challenge is accessing on-going resources to provide adequate health and social services and supports that will meet the needs of our people and communities. One that continues to be addressed is the need for infrastructure/capital resources for First Nations.

OPPORTUNITIES:

1. To secure resources for capacity building and training the front line workers. Building partnerships within departments, other institutions and agencies/organization.
2. To increase data and input through community engagement sessions. There are many opportunities to do meaningful engagement sessions and partnering with others who are seeking the same information.
3. To secure on-going funds for new programs through political advocacy and political action. Building a stronger voice within the government system.
4. The economic development and investments in the mining industry to improve health and social services.





Information Technology (IT) Services

STAFF:

Rob Wesley, Manager IT Services
Stefano Fata, IT Helpdesk Analyst

OVERVIEW:

1. Ensure corporate information technology is accessible and equipped with current hardware and software

- Perform professional, technical and analytical tasks to identify business requirements and to procure information technology-based enhancements that meet our corporate business needs and objectives
- Identify, select, design, and implement policies, conventions, and standards for server and network technologies and infrastructure
- Plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate the operations of information systems
- Meet with Program Managers to discuss system requirements, specifications, costs and timelines
- Hire and manage information technology personnel and contractors where required to design, develop, implement, operate, and administer computer and telecommunications software, networks and information systems
- Manage the IT Services budgets and expenditures
- Troubleshoot hardware, software and network operating systems
- Be familiar with all hardware, software and network operating systems
- Provide orientation to new users of existing technology
- Train staff about potential uses of existing technology
- Provide individual training and support on request
- Provide recommendations about accessing information and support

- Maintain current and accurate inventory of technology hardware, software and resources

2. Manage, monitor and maintain technology to ensure proper and secure access

- Troubleshoot all technology issues
- Maintain logs of required repairs and maintenance
- Make recommendations about the purchase of technology resources
- Research current and potential resources and services
- Provide network access to all staff and students
- Maintain servers
- Install work stations
- Connect and setup hardware and install all required software
- Provide network accounts and passwords as required
- Configure and maintain network access requirements
- Implement and monitor security of all aspects pertaining to the network infrastructure
- Advise staff of security breaches and/or a change in passwords or security status
- Identify and prepare hardware for disposal by ensuring removal of all corporate data

3. Assist with overall management of corporate information technology and computer systems

- Assist with planning, organization, direction, control and evaluation of the operations of information systems
- Implement policies and procedures for IT management and computer systems operations and development
- Meet with program managers to discuss system requirements, specifications, costs and timelines



Quality Assurance



STAFF:

Shelly Boudreau, Quality Assurance Coordinator

OVERVIEW:

Matawa First Nations Management has embraced a Quality Management System (QMS) to assist with quality assurance throughout the organization. It was implemented according to the values, goals and objectives of Matawa and is monitored and continually enhanced.

ISO 9001 is the international standard that Matawa uses. This Quality Management System guarantees quality, accountability and transparency. This is done through planning, policies, procedures and processes.

Matawa First Nations Management is committed to supporting member First Nations and focusing its efforts on core strategic priorities. Matawa First Nations Management will provide quality services to the Matawa communities and their members.

QA REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE:

The Quality Assurance Department has a Committee made up of Quality Assurance Representatives from each of the Matawa departments. Some departments also have an alternate representative.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Internal Audits were organized and completed throughout the summer months. A Surveillance Audit by SAI Global to ensure compliance with the requirements of ISO 9001:2008 took place in November 2017. Matawa was successful in the results of the audit.

In February 2018 Matawa was again audited by SAI Global. The organization was successful in obtaining their ISO 9001:2015 Certificate of Registration this time. ISO 9001:2015 is the newest Management System standard and the deadline to transition to

this new standard is September 2018. Matawa has met that deadline and will continue to be certified until February 2021. Yearly surveillance audits in February of each year will continue to be conducted to ensure compliance.

With Matawa growing over this past year, the Quality Assurance department has been very successful with training new employees in the requirements of ISO and Matawa's Quality Management System.

A new electronic Logbook system was created for the organization. The Logbook is an effective method to record and address Process Improvements, Preventative Actions, Non-Conformances and Corrective Actions.

CHALLENGES:

Continued training of all employees will need to take place in order to ensure that all staff have an understanding of their responsibilities with regards to the requirements of ISO 9001:2015.

Goal setting and data collection monitoring continue to be a challenge but both will be made a priority this upcoming year.

Matawa has re-established its Joint Health & Safety Committee and the Quality Assurance Coordinator has been appointed Secretary to the committee. The committee has been working on health & safety related policies and procedures to ensure that the organization is in compliance with current provincial legislation. Compliance with all relevant legislation is also a requirement of ISO.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Much of how Matawa fulfills its ISO Quality Management System requirements are becoming outdated and arduous. We currently use a manual binder system to collect all of our documentation and data. More efficient methods to update our old processes and use electronic applications instead of the current manual system will be researched.

Feedback from the Matawa communities will continue to be collected and analyzed to determine what the organization is doing right and what areas can be improved upon.



Technical Advisory Services

STAFF:

Wesley Bova, P.Eng, Manager of Technical Services
Aaron Wesley, Operations & Maintenance Technician
Lindsey Jupp, Environmental Technologist
Saverio Rizzo, Housing Inspector/Coordinator
Shane Ostamus, Housing Administrative Officer
Michael Bazdarick, Overall Responsible Operator HUB
Jeff Mitchell, HUB Technician

OVERVIEW:

Matawa Technical Services assists member communities in the development and maintenance of community infrastructure. This includes assisting communities with all aspects including the environmental component and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) 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 ICMS reporting
- Additional programs as they become available

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

Water and housing were the two main areas of focus this past year with several major capital projects underway and ongoing in Matawa communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Drinking Water

NESKANTAGA (pictured below) - Construction underway of new water treatment plant.



MARTEN FALLS (pictured below) - Construction underway of new water treatment plant.



EABAMETOONG (pictured below) - Utilizing a design build process, construction underway of new water treatment plant.



NIBINAMIK - Finalizing the water treatability study. Will start detailed engineering design of new plant upon acceptance of feasibility study by First Nation, with construction proceeding hopefully next year.

Operator HUB

This program, which started in November 2017, has been a great success to date. Staff have remediated a number of emergencies in a very quick and timely manner. They continue to build relationships with water treatment operators and Chiefs and Councils. We recently received confirmation of funding for this program through 2018/2019. It is anticipated through discussions with ISC that this program will be extended beyond April 1, 2019.

Housing Construction and Renovations (April 1, 2017 - June 11, 2018)

*Some of the items were completed after April 1 (not started during this period)

Aroland

- Four (4) CMHC RRAPs – should be completed by early July
- Ten (10) ISC renovations – should be completed by early July

- Three (3) Duplexes(ISC) - complete

Constance Lake

- Four (4) CMHC RRAP's – last 2 should be completed by end of July
- One (1) Five-plex - complete
- Four (4) Single family dwelling units (Sec. 95) - complete

Eabametoong

- Two (2) CMHC RRAP's – almost complete
- One (1) Six-plex(ISC) –construction to be completed by end of July
- Nine (9) Single family dwelling units (Sec. 95) –to be completed by end of July
- Six (6) Single family dwelling units (Sec. 95) – construction to start in July
- Ten (10) ISC renovations – to be completed by end of June

Ginoogaming

- Three (3) duplexes(ISC) – construction to be completed by end of June
- Ten (10) ISC renovations – to be completed by end of June

Long Lake #58

- Four (4) CMHC RRAPs – complete
- Three (3) Duplexes(INAC) - complete

Marten Falls

- Two (2) CMHC RRAP's –complete
- Four (4) CMHC RRAP's – approved in April 2018
- Four (4) Super shell homes – construction to be completed by June 30
- One (1) Duplex, 3 single family dwelling unit (ISC)- to be completed by Oct 2018

Neskantaga

- Five (5) Renovations (INAC) – to be completed by July 31
- Five (5) CMHC RRAP's – to be completed – June 30th
- One (1) Six-plex(ISC) – construction to be completed by July 31
- Ten (10) Houses (5 new, 5 major reno – Sec. 95) – construction started



Technical Advisory Services

Nibinamik

- One (1) Duplex – construction almost completed
- One (1) Four-plex – construction almost complete
- Ten (10) Renovations (ISC) – to be completed by August 30
- Four (4) CMHC RRAP's –to be started

Webequie

- Two (2) Four-plexes (ISC)– complete
- Seven (7) Renovations (ISC) – to be completed by July 31th
- Five (5) CMHC RRAP's – completed
- One (1) Replacement house (insurance due to fire) – completed
- Ten (10) Emergency repair renos(CMHC) – completed
- Fourteen (14) Modular units (7 duplexes – 10 through INAC, 6 through CMHC Sec. 95) - **2 additional duplexes next winter road season – should be completed by July 31
- Six (6) Single family dwelling units (Sec. 95) – construction to be started in July

Other Projects

Aroland

- New Fire Hall Design

Constance Lake

- School Repairs
- Waste Management

Eabametoong

- IPA Tank Upgrades
- Remediation
- Landfill
- New Generators

Ginoogaming

- Head Start Building

Marten Falls

- School Repairs Project
- Remediation
- Waste Management

Neskantaga

- Remediation
- Waste Management

Nibinamik

- DGS Switchgear Upgrade
- DGS Emergency Repairs
- Waste Management

All Communities

- Asset Condition reporting System (ACRS) 17/18
- Integrated Capital Management System Reporting 17/18
- Waste Coordinator
- Winter Road Realignment

CHALLENGES:

The operations and maintenance funding policy is currently being reviewed by Indigenous Services Canada. Reports on progress of this process will be made.

OPPORTUNITIES:

It would appear that the wellness pilot projects related to housing may be extended. It's anticipated due to the experience and lessons learned that these types of projects would become a more efficient method of housing construction and renovation.



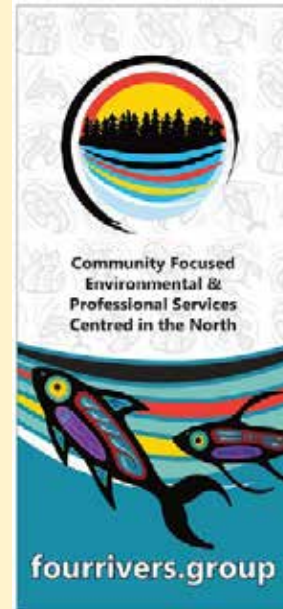


Four Rivers Environmental Services Group

Community Focused Environmental & Professional Services Centred in the North

STAFF:

Sarah Cockerton, Manager of Environmental Programs
Peter Moses, Mineral Development & Information Support Officer
Beedahbin Desmoulin, Education & Training Coordinator
Kimberly Jorgenson, Environmental Services Coordinator
Jasmine Baxter, Office Administrator
Laura Prior, Environmental Coordination Officer
Gordon Parker, Environmental Projects & Training Officer
Charlene Wagenaar, Geomatics/Environmental Technician
Jennifer Duncan, Project Manager/Geomatics
Brian Randall, Geomatics Technician/ Information Systems Facilitator
Camilla Rewucki, Geomatics Intern
Kevin Wabasse, Linguistics Officer



OVERVIEW:

Four Rivers was established in 2011 as an environmental services group within Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) to provide environmental support and technical services to the Matawa member First Nation communities facing unprecedented development within their shared traditional territories. In early 2017, Four Rivers Inc. was created as a stream of Four Rivers to expand our service offerings beyond the Matawa member First Nations in a cost-effective and competitive manner.

