



2012-13
Chiefs Council Report
25th Anniversary

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference



Prepared for the 25th Annual General Meeting
July 30 to August 1, 2013 | Hosted by Long Lake #58 First Nation





**“We will do whatever is necessary in order to protect our land,
our water and our resources for the future generations.”**

- Unity Declaration, July 13, 2011



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS CHIEFS COUNCIL REPORT

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CHIEFS COUNCIL VISION AND MISSION



VISION

We will do whatever is necessary in order to protect our land, our water and our resources for the future generations. We agree that we must stand together in order to ensure our nation is protected. Therefore, we assert our Aboriginal and Treaty rights to the land, water and resources by requiring written consent before any development activity may proceed. Failure to consult, accommodate and receive the consent of the First Nation(s) to proceed with any work or activity is an unjustified infringement upon our Aboriginal, Treaty and Custodial rights as First Nations. (see Unity Declaration – page ##)

MISSION

1. Protection of our land, our water and our resources.
2. Protection of our Rights as Peoples of the Land. We have Inherent, Aboriginal Title, Custodial and Treaty Rights.
3. We respect and trust the autonomy of each First Nation, respecting each other's priorities and paths to reach our common goals.
4. We want to maximize opportunities for our Peoples in any developments that they consent to, such as resource revenue and economic benefits.
5. We will achieve our goals through control and ownership of any development and activities in our territories.

ISSUES:

1. Resource Revenue Benefits: We recognized that First Nations who are in the immediate development area have a right to negotiate benefit agreements on resources in their territory, and other area First Nations may have indirect benefits.
2. Economic and Employment Benefits: We recognize that all our Peoples of the nine Matawa communities can be involved in any economic and employment opportunities on any developments in our territories.
3. Impacts of Development: We recognize that we will have similar environment and socio-economic impacts on developments happening in our territories. We respect and trust that each First Nation will have different paths to follow according to their traditions and protocols. We respect and trust that we will share our knowledge, our experience and our values with each other to build a stronger Nation.



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

2012-2013 Chiefs Council Members

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



Chief Sonny Gagnon
Aroland First Nation
First Nation



Chief Celia Echum
Ginoogaming
First Nation



Chief Peter Moonias
Neskantaga
First Nation



Chief Roger Wesley
Constance Lake
First Nation
Chief Fred Sackaney
Elected June 15, 2013



Chief Allen Towegishig
Long Lake #58
First Nation



Chief Johnny Yellowhead
Nibinamik
First Nation



Chief Harry Papah
Eabametoong
First Nation
Chief Elizabeth Atlookan
Elected June 20, 2013



Chief Elijah K. Moonias
Marten Falls
First Nation



Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie
First Nation



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

Chiefs Council



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

To provide technical, policy and political advice to First Nations Chiefs both collectively and individually, and support managers within Matawa First Nations Management.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES JULY 2012 - JULY 2013

1) ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON A VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

VISION: We are united in sharing a common vision of being self-sufficient, self-governing peoples within a healthy, thriving culture, living in our homelands that shall sustain us for all times.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Ensuring that Crown governments and third parties honour our inherent, treaty and Aboriginal Rights
- Respect community autonomy and decision making
- Working together for a common benefit
- Using strength in unity
- Caring for the future and protecting our way of life

- Building capacity, healthy communities and economies

2) MEETING WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO PROMOTE FIRST NATIONS ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

- Meeting with Ontario Premier Wynne, along with Minister Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) and Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA), on establishing a new relationship with Matawa First Nations based on a regional strategy.
- Meeting with Tony Clement, Federal Minister responsible for FEDNOR and the designated lead on Ring of Fire by Prime Minister Harper
- Meeting with Minister Gravelle, MNDM, to discuss forestry and mineral issues at the Matawa Office, the Prospectors and Developers of Canada Conference (PDAC), and at the Matawa Spring Gathering.

3) PROMOTION OF HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:

- Participation at the Prescription Drug Abuse/ Misuse (PDA/M) Gathering in Neskantaga First Nations, to gather support and meet with Grand Chief Yesno, Regional Chief Beardy and National Chief Atlio
- Lobbying Federal and Provincial Officials on PDA/M proposals by the Matawa Health and Social Services Task Group

- Support for community based programs to combat PDA/M through Saboxone and aftercare programs

4) ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO PROMOTE COMMON UNDERSTANDINGS:

- Presentation at the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association (CAMA) by Chief Peter Moonias, Chief Cornelius Wabasse along with Wes Henson of Noront and Bill Boor from Cliffs, for community perspectives.
- Discussion with Municipalities of Greenstone Mayor Ron Bouluis and Advisor Ovid Mercredi on wider developments resulting from the mineral and infrastructure development in Greenstone, Ring of Fire and surrounding areas.
- Presentations and sharing about First Nations communities with international observers from Chile, China, Great Britain and New Zealand.

5) PUBLIC SECURITY:

Working with Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS) on policing issues and support for First Nations Communities.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

1) DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY - MAMOW-WECHEEKAPAAWETAHTEEWIIN: STANDING TOGETHER BUILDING UPON THE UNITY DECLARATION – MAMOW-WECHEEKAPAAWETAHTEEWIIN:

Unity Declaration, the Matawa First Nations Chiefs developed a framework for negotiations of certain collective issues in the traditional territories of the First Nations. These issues are grouped into three pillars:

LAND MANAGEMENT

Environmental protection, consent over development and infrastructure

REVENUE SHARING

Government to Government Revenue Sharing

CAPACITY BUILDING

Regional training, health, social, educational supports

At the same time, the framework recognizes the importance of local perspectives on the three Pillars, which will have their own set of negotiations on those local issues. Community committees will assist in this process.

A senior negotiator was needed to assist them in this task. Through a selection process, they chose Bob Rae, former Premier of Ontario and Federal Liberal Leader. He is in the process of meeting with communities.

The Matawa Chiefs then met with the new Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne, on March 6, 2013 and presented her with this Regional Strategy Framework. She wrote back to each First Nation and said the Ontario Government wants to negotiate with the First Nation on a community-based regional Framework and later named Former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Frank Iacobucci as the senior negotiator for Ontario.

2) DEVELOPMENT OF NEDAAKIIMENAN FORESTRY CORPORATION.

After many years of challenging the Province of Ontario and industry, First Nations are finally having more of a say in the management of their traditional territory. Nedaakiimenan is a forestry corporation mandated to manage the Kenogami Forest. An independent board of directors from those First Nations in and around the Kenogami Sustainable Forest Licence are now overseeing the forest management planning process, silviculture, jobs, and capacity building. They are participating in the enhanced Forest Sustainable Licence (eSFL) discussion with other groups and are seeking additional opportunities in the region.

3) DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH NISHNAWBE-ASKI POLICY SERVICES.

After many years of lobbying, a new central division of Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services has been created. This will result in an expected higher level of service for our First Nations along with a renewed commitment to community-based policing initiatives.



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

Chiefs Council



CHALLENGES

- 1) TIME:** The demands on the time for the Matawa First Nations Chiefs are great.
- 2) RESOURCES:** The costs of meeting are increasing and funding limits by funders have an impact
- 3) BALANCE:** The need to engage with outside groups is important, but there is still a need for designated time to focus on Matawa specific issues.
- 4) CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP:** In 2013 all First Nations face elections; this can change personnel. Community based processes which carry-over between one council to another are needed.

OPPORTUNITIES

With the departure of Chiefs Harry Papah, Eabametong First Nation, and Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation, owing to their choice not to run again, an opportunity arose to provide some recommendations by these outgoing Chiefs.

▪ CHIEFS MEETINGS

- Pre-arranged Chiefs meetings. Select four (4) dates through-out the year that focus on Matawa business

- Designated day/times to receive guests.
- Chiefs should at an inter-ministerial level once or twice a year
- Separate negotiations meetings from regular Chiefs meetings
- More Sub-committees on specific issues
- Limit cell phone usage at meetings

▪ FOCUS ON INTUITIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Health Authority
- Education Authority
- Childwealfare committee
- Ontario Works committee
- Look at how to pay for implementation of Land Use Planning Processes

▪ NEED A CHIEFS COORDINATOR

- To chair meetings and gathering on a regular basis
- To Communicate with Chiefs and outsiders
- Facilitate meetings with Chiefs, build trust and share information
- Be independent of any community





MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference

Appendix





CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 01-23/01/13

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

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

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

Therefore be it resolved that:

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

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

Seconded by: Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

Carried (8)

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



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

Chiefs Present:

Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

Chief Allan Towegishig, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Chief Eli Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation

Chief Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation

Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation

Proxy Councilor Charlie Okeese, Eabametoong First Nation



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

Joint Statement from the Matawa Chiefs Council to the Government of Ontario Delivered to Premier Wynne & Minister Gravelle on the occasion of our meeting March 6, 2013

Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin (Standing Together) Regional Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

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

(1) Land management

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

(2) Revenue sharing

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

(3) Capacity building

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

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

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

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

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



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

Revised: January 24, 2013

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

THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION.

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

Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Vision: What is the guiding vision?

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

*We are united in sharing a common vision
of being self-sufficient, self-governing peoples
within a healthy, thriving culture,
living within our homelands that shall sustain us for all times.*

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

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

Guiding Principles:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Structure: How will it work?