Since its inception, Four Rivers has delivered on many visionary and ground breaking projects. Four Rivers has been the proud recipient of an Environmental Stewardship award from the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce and a GIS Excellence Award from ESRI Canada.

Four Rivers supports capacity building in communities throughout northern Ontario by coordinating and supporting initiatives aimed to assist community-based land and resource management. Four Rivers uses a holistic, community-based approach to projects and strives to:

- Be open and honest in all aspects of our work;
- Be responsive to individual community needs and capacity barriers;
- Build capacity through training and create legacy projects for communities; and,
- Provide innovative, cost-effective and sustainable community-based solutions.



Four Rivers Environmental Services Group

Community Focused Environmental & Professional Services Centred in the North

Key Priority Area #1: Environmental Services

Four Rivers has developed and delivered numerous environmental programs to support community capacity in the areas of:

- Environmental monitoring;
- Environmental research;
- Environmental governance; and,
- Environmental planning.

Four Rivers aims to help position communities into a place of active leadership relative to the stewardship of their lands and waters. Armed with the knowledge, working relationships, tested techniques, advanced partnerships, and expanded environmental networks, Four Rivers is well-situated to work with communities throughout the North to advance their environmental project and program visions.

Four Rivers has provided over 100 environmental presentations, training sessions and workshops at various events including community open houses, environmental conferences, university forums and Elder gatherings. Environmental support services have been focused in the areas of environmental assessments & policy; water, soils and sediment samples; vegetation surveys and assessments; acoustic surveying technology for monitoring frog, bird and bat populations; GIS/GPS for values collection & monitoring, benthic biomonitoring; and contaminated sites assessments. Four Rivers actively partners with organizations and institutions to bring enhanced environmental services to communities.

Key Priority Area #2: Mapping & Geomatics Services

Four Rivers offers award winning mapping and geomatics services which are comprehensive in nature.

The goal of these services is to provide the support that communities need to gather, store, analyze and display important land, resource and values data to ultimately make informed decisions about their lands and waters. These services can be customized and include map, data and project support as well and training opportunities.

Four Rivers has established secure data storage solutions for information including: GIS data, environmental research data, and traditional knowledge & values data.

It is crucial for communities to have access to an organized bank of environmental information in order to participate in climate change adaptation planning, community-based land use planning, source water protection initiatives and in the environmental assessment of proposed resource developments.

Four Rivers also provides assistance with Traditional Values Collection projects for First Nation communities. Four Rivers has developed a number of different methods for collecting community data depending on community and Elder preferences.

Customized training can be provided for communities to collect and manage their own data. Community members can also be provided with access to secure off-site servers to store highly sensitive information, without the worry of data and information being misplaced or lost in the community.

Key Priority Area #3: Training & Education Services

Four Rivers builds capacity at the community level through a variety of unique training programs. These programs are developed and tailored to meet community specific needs.

Interactive presentations and hands-on experiences have been the focus of all training programs, with content relevant to First Nation communities.

Four Rivers offers both long-term and short-term training program options, covering topics including:

- **First Aid** (Canadian Red Cross Standards) - CPR/AED
- **Field Techniques** - Field Sampling - Acoustic Monitoring - Orienteering
- **GIS Mapping** - Map Design - Values Collection Methodology - Data Storage & File Management
- **Mining & Mineral Communications** - Mineral Exploration & Development 101
- **Communications** - Material Development
- **Environmental** - Environmental Assessment 101

- **Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR)** - Environmental Core Skills Modules -Environmental Monitoring Coordinator -Environmental Site Assessment -Local Environmental Coordinator

Four Rivers offers environmental programming to community members of all ages. Four Rivers has developed fun & engaging youth specific programming which compliments traditional knowledge and skills. Our science lessons & activities inspire youth to pursue environmental careers, as well as to continue to steward & protect their homelands. Our technical staff members visit community events and classrooms equipped with tools & gadgets to encourage youth to explore and learn within their environment.

Key Priority Area #4: Communications Services

Four Rivers works with communities to build internal capacity in the resource development sector to 'bridge the gap' from the community outwards. Major barriers often exist for communities in their efforts to lead lands and resource developments in their homelands. These challenges are often based in the absence of established communication processes to successfully link community members to the information required for informed decision-making.

The ultimate goal of all Four Rivers' services is successful communities who are well-informed, knowledgeable, and able to fully able to participate in projects and initiatives that are happening within their homelands. Four Rivers has developed proven models of community communication and engagement processes that have been effectively applied by First Nations in Northern Ontario. We work directly with communities to identify their capacity needs, which can include the development of lands & resource offices; environmental youth outreach and engagement; traditional knowledge values collection support; environmental monitoring training courses; and the development of community specific communication outreach/engagement initiatives.

Four Rivers' communication services are wide-ranging, and apply a holistic approach to communication barriers. Every community's or project's unique constraints are considered when developing appropriate communication strategies, and we regularly apply creative or innovative solutions in addition to tried and tested

strategies to convey information. Our team has a proven track record of organizing and facilitating many successful large and small scale meetings, events, workshops and conferences. We are comfortable working with many different types of communication media and multiple languages.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

YOUTH ON THE LAND OUTREACH (YOLO) INITIATIVES: Over the course of a year Four Rivers' YOLO Initiative reached over 2500 people through 45 events, these events included planning meetings with Health and Social Teams and youth, workshop delivery at community events and at community Schools, seasonal gatherings and workshops at conferences.

SPECIES AT RISK RESEARCH: Four Rivers supported two highly important Species at Risk Projects within the traditional territories of member First Nation communities. One project targeted Lake Sturgeon on the Ogoki River and through efforts, collected valuable information on population and status of this vital species. The second project targeted the Little Brown Myotis (Bat), and helped inform scientific knowledge of this species range. Both projects included environmental monitoring field training for participating First Nation communities and outreach and awareness on these species. These projects contributed to developing community based scientific methods for these types of research projects. Being the first of its type within the region, the Little Brown Myotis (Bat) project also helped bring together a group of researchers from ministries and academic institutions. Local youth from participating communities also got to participate in this project by building and deploying bat houses around their communities.





Four Rivers Environmental Services Group

Community Focused Environmental & Professional Services Centred in the North

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT & INFORMATION SUPPORT:

Four Rivers attended, hosted or supported over 25 events aiming to support member First Nations participation in the mineral sector. Activities included delivering presentations or workshops on Mining 101, Plans and Permits, SOACS and other mining perspectives (5), outreach in First Nations on mining capacity and amendments to the Ontario Mining Act (8), hosting booths at youth career fairs (2), attending and participating in Community Communication Liaison Officer (CCLO) meetings (4) and attending various mineral development and environmental forums and meetings. A highlight of the year included supporting the planning and delivery of a tour to Hemlo Mines for members from Long Lake #58 First Nation and Ginoogaming First Nation. The Mineral Development & Information Support Officer also assisted member First Nations with the review of 17 permit applications and 6 plan applications over the course of the year.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS: Over the past year, Four Rivers has maintained a high-level of engagement with our member First Nations on Environmental Assessments (EA) and the ongoing changes to federal environmental legislation. Through ongoing and creative efforts to pursue funding for gatherings, events and training, Four Rivers has hosted two meetings and one workshop on the proposed changes to federal environmental legislation (July 2017, August 2017, March 2018) to over 50 community members resulting in two detailed comment submissions to the federal government. Four Rivers has also been successful in coordinating and delivering 6 engagement sessions in Ginoogaming First Nation on the EA proposed by Greenstone Gold Mine (GGM), resulting in direct community comment submissions to GGM on their Final EA Report. Four Rivers has also delivered Environmental Assessment & Monitoring training at the annual Northern Ontario First Nations Environment Conference (NOFNEC 2017) to over 30 participants.

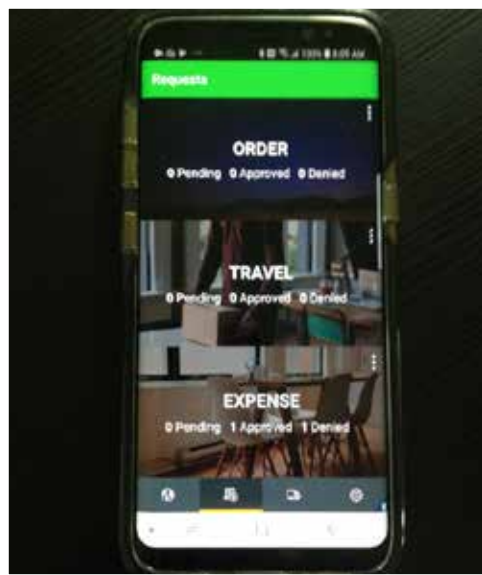
COMMUNITY-BASED LAND USE PLANNING SUPPORT: Over the course of the year, Four Rivers provided support to 6 member First Nation communities participating in Far North Land Use Planning including delivering of training in these communities. Four Rivers was able to collect/gather all known existing TEK data for both



Marten Falls First Nation and Aroland First Nation making very significant progress towards completed data compilations for these communities. Four Rivers also hosted a Community Based Land Use Planning workshop (June 2018) which hosted approximately 35 members from 6 member First Nations.

FOUR RIVERS INC. COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES: Four Rivers coordinated the event logistics for the Up North On Climate Conference, hosted in Thunder Bay, Ontario from April 24-26, 2018, lead by Laurentian University. Northern First Nation Community Delegates, which included many from the Matawa member First Nations, joined together with science, academic and environmental organizations, and government delegates from across Ontario, to discuss climate change. Additionally, Four Rivers was contracted to create the promotional event materials for two Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) events; the NAN Early Years Summit and the Parents with Special Needs Conference. Work included logo design, event posters, signage, agendas, report covers, name tag design, coordination of give-aways and PowerPoint template design.

DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL ADVANCEMENTS: Four Rivers has begun utilizing an electronic procurement system, Procurify, for departmental purchasing. This has streamlined the purchasing process, conforms to Matawa First Nation Management purchasing policies and has improved both efficiency and organization for the department. Four Rivers also updated our branding materials which included a new roll-up banner, new contact cards, new business cards, the development of



service-area facts sheets, and a PowerPoint template. This update incorporates First Nation artwork into our promotional materials. Four Rivers also updated our website at fourrivers.group and included new service line descriptions, more detailed information on department staff and translated content.

CHALLENGES:

Since April 2016, Four Rivers has not received core program funds to carry out environmental programs to member First Nations. Four Rivers has maintained department capacity and connections through project-based funding which places heavy administrative strain on the Four Rivers and has not allowed for significant advancement of member First Nation environmental priorities. Facing the current uncertainty of a changing northern climate, the anticipated upswing in the mineral industry and associated infrastructure and mining interests in the Ring of Fire, the need for core environmental programming has never been greater. This need is underscored by the upcoming Government of Canada's environmental assessment legislation changes (Bill C-69), highlighting significant potential changes for Indigenous Communities in Canada. Without immediate core capacity support, Four Rivers will not be able to support significant progress towards member First Nations long-term visions of meaningful stewardship of their land and waters within their traditional homelands.