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

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

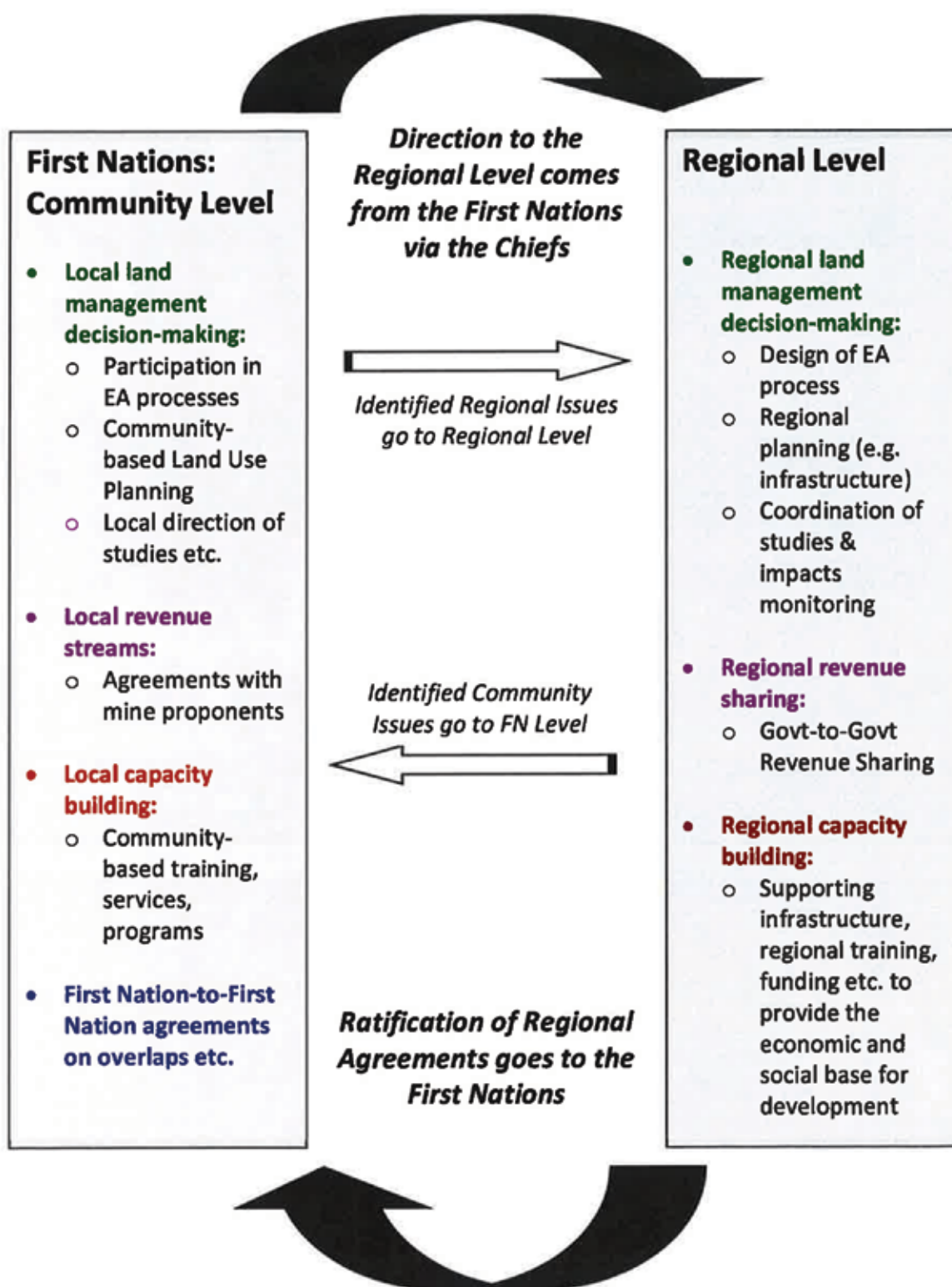
The structure outlined in the chart on the next page has the best of both worlds for your situation – it uses a small, dedicated Negotiation Team to be the most effective, combined with intensive work and decision-making at the community level.

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

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

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

Local Issues / Regional Issues



4. Structure: How will it work?

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Regional Strategy – Structure

Main Table

Main Table includes both the Negotiating Team and the Chiefs Council

Negotiating Team
(3-4 members including Lead Negotiator)

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

Chiefs Council
(9 Chiefs)

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

Regional Support

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

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

Technical & legal advisors can overlap between pillars, as necessary

Community Foundation

Decision-making comes from the ground-up

Chief & Council
of each First Nation

- Makes decisions
- Instructs the Negotiating Team via the Chief

Community Negotiation Committee

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

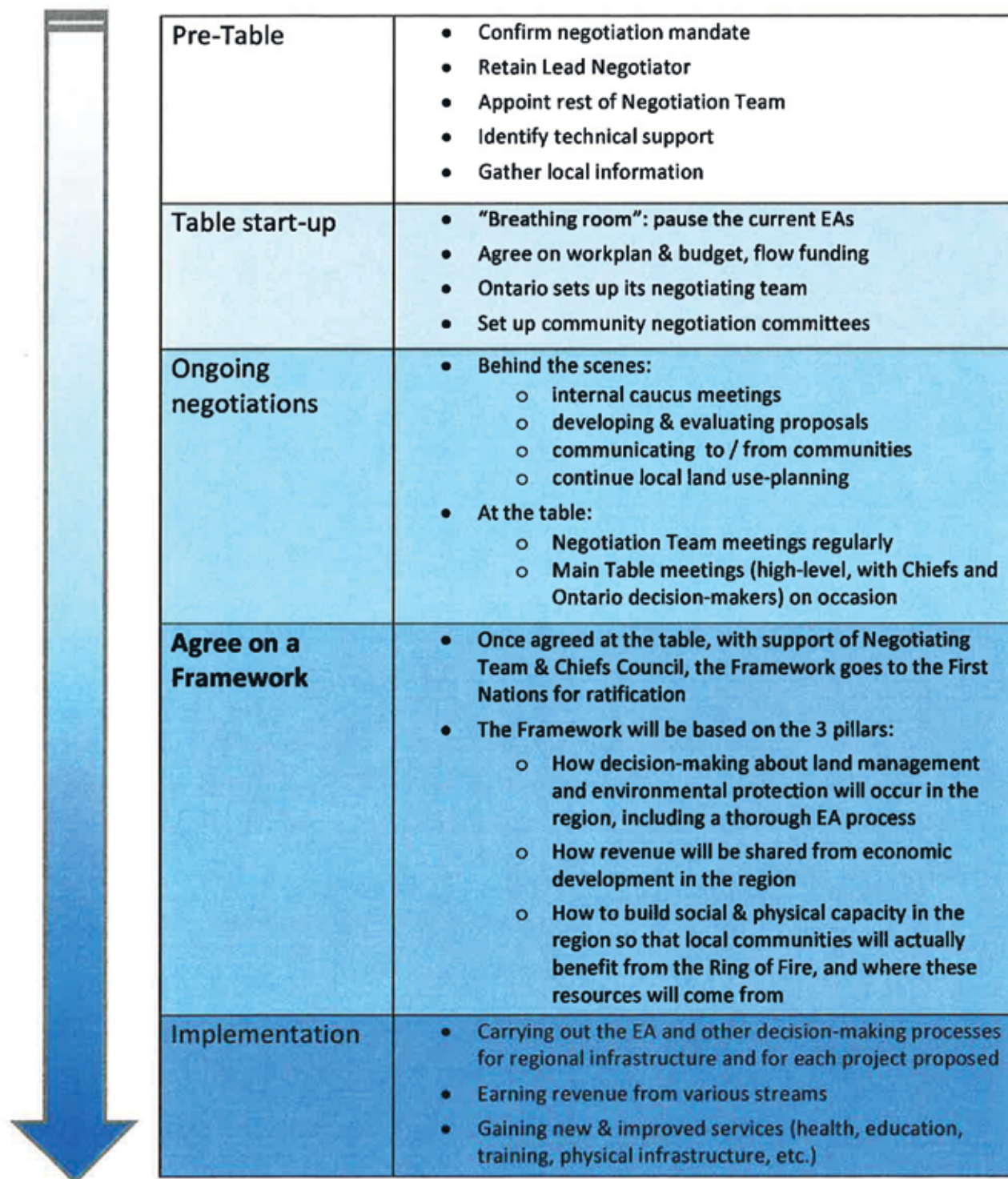
- Advises Chief & Council
- Dedicated time to work on the process & involve community

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

- Thorough consultation and review

5. Process: What is the flow of events?

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



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

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

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

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

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

6. What are the next steps?

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

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

Now is the time.

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

We the undersigned nine (9) First Nations;

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

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

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

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

This fundamental right has always rested with our people.

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

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

We are united in sharing a common vision
of being self-sufficient, self-governing peoples within a healthy, thriving culture,
living within our homelands that shall sustain us for all times.

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

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

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

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

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

THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION.