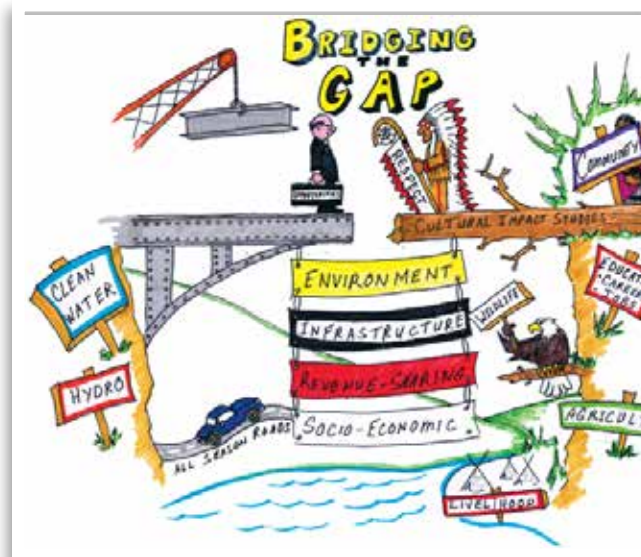
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OPPORTUNITIES:

Upcoming Government of Canada environmental legislation changes (Bill C-69) included changes for Indigenous Communities in Canada that include 1) new partnerships based on recognition of Indigenous rights and interests up front, 2) legislated requirements to consider impacts on Indigenous rights and culture in decision making, 3) opportunities for Indigenous jurisdictions to exercise powers and duties under the Act, 4) legislated provisions for greater Indigenous expertise on assessment boards and review panels, and 5) increased support for Indigenous participation and capacity development. In principle, these changes appear to provide excellent opportunity to member First Nations desiring to take more active stewardship roles within their homelands should they wish to pursue it.

Additional known opportunities surround environmental monitoring or stewardship relative to Climate Change which is a significant federal and provincial priority. These funding opportunities may support communities in risk assessment activities including community data collection and later environmental planning support. Four Rivers is also currently pursuing an opportunity to support capacity building in environmental monitoring through funding proposals to support the development of a cultural framework for environmental stewardship.





Four Rivers Environmental Services Group

Community Focused Environmental & Professional Services Centred in the North

OPPORTUNITIES

Due to the working relationship developed with Nokiwin Tribal Council, several areas of potential cooperation were noted, which could allow us to submit joint proposals for event coordination in the future. Joint proposals with other groups would allow for a broader range of work and projects available to Four Rivers, external revenue from which will support maintaining and increasing current services to community members.

Species-at-Risk Research/Community Initiatives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Two successful projects developed with and carried out by communities to build capacity and improve species data in the region, several more were applied for, and while not funded, were received well with encouragement to re-submit.

Species data concerning Lake Sturgeon near Aroland First Nation was collected last year, and more field work is scheduled for this year. This project will directly impact species at risk data in the region. The Wolverine research project, while unsuccessful at finding wolverine at this time, did provide capacity building and research experience to community members, as well as fostering an interest in studying the area further. Various TEK and ATK projects through several funding streams have continually improved the data collection in the Matawa region, and has improved or provided secure storage of data for several communities.

CHALLENGES

The continual challenges of these projects is successful funding. While Four Rivers has expertise and equipment to carry out significant studies, funding travel, time, and resources has proven difficult in the past. As well, the current transitory nature of the Four Rivers Team (from Not-for-profit to Cost-recovery) affects our ability to apply for certain funds. Managing this

transition will be key to successful continuation of these initiatives. Scheduling travel and project time with community members has also been a challenge, as often the community members most interested in conducting these studies are busy in other areas of the community as well. With time we hope to build an interest in these studies that will promote more community members becoming involved. Finally, the current changes in weather patterns are affecting the success rate of projects, particularly those that require study over the winter months (ie: wolverine). We are currently looking into strategies to minimize the effects of climate change on community initiatives.

OPPORTUNITIES

With the growing interest from communities in this type of regional data collection and study, we anticipate more successful projects and increased knowledge gathering and capacity building. The relationships built with community members during these projects are invaluable, and it allows us to ensure that the projects are tailored to individual community needs and interests, while facilitating their ability to pursue these studies on their own initiative. These projects have led to a growing body of work and expertise in the Species at Risk realm which is proving to be an area of note for Four Rivers. Through this work we are incorporating local traditional knowledge to improve research methodologies used nation-wide. The growing expertise of Four Rivers staff and Matawa Community members is resulting in increased project success and recognition throughout the region.



Regional Framework

STAFF:

Kathy Brady, Project Manager
Rosanna Peever, Administrative Assistant
Holly Pyhtila, Information Support Officer
Tina Gordon, Finance Support Officer
Alanna McKenzie, Jurisdiction Table Coordinator

NEGOTIATING TEAM:

Bob Rae, Lead Negotiator
Bryce Edwards, Lead Negotiator Assistant

OVERVIEW:

Regional Framework Department provides support and assistance to the Matawa Chiefs, Matawa Member Communities, Negotiation Team, Community Representatives, Jurisdiction Working Groups and Advisors throughout the Regional Framework Agreement and Jurisdiction Table processes.

The Regional Framework Department's mandate is to provide support and assistance to our communities in the following areas of: Negotiation Team, Project Management, Coordination, Information Support, Finance Support and Administrative Support. The following are the various roles explained:

Negotiations Team

- Direction provided by Chiefs and First Nations
- Negotiating with Province
- Working with First Nations
- Preparing and Interpreting Documents

Project Management

- Management of Department Staff
- Managing of RFA TPA Agreements (10)
 - Matawa agreements with Ontario (2)
 - Matawa agreements with First Nations (8)
- Coordination of Meetings and Information
- RFA Chiefs' Meetings
 - RFA Negotiation Meetings
 - RFA Working Group Meetings
 - RFA TPA Joint Workplan Team Meetings
 - Individual Community Team Meetings
- Information Support
 - Preparing, Communicating and Distributing RFA Information
 - Providing Meeting Minutes and Summaries
 - RFA TPA Workplan/Budget Support and Assistance
 - Information Tools and Templates
 - Building Capacity Related to RFA TPA

Financial Support

- Preparing, Communicating and Distributing RFA Financial Information
- Providing Financial Summaries and Updates
- RFA TPA Workplan/Budget Support and Assistance
- Financial Tools and Templates
- Building Capacity Related to RFA TPA

Administrative Support

- Logistical Coordination
- Travel, Accommodations and Meals
- Meeting Scheduling
- Preparation of Documents
- Record Management
- Quality Management System Representative

Jurisdiction Table Support

- Working Group Coordinator
- Preparing and interpreting documents
- Coordination of Jurisdiction Working Groups

2017/2018 REGIONAL FRAMEWORK COMMITTEES

MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL

- 9 Matawa Member Chiefs
- The Matawa Chiefs provide the direction and decisions from their communities into the Regional Framework and Jurisdiction related processes

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP (RFGW)

- Working Group of 9
- The Matawa First Nations Chief and Council will assign one community band member to the RFGW
- Purpose: to gather and compile information related to the Regional Framework agreement's pillar groups and present recommendations to the Chiefs and their communities for direction

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK JOINT WORKING GROUPS (RFJWG)

- In progress - resolution passed to create joint working groups with the province/drafting terms of reference

JURISDICTION WORKING GROUPS

MATAWA JURISDICTION WORKING GROUP (MJWG)

- Working Group of 9
- The Matawa First Nations Chief and Council will assign one community band member to the MJWG
- Purpose: Will provide support in the areas as approved in the Jurisdiction Table Resolution #01 15/12/2016 and further outlined in the "First Nations Objectives and Positions" paper

JURISDICTION WORKING GROUP (JWG)

- Working Group of 4
- Purpose: The MJWG have appointed 4 working group members to work with the Provincial members on behalf of the group of 9

JOINT JURISDICTION WORKING GROUP (JJWG)

- Joint Working Group of 8 (4x4)
- 4 members from MJWG
- 4 members from Province
 - o Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) Deputy Minister & MNDM Assistant Deputy Minister
 - o Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) Deputy Minister & MIRR Assistant Deputy Minister
- Purpose: to review and discuss the direction of both parties at a joint table

RFA TPA JOINT WORKPLAN TEAM

- RFA TPA = Regional Framework Agreement Transfer Payment Agreement
- 2 persons per First Nation
- 2 MNDM Ring of Fire (ROF) Secretariat Staff
- Mission Statement: The Team will collaborate and be proactive in improving and streamlining the workplan reporting process
- Purpose: the Team will work together in this joint process to maximize efficiency of the administration of the RFA

COMMUNITY RFA TEAMS

- RFA/ROF Coordinators
- RFA/ROF Support Staff
- First Nation staff whose roles and responsibilities pertain to the Regional Framework Agreement and related processes

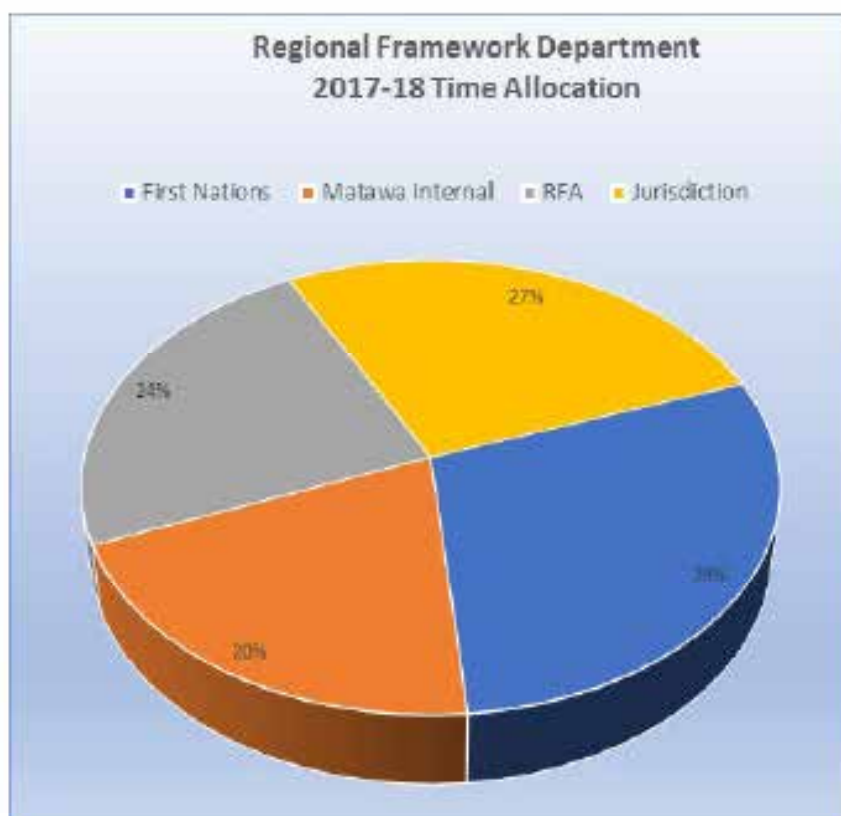
KEY PRIORITY AREAS:

The key priority areas for the Regional Framework Department are to support and assist the 9 Matawa member First Nations throughout the RFA Negotiations and Jurisdiction Table related processes including:

1. First Nation RFA Teams
2. RFA Negotiations Team
3. Meetings and Logistics
4. Regional Framework Working Group
5. Jurisdiction Working Groups (3)
6. Communications and Documentation
7. Capacity Building
8. Information Support
9. Financial Support
10. TPA Workplans/Budgets/Reports
11. Funding Processes Improvements



Regional Framework Time Allocation:



*First Nations: 29%
Matawa Internal: 20%
Regional Framework: 24%
Jurisdiction Table: 27%*



Regional Framework

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Funding extension of 6 months for Regional Framework
- Funding is solidified for the Jurisdiction Working Group(s)
- Creation of Regional Framework Working Group(s)
- Workplan and budget amendments completed (10)
- Statement of Shared Commitments drafted

Community Support:

The Regional Framework department works to support and assist our communities regarding the Regional Framework Agreement and Jurisdiction Table related processes.