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

Office of the
Premier

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Cabinet de la
Première ministre

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1



May 10, 2013

Chief Sonny Gagnon
Aroland First Nation

Chief Roger Wesley
Constance Lake First Nation

Chief Harry Papah
Eabametoong First Nation

Chief Celia Echum
Ginoogaming First Nation

Chief Allan Towegishig
Long Lake #58 First Nation

Chief Elijah Moonias
Marten Falls First Nation

Chief Peter Moonias
Neskantaga First Nation

Chief Johnny Yellowhead
Nibinamik First Nation

Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie First Nation

Dear Chief Papah:

I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with me and ministers Gravelle and Zimmer on March 6. I truly appreciated the opportunity to share information and exchange constructive ideas on how we can better work together on the Ring of Fire initiative. Our discussions represent a historic opportunity to frame a new relationship — and ensure development in the Ring of Fire creates the benefits and opportunities that can improve economic prosperity and quality of life for your communities, while at the same time respecting traditional values.

I am pleased to say that our government agrees to your request to participate in a community-driven regional process of negotiation. In advancing this dialogue, you have indicated your collective interest in engaging Bob Rae to represent you. You have also asked Ontario to appoint a negotiator so that discussion can begin quickly. My office will be identifying a lead negotiator in the very near future.

We have always recognized that some aspects of the Ring of Fire initiative would best be developed in collaboration among communities. This is also reflected in our commitments announced on May 9, 2012, particularly with respect to regional infrastructure planning and regional environmental monitoring. I am pleased to see that these initiatives are also reflected in the proposal you presented on March 6. This gives me great hope that there is much common ground to build on, as we work together to make the Ring of Fire a success.

A key success factor will be ensuring that we continue our work with individual communities, while developing regional processes that ensure their voices are heard and their community interests are brought to the table. Communities will need to directly participate in discussion and decision-making on regional issues that affect them.

As part of that discussion, we hope to explore with you ways in which First Nations can have enhanced participation in the environmental assessment process. We would work to ensure that knowledge of the land shared by your community members is included in the environmental assessment process. We also propose to discuss regional land-use planning, guided by existing jointly led and community processes.

We have been working hard with communities to lay the framework for direct community benefits. Some of this work is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding or a Memorandum of Co-operation between Ontario and individual communities that set out our commitments to work together to ensure that opportunities translate to real and tangible benefits. We are committed to continuing this approach and are certainly interested in entering into similar types of agreements with other communities should you choose to do so. We also understand that some communities are negotiating individual agreements with companies undertaking mineral exploration activities in the area. We would discuss other forms of revenue-sharing with further enhanced discussions as we potentially move forward with later stages of mineral development.

Many of you spoke to the importance of education and other social supports that are critical to ensuring that your community members can participate in future economic opportunities. I could not agree more. We would work with you to invite the federal government to participate in negotiations and discussions on those areas — such as infrastructure and social supports — where we agree their participation is required. We believe a tripartite process — involving First Nations, Ontario and Canada — can be constructive in many cases. Providing the foundational supports to prepare communities for change and the opportunities and challenges this represents is a key aspect of our government's commitment to you announced on May 9, 2012.

Therefore, I am pleased to report that our government has approved enhanced funding supports for First Nations that can be used for capacity building in the process discussed above, as well as for community and social supports. More details on that will be forthcoming from the Ring of Fire Secretariat.

In the meantime, I have asked staff in the Ring of Fire Secretariat to begin to work with you on a potential budget and timelines, so that discussions can begin as soon as possible. It would be most helpful if you could identify a lead contact with whom we can begin to address these operational issues.

We are working to secure resources for translation of some key documents pertaining to this negotiated process, such as this letter, into Ojibwe, Oji-Cree and Cree. We recognize the need for community elders and members whose first language is not English to have knowledge and understanding of the process and of this development opportunity, especially as it relates to environmental assessment.

It will be important to maintain momentum as we forge this new relationship. I think we agree that we need to take action now, to ensure your communities see meaningful benefits. The Ring of Fire initiative represents a multi-generational opportunity that can help improve the quality of life for your communities for years to come. In partnership with you, we owe it to future generations.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

Michael Gravelle
Minister of Northern Development and Mines

David Zimmer
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

c: The Honourable Jim Bradley
Minister of the Environment

David Paul Achneepineskum
Matawa Tribal Council



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

MEDIA ADVISORY

National Chief Shawn Atleo to Attend Matawa First Nations Management Back to Our Roots Gathering III

National Chief Shawn Atleo, Assembly of First Nations (AFN), has confirmed his attendance at the Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) "Back to Our Roots Gathering III", hosted by Neskantaga First Nation November 6-8 2012. The National Chief will address the Gathering on Tuesday November 6 and will also meet with the Matawa Chiefs to discuss and address Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse (PDAM) and Ring of Fire Issues. The Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy, Chiefs of Ontario (COO), and Grand Chief Harvey Yesno, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) will also be attending the Gathering.

This is the third annual Matawa Back to Our Roots Gathering that has been dedicated to resolving PDAM at the community level. Many community members are participating in treatment programs. The communities now need to move forward with aftercare, community support and relapse prevention.

Keynote speaker Bridget Perrier will address the Gathering to dispel the myth that sex trade work is a choice, and also to talk about her life and her journey of recovery from prescription drug abuse and misuse.

For more information about the "Back to Our Roots Gathering III", regarding registration, organization or agenda contact: Pauline Mickelson, Matawa PDAM Coordinator, 807-344-4575 or Rhoda Angees, Neskantaga First Nation Health Director, 807-479-2515.

If your media outlet plans to attend, we ask that you contact the above persons to obtain a Registration Form which will assist with the logistics of providing accommodations and meals.

For information regarding the upcoming National Chief's meeting with Matawa Chiefs contact: David Paul Achneepineskum, MFNM CEO, 807-344-4575

To speak with the Keynote Speaker contact: Bridget Perrier 647-686-7619



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MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

MEDIA ADVISORY

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS GIVE SUPPORT FOR THE 'IDLE NO MORE' MOVEMENT

December 19, 2012 - "As we discussed earlier last week we need to step up and demonstrate our support for our fellow Chief, Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat First Nation, and the Idle-No-More Movement." says Chief Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation.

Through on-going support the nine member Matawa First Nations Chiefs and community members will be showing their support through a road block on highway 11 at the Geraldton Junction on Friday December 21, 2012 from 12:00 pm – 2:00pm. Chiefs and community members will block one lane in efforts to have a peaceful demonstration, while also providing people with information on the 'Idle No More' movement and Chief Theresa Spence.

IDLE NO MORE – ROAD BLOCK – GERADLTON

LOCATION: Geraldton Junction, Highway 11

DATE: Friday, December 21, 2012

TIME: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

The media is invited to attend this event. For more information please contact:

David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO Matawa First Nations Management
(807) 344-4575

Chief Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation
(705) 373-0419



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

A WIN FOR MATAWA FIRST NATIONS CANADA AND CLIFFS LOSE DECISION ON MOTIONS IN LEGAL PROCEEDING

Chiefs Reiterate Their Demand For An Immediate Halt to the Current Environmental Assessment Process

THUNDER BAY, ON. MARCH 19, 2013. - Matawa First Nations Chiefs welcome the decision by Madam Prothonotary Aronovitch of the Federal Court to deny motions filed by Canada and Cliffs in the Judicial Review (JR) proceeding that is examining the Environmental Assessment (EA) process in the Ring of Fire. The First Nations launched a legal challenge to the federal EA process for the Cliffs Chromite Project in early November 2011. Cliffs and Canada brought motions challenging some of the evidence of the First Nations in the case. On Friday March 15, 2013, Cliffs and Canada lost their motions on all counts. The Federal Court found that these motions caused "unnecessarily delay" in the proceeding. The court awarded costs to the First Nations, and set the case on an expedited schedule towards a hearing.

"Cliffs needs to halt the current EA process and negotiate an appropriate process with our First Nations. We believe the Court will agree with us on that too." said Chief Roger Wesley of Constance Lake First Nation.

"What we have now is a paper-based EA process, run completely outside of the communities affected, with no meaningful involvement of First Nations, and is non-transparent. It needs to be made accessible, by holding hearings in the First Nations and using an independent panel. The First Nations have made it very clear that they are willing to negotiate the parameters for an effective EA process," said Chief Sonny Gagnon of Aroland First Nation.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency decided on a Comprehensive Study EA process in 2011 for the Cliffs Chromite Project. The Matawa First Nations Chiefs have maintained that the process is on the wrong track and for two years have been demanding a better process. Proposed infrastructure alone for the Ring of Fire, Cliffs Chromite Project could cross several major rivers and 100 bodies of water in the ecologically sensitive traditional territories of the First Nations.

"I am concerned about the Tar Sands situation happening here, where accountability is buried in money, in particular the environmental process where companies spill poisons into the pristine waters of the Athabaska River, Slave Lake, McKenzie River and the other adjacent waters. We are talking about a project that can impact a fifth of the freshwater in Canada. The sponge bogs system of Muskege and



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water ways in the Ring of Fire need to be protected from this power play. Hence my distrust of the Comprehensive Study EA process.” said Chief Eli Moonias of Marten Falls First Nation.

Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) is a non-profit corporation and Tribal Council that provides advisory services to its nine member First Nations. The nine Member First Nations are:

- Remote (accessible by air or winter ice road) – Eabametoong First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Webequie First Nations;
- Road Access (accessible by provincial highways and roads) – Constance Lake First Nation, Aroland First Nation, Long Lake # 58 First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation.