- Increased capacity being built
- Increased utilization of RF department staff
- Improved reporting from communities
- Improved understanding of the Regional Framework Agreement
- Improved communications

RFA TPA Joint Workplan Team Meetings:

- Completed 2 RFA TPA Joint Workplan Team Meetings
- 2 representatives per First Nation funded to attend quarterly meetings
- Communities utilized the opportunity to voice their concerns, questions and share ideas with the Province and provide recommendations on how to improve reports and funding processes

CHALLENGES:

Funding:

- MNMD and MIRR internal processes are time consuming and result in funding delays
- MNMD RFA delays of funding release slows progress within the First Nations which results in the inability to participate in the process
- Reporting is received late and/or incomplete and delays the release of RFA funds
- Funding allocations are not satisfying all of our First Nations' requirements

Communications:

- Regional Framework communication on pillar areas both internally and regionally
- RFA community team members understanding roles and responsibilities within communities
- Remote locations with unreliable communication equipment (internet, phone, radio, satellite)

Jurisdiction:

- How Jurisdiction and the Regional Framework move forward together
- Outlining and agreeing with the Province on Jurisdiction matters

Capacity Building:

- Takes time to absorb, understand and gather data and information when dealing with a large project of this scale
- Funding to provide more training workshops
- Our First Nations are dealing with unprecedented crises both past and present that have a direct impact on their ability to work while dealing with trauma

OPPORTUNITIES:

Meetings:

- Agreement on how we work together in relation to resource development through a decision-making process that is fair and respectful
- Creation of Regional Framework Joint Working Groups for the pillars of environment, socio-economic, infrastructure and revenue sharing
- Finalizing the Statement of Commitments with the Province
- Asserting our inherent rights of jurisdiction
- Establishing a First Nation governance
- Implementing the United Nations Declaration of Rights Indigenous People - Free Prior and Informed Consent

Funding:

- Improving Funding Release Times
- Secure Multi-Year Funding
- Secure Federal funding
- Secure Provincial funding

Communications:

- Working closely with the First Nations and assisting with communication structures both internally and externally
- Improving communications with government



Membership

STAFF:

Barb Rabbit, Membership Indian Registration Administrator (IRA)

OVERVIEW:

Matawa Membership program provides membership services in areas of status card issuance (laminated Certificate of Indian Status), any changes occurring in the life of an individual registered as a status Indian such as reporting birth, marriage, divorce and death events. Other reports include miscellaneous amendments to amend, add and update information from an individual's existing Registry page. Matawa administers these services for the following First Nation communities:

- Aroland First Nation
- Eabametoong First Nation
- Marten Falls First Nation
- Neskantaga First Nation
- Nibinamik First Nation
- Webequie First Nation

The mandate for the Membership Service is to provide an accurate and updated Indian Registry. The Membership Indian Registration Administrator manages internal and external events required for Indian Registration reporting in accordance with the *Indian Act*, federal and provincial statutes and the policies and procedures of the Indian Registration System.

"The Indian Act is the Canadian federal legislation first passed in 1876 that sets out certain federal government obligations. It provides for the registration of person as Indians, identifies who is entitled to be registered and who is not, sets the requirements of Band Lists (membership) and makes provisions of protests of decisions concerning registration and membership and for appeals."

- INAC Indian Registration Administrator Manual

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Community Visits

Matawa Membership Services had previously provided annual community visits to the six First Nations communities.

Collaboration with First Nation's Reps for Indian Registration Awareness

Matawa Membership Services along with FN Liaisons or Reps have been working on promoting and bringing awareness with FN's programs in both the Birth and Indian registration process. The HBHC program is an essential venue as the program is geared toward expectant mothers and caregivers that have children under six years old.

Certificate of Indian Status (CIS) Paper-Laminate Card

Membership Services-IRA provides status card issuance to the card holder that is still in circulation. The following reasons for issuance are as follows:

- Lost/Stolen/Damaged card
- New First card – New registrants such as infants, toddlers, etc.
- Renewals – Expired dated cards for both adults and children
- Replacement – Events for marriage, name/birth transfer changes, etc.



Event Reporting

Any changes occurring in the life of an individual registered as a status Indian are entered in the Indian Registry System (IRS). These changes are called events such as reporting a birth, marriage, divorce and death. Other reports include miscellaneous amendments to amend, add and delete information on the individual's existing registry page.

CHALLENGES:

Laminated Certificate of Indian Status to New Secure Certificate of Indian Status

The new transition in applying for a secure Certificate of Indian Status card is slowly moving ahead. The new roll out of the secure Certificate status card is now here and applications are available at any regional INAC office across Canada. Note: Once an individual has applied for the new secure status card, the individual cannot revert back to a laminate CIS card. As more individuals are applying for the new secure card, some don't have sufficient IDs and documentation to meet requirements. As Membership Clerks/IRAs, we don't have the update training and we refer any matters to INAC directly. Currently, Membership is working on promoting identification awareness using Matawa Messenger, developing brochures, pamphlets, etc.

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As Membership Clerks/IRAs, we don't have the update training and we refer any matters to INAC directly. Currently, Membership is working on promoting identification awareness using Matawa Messenger, developing brochures, pamphlets, etc.

Birth Registration

Registering a child is an important event. There are still issues arising in delayed birth registration of a child. When a delay in registering a child occurs the process becomes more complex. The parent(s) have to pay an additional processing fee along with the cost of birth certificate and/or Live Birth documents. Once the registration is processed, parents will require certain validation requirements such as a copy of the mother's birth certificate which will need to be commissioned.

Identification Issues

The secure Certificate of Indian status requires valid government IDs and may require documentation in obtaining the new status card. Many people don't have proper identifications and may not be aware of what is required to get proper IDs. Many individuals are unable to get IDs due to lack of funds or other situations. Matawa Membership Services is working on developing identification awareness by various media including newsletters, etc. Matawa is currently working on a committee through Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic and other organizations to address these identification issues.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Birth Registration Venue

There are now programs for new mothers/care-givers to access programs within their communities such as Healthy Baby/Healthy Children program, Ontario Works, Service Ontario Outreach visits to the community.

Feedback Survey

The Membership department will be conducting client surveys with each community visit to gather feedback. This information will be compiled and used for further analysis to improve service.

CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS LAMINATE CARD



- Currently in circulation until product (card) is terminated by INAC
- Most FN offices/Tribal units still carry the laminate card
- CIS expires 5 years for Adults
- CIS expires 3 years for Children
- May only renew to continue with laminate card

NEW SECURE CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS CARD



- Applications available at any regional INAC offices across Canada
- SCIS expires 10 years for Adults
- SCIS expires 5 years for Children
- Cannot revert back to laminate card



Education

OVERVIEW:

The Matawa Education Department provides support and advisory services to Matawa First Nation community schools and Education Authorities that result in school improvements and have a positive impact on the quality of students' learning. The Education Department staff support local education authorities, schools and teachers, and network with Aboriginal organizations, Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada, the Provincial Ministry of Education, School Boards, and Post Secondary and Secondary/Elementary institutions. The Department continues to develop its capacity to provide second level services to schools, including IT support, under the Pathways to Achieve Student Success (PASS) program. In addition, the Department operates the Matawa Learning Centre, an alternative secondary school approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The Matawa Post Secondary Program has responsibility for Post Secondary Administration for five Matawa First Nations; Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake # 58, Neskantaga, and Webequie. Support Services are available as well to other Matawa First Nation students upon request. In order to enhance the quality of educational programs and services, the Department continues to have a strong focus on the use of new technologies in education to increase learning opportunities for all Matawa First Nations community members.

The following are pictures of the Matawa Student Education and Care Centre (MECC) located at 200 Lillie Street N. in Thunder Bay. Doors will be open to Matawa students in September 2018 (fall semester).



ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Advisory Services

The Education Department continues to provide technical support for Matawa First Nations leadership both directly and through the Matawa First Nations Education Authority which became incorporated in August 2017.

The Matawa Education Department Advisory program has focused this year on the First Nations Youth Inquest, the Matawa Education and Care Centre, the Education Interim Funding Formula, and the NAN Education Jurisdiction. The Education Department has provided technical support for Matawa leadership attending forums with Assembly of First Nations, Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Chiefs of Ontario and continues to liaise with other First Nation organizations.

Matawa Learning Centre

The Matawa Learning Centre had 70 students enrolled during the first semester, and 86 students during the second semester for the 2017-2018 school year. There were four graduating students this year, with celebrations being held at the Victoria Inn.

Staff comprised of a Principal, Senior Vice-Principal, Vice-Principal, five classroom teachers, five Mental Health Workers, five Cultural Workers, two Elders, two Student Activities Coordinators, two Student Support Workers, Tutor, Youth Inquest Officer, Trades Development Officer, Education System Navigator, Transition Coordinator, Guidance Counsellor, Student Achievement Officer and six On-Call Workers.

Through a major partnership with St. Joseph Care Group, 2 full-time Youth Workers were provided for the second semester.

During the past year, the Education Department Manager, Principal and Youth Inquest Officer were active in meetings, discussions, and proposals based on the Jury Recommendations resulting from the First Nations Youth Inquest and NAN Student Safety Summit. Thus far, it has resulted in funding for extensive land-based programming, life skills workshops, cultural education and recreational needs for the students. It also included the On-Call

Workers providing overnight support for students who need safe transportation home. This programming was developed, supported and implemented by the positions listed above. Progress continues to be made in providing a Safe Sobering Site for Matawa First Nations students, and expanded programming with St Joseph Care group in the areas of Mental Health, Medical and Addiction support services for students.

Matawa Education and Care Centre

Phase 1 of the renovations at the new Matawa Education and Care Centre have been completed with Education Advisory Services, PASS Program and Post Secondary moved into the building. The Matawa Learning Centre will be moving in during the summer of 2018. Phase 2 of the renovations will be completed during the summer of 2018 allowing for part of the school to be opened for the start of September 2018. The Matawa Education Department is continuing work on acquiring funding to complete renovations on the building and accommodations.

Highlights

This past school year, we had our highest enrolment, retention rate and credit counts since we opened. We have also developed, implemented, and delivered five land based cultural credits. We have also increased staffing from seven to thirty nine, primarily in the areas of Cultural Workers, Elders, Mental Health Counsellors and On-Call supports. We also completed the first year of our partnership with St. Joseph Care Group providing extensive mental health and addiction supports to our students.

Challenges

The Seven Youth Inquest recommendations required a lot of time from staff to attend various meetings and complete paper work associated with the reporting process. The provincial and federal governments have responded to the recommendations with more funding, but more work is necessary in policy changes and stable/predictable funding allocations.



Education



Opportunities

The partnerships developed this past year for land based programming, mental health and primary care services, as well as curriculum modifications reflective of student needs will lead to a full-service delivery model for our students as we transition to our new school site this September 2018.

Pathways to Achieve Student Success – PASS!

The Matawa PASS program provides support services and resources for Matawa First Nations schools and Education Authorities, primarily in the areas of literacy, numeracy, information technology, and student success with funding from the federal First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP).

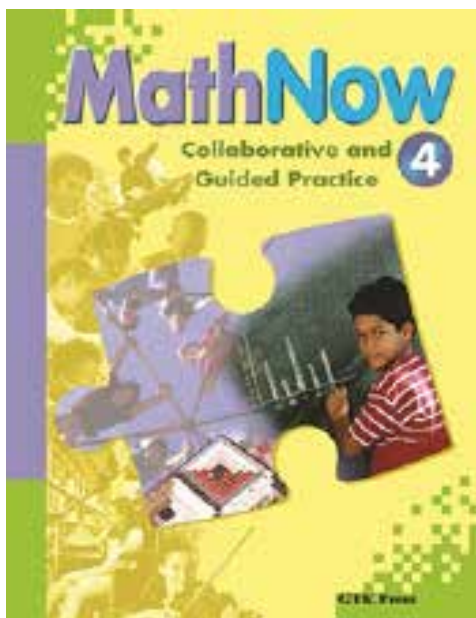
This program also supports annual school success plans through which schools identify their priorities and goals for each year. Regular feedback on PASS activities is received from on-site visits by PASS staff, from school principals (through the Principals Working Group), and through the former Regional Advisory Committee on Education (RACE), now known as the Matawa First Nations Education Authority Board of Directors.

The PASS team includes a Primary Lead, Junior Lead, Intermediate Lead, Mental Health Lead, Parent-Student Engagement Lead, School Success Lead, Student Nutrition Program (SNP) Coordinator, Performance Measurement team (System Administrator, Database Helpdesk, IT Technician), Cultural Education Coordinator, Community Liaison Officer, an Education Partnerships Program (EPP) Liaison, and PASS Administrator. Most positions were filled for the course of the past year, but the Mental Health Lead and Cultural Education Coordinator positions were vacant for significant amounts of time. We also added a Human Resources Policy Officer who began in October 2017.

Primary, Junior, Intermediate Leads:

The Primary, Junior, and Intermediate Leads focus on supporting the Matawa First Nations schools in literacy, numeracy, and general student success. This is accomplished through regular and frequent communication and visits with various staff members of the Matawa First Nations schools in order to determine the needs of the teaching staff and students in their respective divisions. They use this information to provide the required support, provide professional development opportunities at our annual education conference, research programs and resources, and to develop workshops and resources to address the identified needs.

Workshops delivered include topics related to literacy, numeracy, the Gr. 8 transitions course, and Special Education. More workshops are being developed for the coming school year covering topics such as well-being and achievement, updated Ontario curriculum, reading assessments, instructional practices in literacy and numeracy, and reading, writing, oral language and media literacy.



Two schools have been using a new math resource, Math Now, supported by the Primary, Junior and Intermediate Leads, which is receiving positive reviews from educators using the program.

The Primary Lead is responsible for supporting programming, instructional strategies, classroom management practices and evaluation strategies to improve student success in the Primary Division (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3). The Primary Lead also supports the effective implementation and evaluation of literacy and numeracy programs, and strategies to support student learning and achievement. The Primary Lead has continued supporting schools, including assisting Kindergarten teaching staff in conducting the Early Years Evaluation (EYE). Four schools have implemented a program called “Welcome to Kindergarten” which brings together parents, incoming Kindergarten students, schools and community service agencies to create the foundation for positive relationships and set the stage for a smooth transition to school and future success. Families receive early-learning and literacy resources, and learn how to use them at home. The Primary Lead will continue providing support in the implementation of the Early Years Policy Framework.

The Junior Lead has provided support to the Matawa First Nations community schools in the areas of literacy, numeracy, student assessment, and student success in the Junior Division (Grades 4-6).

Partnerships continue to be created and maintained with external educational organizations that allow the opportunity to provide teachers with educational resources. During one school visit, the Junior Lead set up a library and teacher resource center. The Junior Lead has coordinated Matawa First Nations schools’ staff attendance at the “Reading for the Love of It” conference and helped promote, plan and organize the Matawa Rotary Bursary Program and its awards banquet. The Junior Lead assisted in organizing a pen pal program between Matawa First Nations schools and a public school in Southern Ontario. The Junior Lead also provided supports to Primary Division teachers and Native Language Teachers while those PASS positions were vacant. Beyond supporting the Matawa First Nations schools and their educators, the Junior Lead has also been part of a crisis response team sent to one of the Matawa First Nations communities and leads the social committee for Education staff.

The Intermediate Lead has been supporting the ongoing efforts of Matawa First Nations schools in the areas of literacy, numeracy, student assessment, and student success in the Intermediate-Senior Division (Grades 7-12). There have also been ongoing efforts to help increase and sustain Matawa Education’s capacity to deliver educational supports and services. The Intermediate Lead coordinated the planning of the Matawa Education Conference and coordinated the Matawa schools’ staff attendance at the Ontario Association for Mathematics Education (OAME) conference. Additionally, the Intermediate Lead assisted in planning for the MLC canoe trip between Nibinamik First Nation and Webequie First Nation. Last year, the Intermediate Lead developed a high school “Reach Ahead” credit, and provided support in its implementation within the Matawa First Nations schools during the 2017-18 school year. This credit is for Matawa First Nations schools to offer their Gr. 7-8 students, and will help students transition between living and attending school on reserve and living and going to school in an urban centre like Thunder Bay. The Intermediate Lead has been reviewing questions related to an updated version of the CAT-4, a standardized test of literacy and numeracy used across the Matawa



Education

region. The Intermediate Lead is also a Quality Assurance Representative and has helped Matawa First Nations Management in being ISO 9001:2015 certified.

Mental Health Lead:

The Mental Health Lead provides direction and support to identify and implement programs and strategies that support student and staff mental health and wellness in the Matawa First Nations schools. This position was vacant from the end of October 2017 to early May 2018. A survey gathering information about the current state of mental health and well-being in the schools was developed and feedback used to identify areas of focus. The former Mental Health Lead developed a brochure with ideas for mental health, well-being and team-building for what schools can do as a staff. Work has been done toward better collaboration between schools and community agencies. The Mental Health Lead has attended various workshops and trainings that will support the schools' staff and students. The Mental Health Lead will be working with the Ontario Ministry of Education to determine which resources and programs in use in Ontario's public schools can be used within Matawa First Nations schools. The Mental Health Lead will have access to workshops and training sessions offered to provincial school boards. The creation and implementation of a regional mental health strategy remains an area of focus.

Parent-Student Engagement Lead:

The Parent-Student Engagement Lead supports schools identifying and implementing strategies, activities, events promoting parent and student engagement within the education system.

This past year, the Parent-Student Engagement Lead identified the "Welcome to Kindergarten" program as a means to improve parent engagement and supported the requisite training and planning leading to the program launch, as well as working alongside school staff to deliver the program's community-based events. Another engagement activity identified by the Parent-Student Engagement Lead is the book translation project, for which we received a grant through the Ontario Arts Council. The goal of this project is to engage community members to collaborate with school staff in the translation of existing books and creation of new books in community specific dialects. Copies of these books will be placed in classroom libraries and provided to families of primary grade students (JK-Gr. 3) to strengthen the home-school literacy connection. In collaboration with schools and families, work toward the formation of Parent Engagement Committees continued in each community; two schools will be moving forward with such committees in Fall 2018. The Parent-Student Engagement Lead will also be working with several educators from Matawa First Nations schools to coordinate "Parents in the Classroom" activities. As communication is a critical component of parent engagement, teachers have been provided with a variety of positive communication strategies and resources along with assistance in their use.

School Success Lead:

The School Success Lead's main responsibilities are to support the development and implementation of individual school success plans, ensuring strategies and evaluation tools are in place to improve literacy, numeracy, and performance standards. With other PASS staff, the School Success Lead also assists schools to identify and implement strategies to engage parents and communities, and to support staff retention and recruitment. Work is ongoing to support schools in administering standardized tests (EQAO and CAT-4), compiling and analyzing testing data, to support principals in making school improvement decisions based on standardized tests results, and to support principals in setting school success plans. A meeting was held with the school principals in

order to review and revise both the school success plan template and school climate surveys to better meet school needs. School climate surveys can be used to anonymously assess the perception of how the school is performing in different areas, such as safety, bullying, effectiveness of programming and the learning environment, equity and inclusivity, etc. The School Success Lead has been working with the Parent-Student Engagement Lead on the book translation project and “Welcome to Kindergarten” program implementation. Also, the School Success Lead successfully applied, on behalf of the Matawa schools, for a grant from the Writer’s Union of Canada to bring a published Canadian author to visit our schools, which is expected to take place in Fall 2018.

Performance Measurement:

Matawa FNSSP Performance Measurement team provides the Matawa Education staff and Matawa First Nations schools with technical and/or user support in the areas of school data systems and school user systems including the internet infrastructure needed for these systems. They also implement technical, physical, and administrative security controls to protect the user and data systems. The team consists of a System Administrator, IT Technician and Database Helpdesk, each with specific roles and responsibilities to meet the requirements of FNSSP Performance Measurement.

School IT enhancements in 2017-18 included upgrades and ongoing maintenance to the internet infrastructure to improve speed and reliability. TeamViewer, an application that allows remote support and provides strong anti-virus security, was installed on all Education supported systems. With TeamViewer installed, the IT team is able to provide support and monitor systems through their own computer as if they were actually there. The IT was responsible for set up and maintenance of the IT needs for the Matawa Education Conference, as well as being the



helpdesk for registration and creating and maintaining the conference website.

Ongoing work begun this past year that includes adding a staff desktop computer, with TeamViewer installed, to every classroom in the Matawa First Nations schools, further increasing the internet bandwidth by optimizing networks and providing additional satellites, generating Office 365 emails for all staff working in the Matawa First Nations schools, upgrading firewalls and routers at all Matawa First Nations schools, and improving and making the helpdesk support more efficient. The IT team has also been tasked with planning the IT needs for the new education and care facility, as well as ensuring the IT needs at the two offices used by Education are met.

Cultural Education Coordinator:

The Cultural Education Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the development, enhancement and implementation of programming, instructional strategies and evaluation tools for Native Language immersion and second-language programs and outdoor cultural programming. With funding being granted through INAC’s New Paths for Education program, a language revitalization project has begun in which the Cultural Education Coordinator will have a lead role in overseeing. This position has been vacant for much of the past year and since its initial posting as “Native Language Lead” on July 1, 2016. Other PASS staff have provided support to Native Language teachers through the purchase of resources and helping to identify areas of need.



Education

Education Partnerships Program (EPP) Liaison:

The main responsibilities of the EPP Liaison are activities in the NAN EPP Joint Implementation Plan designed to improve the scope and quality of education programs and services available to Matawa First Nations students attending provincially funded schools. The EPP Liaison is expected to effectively represent the EPP Partnership that includes Matawa First Nations Management, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Ontario Ministry of Education, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada at the District School Board (DSB), school and First Nation levels.

Work to date has been focusing on fostering positive working relationships with the four DSBs that are affiliated with our Matawa First Nations communities: Lakehead DSB, Thunder Bay Catholic DSB, Superior-Greenstone DSB, and Superior Catholic North DSB. Work has also been focused on establishing the Ontario First Nation, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) Policy Framework for expanding activities to the provincial school board and provincial school levels that provides the foundation for improving achievement among Indigenous students in provincially funded schools and supports lifelong learning. Within the framework, committees have been formed to assist in developing and implementing Board Action Plans on FNMI Education with 2 primary objectives: 1. To improve student achievement and well-being among FNMI students; and 2. To close the achievement gap between Indigenous students and all students. The EPP Liaison has a seat on the Thunder Bay Catholic DSB and Superior North Catholic DSB's Indigenous Education Advisory Committees (IEAC), the Superior-Greenstone DSB's Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee (AEAC), and is an alternate on Lakehead DSB's AEAC. These seats provide Matawa a voice in ensuring activities within the Board Action Plans are being delivered and are relevant.

Student Nutrition Program:

The goal of Matawa's Student Nutrition Program (SNP) is to provide nutritious food to support learning and healthy child and youth development.