The Matawa Chiefs Council is the political arm of Matawa First Nations. It is made up of a Chief from each of the nine member First Nations of MFNM. The Chiefs’ understanding of community needs allows them to lead Matawa in its government relations and policies.

The Ring of Fire is the name given to a geographical area located in Matawa First Nations traditional territories in Northern Ontario. It is in the James Bay Lowlands, which holds the largest collections of intact wetlands in the world. The Ring of Fire also holds immeasurable wealth in the form of precious metals and minerals, and has the potential to drive Ontario and Canada’s economy for decades.

For more information contact:

Chief Eli Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation – (807) 620-3279 Band Office (807) 349-2509
 Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation – (807) 621-3611 Band Office (807) 479-2570
 Chief Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First – (705) 373-0419 Band Office (705) 463-4511
 Chief Allan Towegishig, Long Lake 58 First Nation – (705) 621-1970 Band Office (807) 876-2292
 Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation – (807) 854-8940 Band Office (807) 876-2422
 Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation – (807) 630-7096 Band Office (807) 242-7221
 Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation – (807) 620-7195 Band Office (807) 329-5970



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MEDIA RELEASE

MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL MAKE IT OFFICIAL BOB RAE TO BE FIRST NATIONS' NEGOTIATOR FOR RING OF FIRE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ONTARIO

Thunder Bay, May 10, 2013 – The Matawa Chiefs Council announced today that the Honourable Bob Rae, former federal leader of the Liberal Party and former Premier of Ontario, will be Chief Negotiator for Matawa First Nations during regional strategy negotiations with the Province of Ontario.

The Chiefs met with Mr. Rae this week to talk about regional and local issues, and to discuss the next steps in regards to proposed negotiations with the Province. Mr. Rae will tour all of the Matawa First Nations over the next few months and meet with the community members.

Although there has been no official response to the Chiefs' proposal for a regional strategy negotiation framework, which was presented to the Premier on March 6, 2013, the Chiefs are moving ahead to prepare for the negotiations. The Chiefs reiterate their call for both levels of government to ensure that EA processes in their traditional territories provide for full participation by First Nations in a culturally appropriate manner and in their native languages.

For more information contact:

Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nations – Cell: (807) 620-7195 Band Office: (807) 329-5970
 Chief Roger Wesely, Constance Lake First Nation– Cell: (705) 373-0419 Band Office: (705) 463-2222
 Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation– Cell: (807) 630-7096 Band Office: (807) 242-7221
 Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation– Cell: (807) 854-8940 Band Office: (807) 876-2422
 Chief Elijah Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation– Cell: (807) 620-3297 Band Office: (807) 349-2509
 Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation– Cell: (807) 621-3611 Band Office: (807) 479-2570
 Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation– Cell: (807) 630-6005 Band Office: (807) 593-2131
 Chief Allan Towegishig, Long Lake #58 First Nation– Cell: (807) 987-3986 Band Office: (807) 876-2292
 Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation– Cell: (807) 621-1970 Band Office: (807) 353-5251

Anita Fraser, Matawa Communications Manager-Cell:(807) 621-1220 Office: (807) 346-3677
 Grace Winter, Matawa Communications Officer- Office: (807) 346-6517



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From Left to Right: Chief Johnny Yellowhead-Nibinamik First Nation, Chief Harry Papah-Eabametoong First Nation, Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation, The Honorable Bob Rae, Chief Allan Towegishig-Long Lake #58, Chief Sonny Gagnon-Aroland First Nation, Chief Celia Echum-Ginoogaming First Nation, Chief Roger Wesley-Constance Lake First Nation, Chief Peter Moonias-Neskantaga First Nation

Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) is a Tribal Council that provides advisory and support services to nine member First Nations in Northern Ontario.

Matawa Chiefs Council is comprised of the Chiefs from the nine member First Nations of MFNM.

Ring of Fire (ROF) is the name given to a mineral rich area situated in First Nation traditional territories around Northern Ontario. The proposed developments, Black Thor and Eagles Nest, are on the Muketi



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River. All nine Matawa member First Nations will be impacted by the ROF development and/or associated infrastructure. The First Nations have been pro-development since 1670 however they agree that First Nations must receive maximum benefits from resource development in their territories, and that the development must be sustainable, responsible, and undergo an appropriate environmental assessment.

Environmental Assessment Process. The Ring of Fire is located in one of the largest carbon sinks in the world next to the Amazon rainforest. The First Nations would like to understand more about this carbon sink and what it will do to the air if it is let to ruin. The current fast-track EA process will not allow the impacted First Nations to make a proactive stance.

For two years the First Nation Chiefs have been demanding that the EA process for the ROF be changed from the current Comprehensive Study EA, to a Joint Review Panel EA, or a negotiated EA process. The current process does not allow for proper consultation with First Nations, has an inappropriate timeline, does not consider the accumulated impacts of more than one mine, and is mostly a paper driven process.