The SNP also receives a small amount of funding for food and nutrition related cultural activities. The SNP supports Ontario's Healthy Kids Strategy (2013) and Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy (2014). Students are fed one or two meals a day which consist of a nutritious breakfast, mid-morning meal or lunch. Matawa's participating schools and communities are:

- Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre (Elementary and Secondary) in Webequie First Nation
- Nibinamik Education Centre in Nibinamik First Nation
- Neskantaga Education Centre in Neskantaga First Nation
- Migizi Wazisin Elementary School in Long Lake #58 First Nation
- Migizi Miigwanan Secondary School in Long Lake #58 First Nation
- Busing Program in Ginoogaming First Nation
- Matawa Learning Centre in Thunder Bay, Ontario

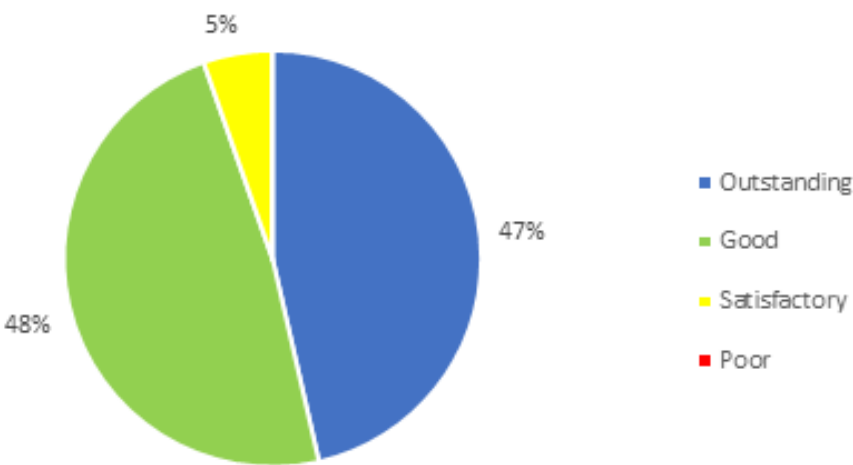
The other Matawa First Nation communities operate their SNP independently.

Matawa's SNP Coordinator has been very busy providing program services (e.g., cooking for MLC students, flying food and supplies to our First Nations) and administration (e.g., monthly and quarterly reporting, paying cook salaries, etc.) to the Student Nutrition Program's operating in our participating communities. In addition to these duties, the SNP Coordinator has helped with planning for the annual education conference and for the new education and care facility's kitchen and learning kitchen classrooms.

Conference:

The 11th Annual Matawa Education Conference was held March 6-8, 2018 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay, during which nearly 400 participants, presenters and vendors took part in making it another great conference. The conference spanned three days and included a wide range of professional development topics for school operations staff, administrators, teachers, principals and education leadership, nutrition program staff, parents, and community members that addressed the current needs identified by educators in Matawa schools. Participants came from all 9 Matawa First Nations as well as Keewaytinook Okimakanak Board of Education (KOBÉ), and many of Matawa’s partner organizations. All PASS staff were involved in the planning of the Matawa Education Conference and many facilitated workshops during the conference. New this year was the inclusion of an Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and artisans area. Conference feedback acquired through surveys show that 95% of respondents thought the conference was good to outstanding.

Overall Evaluation of Matawa Education Conference
2018



Structural Readiness:

Under the funding provided through the 2017-18 Structural Readiness proposal, Matawa Education was able to continue the position of Community Liaison Officer. The responsibilities of this position include coordinating activities and meetings related to implementation of the Matawa Regional Education Strategic Plan and Education Department organizational readiness, and assisting in the development and implementation of a Matawa Education communication plan. The Community Liaison Officer has been involved in meetings with various agencies supporting Matawa Education, and meetings relating to incorporation.

The Structural Readiness funding also allowed for several activities and projects to be undertaken. A plan to assist in the implementation of the “Cost of Education” report has been worked on this past year. Principals and leaders in the schools took a Special Education for Administrators course that was co-delivered by the Matawa Learning Centre Principal and the PASS Administrator. This course provides principals and other education leaders accredited additional qualifications and a better understanding of how to support Special Education in the schools more effectively. Principals and Matawa Education



Education

staff have received funding to continue attending professional development sessions relating to leading student achievement and system implementation and monitoring. New this past year was funding to hire a Human Resources Policy Officer who has been working on policies and procedures related to student care, recruitment and hiring of staff, the formation of a Joint Health & Safety Committee, and other tasks related to human resources.

New Paths for Education:

Several Matawa Education Department activities and projects were funded through New Paths for Education during 2017-18. Some of these activities and projects were aimed at teacher recruitment and retention (e.g., online subscriptions to education job postings sites available to Matawa schools and participation in the Lakehead University Education Job Fair), while others involved the new student education and care facility. Through New Paths funding, a language revitalization project was able to commence in which a methodology developed by the Maori in New Zealand will be used.

New Paths for Education also funded activities for the Matawa Learning Centre, which were open to any students from a Matawa community, including positions and associated resources for a Cultural Worker, two Mental Health Workers, an Art Teacher; a Student Activities Coordinator; an Outdoor Education Teacher and resources and materials related to 4 land-based leadership credits; a canoe trip and associated land-based leadership credit.

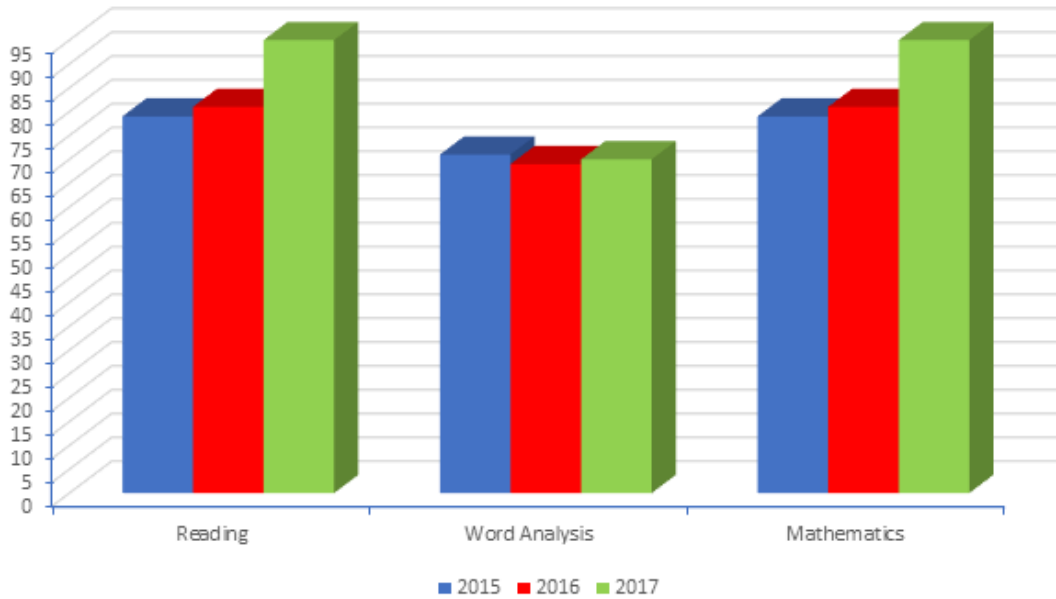
OVERALL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Participation at the annual Matawa Education Conference remained high with nearly 400 participants. Feedback on the conference was overwhelmingly positive. The conference addressed many of the areas of interest to participants as gathered from past conference feedback and conversations held with school staff during community visits, meetings, phone calls and e-mails.

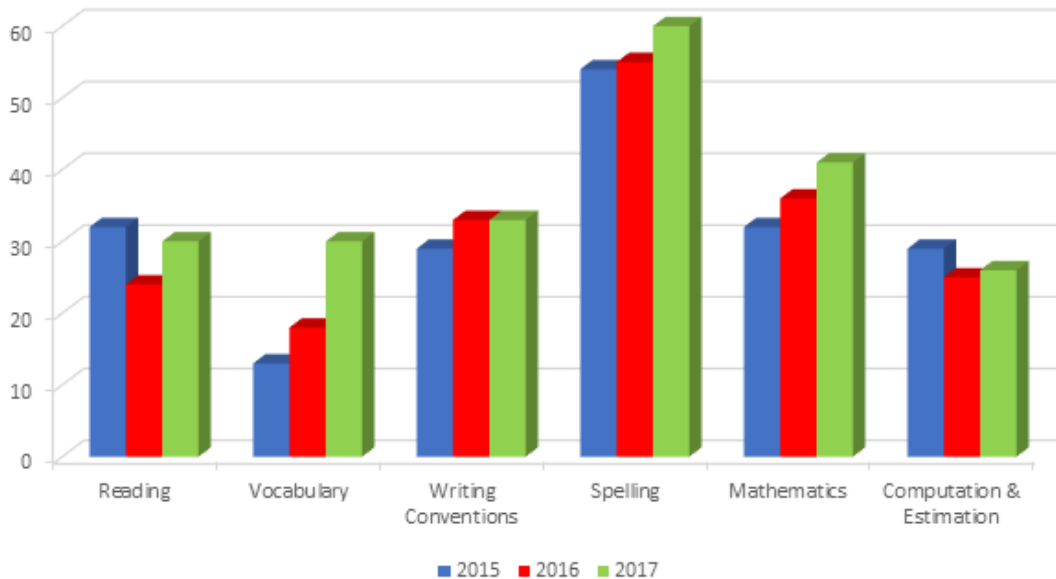
Results from standardized tests (Canadian Achievement Tests, 4th Edition – CAT-4) show the percentage of Kindergarten students achieving at or above the national average in reading, word analysis and mathematics; and Gr. 8 students achieving at or above the national average in the areas of reading, vocabulary, spelling, mathematics, and computation & estimation have increased from 2016 to 2017. Each school will have their individual results for a direct comparison.



Percentage of Matawa Kindergarten Students Achieving the National Average or Above 2015-2017



Percentage of Matawa Grade 8 Students Achieving the National Average or Above 2015-2017



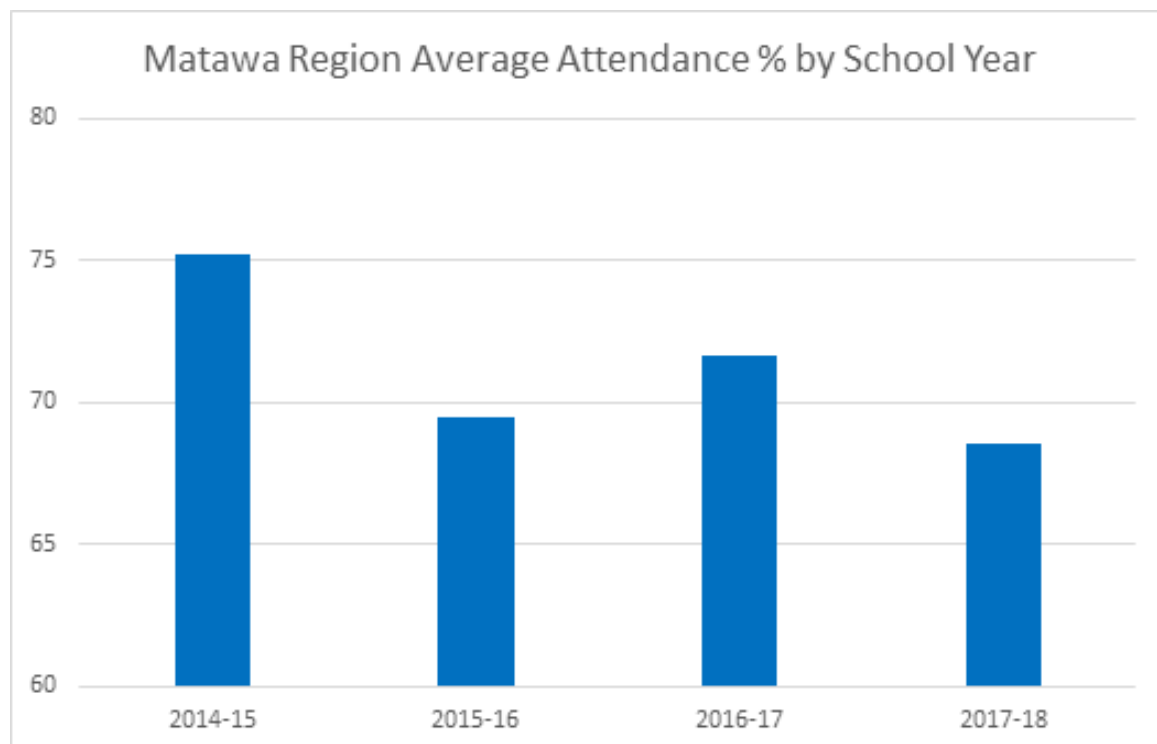


OVERALL CHALLENGES:

Several positions within the PASS Program experienced turnover in staff. Recruitment of qualified and appropriate candidates continued to prove difficult. As a result, ensuring continuity in services and support has continued to be a challenge. Similarly, finding appropriate consultants to complete special projects took time despite posting on several sites including a national listing service.

Results from standardized tests show decreases in the percentage of Matawa students achieving at or above the national average in several categories in various grades from 2016-17 to 2017-18. Each school will have their own test results for a more direct comparison.

The average school attendance for JK-Gr. 8 classes in seven Matawa schools shows a decrease from last year's average attendance. Schools have been facing challenges in their own staff recruitment and retention with some teaching positions being filled by unqualified teachers. Please note the 2014-15 school year data is for 6 of 7 schools. Each school will have their own attendance results for a more direct comparison.



OVERALL OPPORTUNITIES:

The reports from reviews that were conducted into Early Learning in the Matawa schools, Indigenous language and culture use in the curriculum, and the “cost of education” will continue to be used in planning and help to guide future support and services. Also, continuing to be used in planning and to guide future support and services will be the feedback from our annual education conference, school visits, and other opportunities to gather input from educators, parents, students, and other stakeholders.

Through 2018-19 Structural Readiness funding, Matawa Education will conduct a review of the Regional Education Strategic Plan 2015-2020 to determine progress so far and develop a plan to hit target goals by 2020.

Efforts are ongoing in supporting schools in developing mental health and wellness awareness and strategies to support mentally healthy schools. Parent engagement has been a focus and several projects are underway that will help to form positive relationships between the school and parents. These projects include book translations and the creation of new early-reader books, a “Welcome to Kindergarten” orientation program, and language revitalization.

The language revitalization project has an opportunity to positively affect students’ mental health and well-being, as recent research suggests a strong link between the use of Indigenous languages in First Nation communities and reduced rates of suicide. In one study, the suicide rate was virtually eliminated when the majority of community members used their Indigenous language. Academic and life success are supported when students are mentally healthy.



Matawa
EDUCATION

Invites advanced to fluent Ojibwe, Oji-Cree or Cree Indigenous language speakers from Matawa First Nations to an

INTRO TO LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION WORKSHOP

Training facilitated by Mike Graham and Aroha Watene, Indigenous Language Revitalization Specialists from Aotearoa (New Zealand)

JUNE 26 - 27, 2018
9 AM - 3 PM (8 AM BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED)
VICTORIA INN HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE
THUNDER BAY, ON

We are looking to train advanced and fluent speakers to become Language Specialists, Community Language Tutors and or Assistants using innovative accelerated learning methodologies proven to teach and learn a language.

Criteria to register

- be 18 years & over with a positive attitude to learning and student success
- have advanced to fluent knowledge in either Ojibwe, Oji-Cree or Cree languages
- be prepared to participate in planned accelerated and curriculum activities

Training facilitators bring over 40 years experience combined in post-Secondary accelerated learning and training methodologies curriculum and resource development design.

To register please email education@matawa.on.ca or contact Community Liaison Officer Michael Whitehead (807) 768 3300 ext. 3320 for additional information.

Registration deadline: June 19, 2018





Education

Matawa Post Secondary Program (MPS)

OVERVIEW:

The Matawa Post Secondary (MPS) Program consist of the following five communities: Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58, Neskantaga and Webequie First Nations. The Matawa Post-Secondary Program was established in March 1997.

MPS is currently staffed by Georgette O’Nabigon, Program Coordinator supported by a Post Secondary Program Assistant. MPS Staff work closely with the Advisory Committee (comprised of one representative from each participating First Nations).

MATAWA POST SECONDARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Krista Bouchard	Aroland First Nation
Sheri Taylor	Ginoogaming First Nation
Patrick Patabon	Long Lake # 58 First Nation
Tony Sakanee	Neskantaga First Nation
Ennis Jacob	Webequie First Nation

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

The MPS program provides financial, counseling support services, visits students at local post secondary institutes, maintains a database, a liaison for the MPS Advisory, Students and Post-Secondary Institutes. The MPS staff continues to be a member on various committees to represent our students throughout the year.

For the 2017 – 2018 year the MPS had honored 32 Post-Secondary Graduates from the five participating Matawa Post-Secondary Communities. The banquet was held at the Valhalla Inn on June 7th, 2018 to honor the graduates and the Matawa/Rotary Award winners.

For the 2017 – 2018 Post-Secondary School year the MPS program had enrollment of ninety-five (95) students with twenty (20) student withdrawals throughout the year, nine (9) students withdrew due to the long College strike. Enrolment is based on the number of applicants the MPS program budget can fund.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Maadaadizi Post-Secondary Student Orientation:

In 2013, a Committee was formed in Thunder Bay consisting of representatives from local Post Secondary Institutes and participating Post-Secondary administering agencies. Maadaadizi means he/she starts a journey in the Ojibwe language. It’s a special day to welcome post-secondary First Nation students and their families to the post-secondary institutions and to the City of Thunder Bay. The event includes Aboriginal role models as keynote speakers and musical performances. Information booths by various organizations are set-up with information and resources for students, children’s activities, prizes and refreshments. This event is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

This event is hosted annually at the beginning of the post-secondary school year. The 2017 Maadaadizi orientation was held at the Marina Park on September 10th with keynote Ted Nolan and performer Crystal Shawanda. The 2018 event will be held at the Marina Park on September 8th with the keynote possibly being Dr. Niigaan Sinclair, Professor, commentator and author, the entertainment to be announced soon.

The Maadaadizi orientation is funded by various organization donations along with the three (3) post-secondary institutes that donate financial and in kind. However, in 2017 the Maadaadizi Committee received a grant from the NIB Trust Fund to host the orientation as well as host gatherings throughout the year. The Committee hosted a student gathering and feast at the three (3) local post-secondary institutes. The purpose of the gatherings is to get the students and support staff together to encourage students to



Education

get familiar with staff and utilize the resources available.

Matawa Rotary Bursary Program:

The Bowmanville Rotary Club and Matawa Education Department have been in partnership since 2008 to administer the annual bursary program. The award categories: Elementary, Secondary, Post-Secondary, Apprenticeships, / Training and Adult Education. The bursary award criteria are based on literacy, class participation and personal achievements. The bursary award criteria were determined by participating Matawa School representatives and the Bowmanville Rotary Club Mandate. The Matawa Education Staff facilitate the application process, recruit a judging panel with representatives from local post-secondary institutes and teachers. The intention of the bursary is to honor our community members and encourage them while they work towards their educational journey. The 2018 awards event was held on June 7th at the Valhalla Inn along with the MPS Grad Recognition.

Aboriginal Youth and Recognition Awards (AYARA)

AYARA was established in 2004 with community partners and generous sponsorship from various organizations and companies. Matawa Post-Secondary Staff continue to be a member on this committee. Matawa First Nations Management is a sponsor for this event as well as the Education department and MLC.

AYARA believes that recognizing a person for their achievements is a great way to build self-esteem and show case our role models. The awards are based on efforts made by youth and not necessarily always on accomplishments.

AYARA recognizes a wide variety of achievements in areas of academic, artistic, athletic, community leadership, volunteering, personal achievement and culture. AYARA recognizes youth that have been nominated from the local schools as well as Northwestern Ontario.

The 2018 AYARA Banquet was held in Thunder Bay on May 2nd at the Italian Hall. We are pleased to say that eleven (11) students from our Matawa Communities were recognized.

OPPORTUNITIES:

This past year the Post Secondary Counsellor had the opportunity to sit on the AFN Post Secondary Education Policy and Program Review Committee. This committee was mandated by AFN Resolution 14-2017. The AFN Chiefs in Assembly directed the CCOE to lead the review. The Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) members had identified up to four representatives from each of their regions to participate in the review. The committee divided into two groups one to look at the student needs and make recommendations and the second to look at the needs of the First Nation Education Institutes. The PSE review committee were tasked with identifying key elements required to support First Nation students and First Nations Institutions and to identify options for policy/program delivery models. A draft fact sheet with the findings is currently in progress, the findings will be presented by CCOE at the AFN Assembly in July 2018.





Economic Development

STAFF:

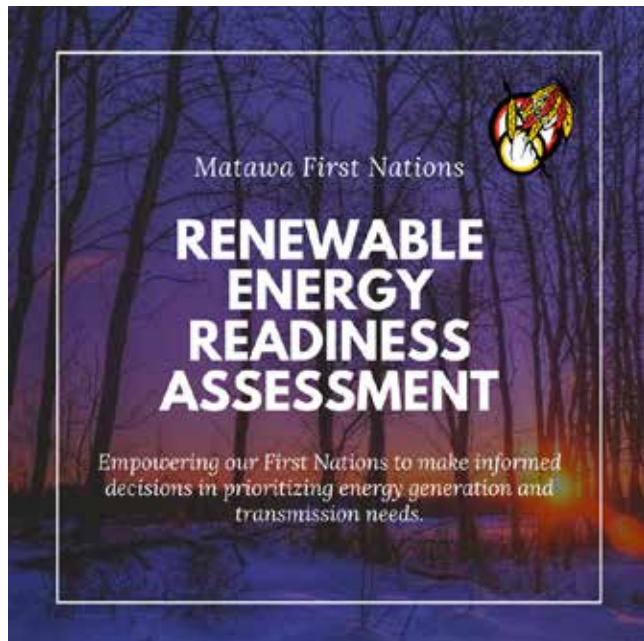
Jason Rasevych, Economic Development Advisor (concluding May 2018)
Jonathan Neegan, Economic Development Advisor (beginning June 2018)
Alexandra Kavalchuk, Administrative Assistant
Brent Edwards, Business Support Officer
Audrea Sturgeon, Business Support Program Assistant

OVERVIEW:

The Matawa Economic Development Department works with Matawa member First Nations to develop, promote, and support a diverse private sector and entrepreneurial culture. We work to help create 'opportunity-ready' Matawa First Nations and to foster economic growth and success through economic and business development. We work together to ensure that our Peoples enjoy the same opportunities for employment, income, wealth creation and well-being as other Canadians. We help our First Nations develop infrastructure, businesses and human capital to grow our local economies. The department provides project incubation, project management, business management, general management for many regional initiatives across different sectors including mining, forestry, tourism and energy. The department also works with our First Nations' community development corporations to build capacity and develop projects and business opportunities to become self-sufficient.

COMMITTEES:

See page 49 for a listing of the various Committees/ Boards of Directors the Matawa Economic Development Department works with.



KEY PRIORITY AREA:

Key Priority Area #1: Matawa Power Authority

With the direction of the Matawa Chiefs, the Matawa Economic Development Department works with the Matawa Energy Working Group to explore a potential regional Matawa First Nations Power Authority to improve existing micro-grid systems and provide generation to any industrial development in our traditional territory. Some key priorities include:

1. Improve and build a sustainable energy system for all Matawa membership communities' micro-grids and refurbish existing diesel gensets as a backup system.
2. Provide combined heat and power generators (CHP) with 10 year ownership model and provide free heat to main building and greenhouse.
3. Provide greenhouse to each community and place it at schools for students to monitor and maintain while getting a school credit.
4. Provide solar panels and storage to assist community micro-grid.
5. Provide training and employment in manufacturing company and community micro-grids.

Key Priority Area #2: Business Support Program

Matawa First Nation Management (MFNM) has partnered with the Canadian Executive Services Organization (CESO), and Rise Asset Development (RISE) for a 36-month project to catalyze entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities for members of MFNM communities to sustainably alleviate poverty.

There are very few traditional employment opportunities available, limitations to capital to create jobs, and capacity gaps to take advantage of economic opportunities. Fortunately, there is no lack of personal passion or purpose in MFNM. This collaborative project, based on a unique combination of wrap-around supports, will support MFNM communities to pursue self-employment by addressing the barriers that currently stand in the way.

As key priorities, MFNM, CESO and Rise seek to collaboratively:

- Increase community entrepreneurship capacity by growing the capacity of local Economic Development Officers (EDO) networks through additional volunteer's subject matter expert advisory supports
- Provide access to low-interest, flexible financing designed to support the success of entrepreneurs with challenges
- Deliver all these services in a manner co-created to be respectful, relevant and culturally appropriate
- To achieve these goals, the collaboration will:
- Build relationships and trust via in-person meetings
- Leverage respected local EDO networks
- Deliver services in the communities as opposed to requiring participants to travel for services
- Deliver support in the language of the community in a culturally appropriate manner

Key Priority Area #3: Rapid Lynx Broadband Project

Due to overspending and the lack of a contingency plan, during the Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Bell Alliance Project to connect all remote communities in Northern Ontario, the Matawa First Nations remote membership communities were not connected to high speed internet. This gave Matawa First Nations Management and Magellan Advisors the opportunity to work with our membership communities to establish the RapidLynx Broadband Project to connect our remote communities to fibre optics. After a feasibility study was completed in 2014/2015 the

Broadband working group was able to develop the Broadband Business Plan in 2015/2016. Through this business plan the RapidLynx Broadband Project was awarded \$68 million in 2017 (CTI \$37.1 million, INAC \$2.2 million and the Ontario Provincial Government with \$28.95 million) and as of July 2018, the funding was secured and the Project can move forward with construction. Key priority areas include:

1. Feasibility Study (Complete)
2. Business Plan (Complete)
3. Grant Application (Complete)
4. Secure Funding (Complete)
5. Options into starting a construction company
6. Find options to connect Aroland First Nation with home services
7. Kick off construction with backbone and distribution
8. Construction of backbone: Aroland to Marten Falls to Eabametoong
9. Construction of backbone: Webequie to Neskantaga to Eabametoong
10. Construction of backbone: Wunnumin Lake to Nibinamik to Webequie
11. Distribution construction within Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie First Nations
12. Project Close-out

Key Priority Area #4: Native Camp Operators Alliance

Native Camp Operators Alliance/Moccasin Trails Adventures is a group of remote, fly in fishing and hunting outpost camps owned and operated by First Nations People of northwestern Ontario. Most camps are beautiful, rustic log cabins, handcrafted by the owners themselves. We have been providing top notch wilderness vacations since early in the new millennium.

The camps are located within three of the five largest watersheds in Ontario, all of which drain into either Hudson Bay or James Bay. The most northerly is The Winisk River, which is 275 miles long and drains into Hudson Bay. The Ojibwe word, "Winisk" means 'groundhog.' It drains into Hudson Bay. Key priority areas include:

Booking: all bookings are done through Jeff Haug. He is based out of the State of Wisconsin. Each camp is booked with clientele from the states. On average each camp will receive 4 to 5 groups each week beginning in the month of June.



Economic Development

Maintenance: all camps have suitable cabins that are able to lodge more than 6-7 per group. Over the years maintenance is done by the camp owner/operator and annual visit from Jeff Haug. Both work together on the last weekend of May to get the outpost camps ready

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Matawa Power Authority

Put together a group of companies who will help us reach our goals who have hundreds of sites we can visit and tour for examples for the combined heat and power generators and the greenhouses. We also have a financial group who will be able to help us proceed and not have to wait for Federal and Provincial governments while giving us the opportunity to fill out the grants as well. Organization of tours and visits will be coming soon.

Business Support Program

Our main accomplishment has been our first loan presented to Mike Shewaybick of Webequie First Nation. His loan was approved with conditions on May 28th, 2018. The funding he will receive will go towards his small business he operates called Kanuchuan Lake Outpost camp. A fly-in fishing camp which has been in operation for over 15 years. We wish to congratulate him and his accomplishment and continued success with his entrepreneurship aspirations.

Building resources for our program has been an additional accomplishment. On May 17, Business Support Program staff completed ProsperCanada's Financial Literacy Training becoming certified facilitators. This training will be provided for Matawa community members in the coming year.

Rapid Lynx Broadband Project

2014-2015 – Feasibility Study Completed
2015/2016 – Business Plan Completed
2017 – Grant Application
2017/2018 – Grant Due Diligence
July 2018 – Funding Secured

Native Camp Operators Alliance

Gas delivery: this year we were able to transport fuel and propane for the season to the camps via winter road. Last years delivery was done through Wilderness North float planes. using the float planes to delivery the fuel to the camps cost more money, by delivering the gas via winter road it saved the camp operators a lot of money.

Kanuchuan Lake outpost camp: Mike Shewaybick, along with the help of the business support program have applied for a business loan to secure funding for 2 boat motors valued at \$3500. As of Monday May 28th, his loan application was approved with conditions.

CHALLENGES:

Matawa Power Authority

All communities must understand that there is plenty of opportunity for everyone to benefit on these projects from the Ring of Fire, smelter, Greenstone Gold and mills in our traditional territory. We need to bring everyone up to the same level of equality so that we can move forward as 9 strong communities.

Business Support Program

As the program continues, several challenges have included:





- Travel to northern communities is always the hardest hurdle, however we have managed to visit all 9 communities and facilitate business entrepreneurial workshops and opportunities of the business support program has to offer
- Access to our online resources, the internet/online in the northern communities is very slow, which causes community members not being able to access information and resources available to them. During our workshops we are able to provide them with printed sample business plans for their references.
- Our program has had many conversations with aspiring potential entrepreneurs, one of the challenges we are faced with are the limited funding available to them. Most of their business ideas require more than the amount we offer. Our program through Rise Asset Development offers Micro loans up to \$10,000.
- Communication between departments and/or other outside organizations creates conflicting schedules between community events and business support program visits.
- In the beginning, our image of the business support program was seen as a grant program. Our initial workshops in the community quickly changed it to help our members apply for a small business loan.

Rapid Lynx Broadband Project

1. Band Council Resolutions needed for Ontario immediately.
2. Need to develop a Network Operator agreement.
3. Negotiations for interconnect needs to be completed with Bell.

Native Camp Operators Alliance

Communication: one challenge the camps endure are the communication at the site. As of now the camps have a two-way radio to the community to the personal homes. Messages are delivered to the homes and then on to the camps.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Matawa Power Authority

Greenstone Gold

Matawa First Nations Power Authority rates for 46,000,000kwh @ \$0.35kw/h

Monthly Total: \$1,610,000 Annual Total: \$19,320,000

Nakina Mill

Matawa First Nations Power Authority rates for 10,000,000kwh @ \$0.35kw/h

Monthly Total: \$350,000 Annual Total: \$4,200,000

Benefits to Industry: First Nation partner, savings of millions and free heat.

Benefits to Matawa membership communities: Employment, training, multiyear planned purchase agreement and ownership.

Business Support Program

- Building relationships; this year we will be collaborating with NADF on producing workshops for the communities. Both organizations have similar resources for the Matawa community members. In an effort to help them further their goals to succeed in small business. We will be facilitating joint workshops on entrepreneurship.
- Business Awards/Gala; this event will be planned and implemented in late fall. This an opportunity to showcase and recognize our current business entrepreneurs in the Matawa communities.
- Crafters resale; the economic development is always looking to help create some economic opportunities for our region. By purchasing arts and crafts from our local entrepreneurs and reselling them to the general public in Thunder Bay and online



Economic Development

- Sparking the entrepreneurship in Youth. One opportunity for our program is to introduce the Matawa Wolves Den project. This project is aimed at youth in the grade school level, specifically the Grade 8 classrooms. We would invite all Matawa Community schools to participate by getting the grade 8 classrooms to start a business, run the business for a period of time. All funds they would raise would go towards their schools.

Rapid Lynx Broadband Project

We are currently looking at starting a construction company to train and employ our community members during the backbone and distribution phases. Other work for the construction company will come with mining and the First Nations Power Authority.

Job Opportunities:

- 1) Construction Supervisor
- 2) Construction Foreman
- 3) Skilled Labourers
- 4) Heavy Equipment Operators
- 5) Drivers
- 6) Lead Splicing Tech
- 7) Splicing Tech
- 8) Electricians
- 9) Caterers
- 10) Carpenters
- 11) Linesmen

Native Camp Operators Alliance

Loan applications: since the loan application has gone through for Kanuchuan Lake outpost camp. Funding opportunities to improve the cabins are now available for the rest of the camps, Chipai and Wapikopa.

Improvement on website: finding funds to improve and update the current website for the Native Camp Operators Alliance. Increasing our hits on the website could lead to increased customers for all our camp operators.

MATAWA ENERGY WORKING GROUP:

Representation: Mark Bell (Aroland), Lorraine Wesley and Wayne Neegan (Constance Lake), Lewis Nate and Joseph Waswa (Eabametoong), Conrad Chapais (Ginoogaming), Darcy Waboose and John O’Nabigon (Long Lake #58), Delia Okees (Marten Falls), Edward Moonias (Neskantaga), Byron Wapoos and Elias Yellowhead (Nibinamik), Glen Wabasse and James Suganaqueb (Webequie)

RAPID LYNX BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Representation: Mark Bell (Aroland), Lewis Nate and Joseph Waswa (Eabametoong), Delia Okees (Marten Falls), Edward Moonias (Neskantaga), Byron Wapoos (Nibinamik), James Suganaqueb (Webequie)

NATIVE CAMP OPERATORS ALLIANCE:

Representation: Weiben Slipperjack, Lewis Nate (Eabambetoong), Roger Oskineegish (Nibinamik), George Whitehead, Stephen Ashpanaquestcum, John Ash, Tommy Shewaybick, Elijah Jacob (Webequie)

Outpost Camp Owners:

- Chipai Outpost Camp, George Whitehead
- Kanachuan Lake Outpost Camp, Mike Shewaybick
- Wapikopa Lake Outpost Camp, Stephen Ashpanaquestcum



Matawa First Nations Management

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The Dignity of Difference