The proposed infrastructure for the Cliffs Chromite project will cross 100 bodies of water and 4 major rivers in a sensitive ecosystem located in the James Bay Lowlands. The Lowlands are part of the Boreal Forest, which contains the largest series of intact wetlands in the world and sequester 25 years of the world's carbon emissions.

Judicial Review. Several Matawa First Nations filed a Judicial Review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's decision to use the Comprehensive Study. Earlier this year Cliffs and the Government of Canada lost a motion to have Matawa evidence kept out of the court proceeding. The Adjudicator, in her decision, also directed that the Judicial Review be fast tracked citing that the motions had delayed the proceedings. A decision is expected by the fall of 2013.



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

Media Release

MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL CALLS ON THE CROWN ATTORNEY TO APPEAL THE VERDICT IN THE CASE OF OPP CONSTABLE BELLEFEUILLE

Thunder Bay, ON, May 13, 2013 – The Matawa Chiefs Council is calling on the Crown Attorney to appeal the verdict in the case of OPP Constable Brian Bellefeuille. The Chiefs are in full support of Aroland First Nation in its call for justice. The Chiefs have sent a letter to the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, encouraging the Crown Counsel to file an appeal.

The call for an appeal stems from an incident that was recorded on video tape in the cell of an Aroland First Nation member, where he was handcuffed and thrown to the floor, sustaining injuries to his head, and broken bones in his face. The OPP Special Investigations (SIU) unit charged Constable Brian Bellefeuille with assault causing bodily harm. Bellefeuille was recently found not guilty.

The Chiefs believe his incident and the subsequent verdict has damaged relationships between the OPP and First Nation people in this region, and will affect people's ability to come forward with information about cases to the OPP. There is fear by First Nations people that the level of force used by the OPP officer in this case will become the norm due to this decision. First Nations people in the region are also concerned about racial profiling and the fact that there is no cross-cultural training for new officers.

For More Information Contact:
Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
Aroland Band Office - 807-329-5970
Cell 807-320-7195

Aroland First Nation is Ojibway and Oji-Cree community with a population of 325 people, situated in Northern Ontario. It is located along the Canadian Nation Railway Line approximately 20 KMs from Nakina, ON in the Thunder Bay District. Aroland is a member of Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM).



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Media Release

Chilean Indigenous Representatives Meet With Matawa Chiefs

Thunder Bay, Ontario – August 20, 2012: A delegation of Government officials and Indigenous Peoples from Chile met with Matawa First Nations Chiefs today to exchange information and discuss issues surrounding sustainable mining in Aboriginal territories.

It was a very emotional moment for Chilean visitors and Matawa Chiefs and staff when the opening drum ceremony finished. One member of the Chilean delegation began to cry, stating that she didn't know what she was feeling. Another commented on how moving the drum was and what a connection it must be to the earth.

"I visited the Maori in New Zealand earlier this year and I think I know how they feel," said Chief Johnny Yellowhead of Nibinimik First Nation, "I felt overwhelmed meeting the other keepers of Mother Earth when I first met with the Maori. That is what we are, the keepers of Mother Earth, and when we meet, it is significant. The Maori's came to visit our Chiefs earlier this month at our AGM in Webiquie. We have a lot to learn from each other's experiences."

"It is amazing how much our First Nations have in common with other Indigenous Peoples around the world. They are dealing with similar issues in their territories, even with some of the same mining companies that we have here in Northern and Northwestern Ontario, including Goldcorp Inc. and Barrick Gold Corporation. It helps to share information and strategies," said Chief Harry Papah of Eabametoong First Nation.

"The Chilean visitors have had similar issues with consultation, accommodation and consent as we have, and they have environmental concerns about their lands too. I am glad we are having this meeting and also the meeting earlier this month with the Maori. Industry and governments continue to move ahead in our territories without appropriate consultation and accommodation or consent. The more we meet with other Indigenous Peoples, the less we feel alone, and the more empowered we feel. I think Indigenous Peoples around the world are coming together in a global movement to exercise our rights according to the United Nations Charter. It can only make us stronger. We feel the bond of our connection to the land and of our cultures," said Chief Roger Wesley of Constance Lake First Nation.

The meeting was scheduled after a request was made earlier this month from an international consultant representing the Chilean Government officials and the Indigenous delegation. During their visit to Canada, the Chilean representatives will attend various meetings in parts of the country, and tour mining operations.

Yesterday in Toronto, the Chileans met with the National Resources Canada Minerals and Metals Sector (MMS) to discuss technical and social sustainability, sustainable intervention models, and public and private collaboration tools and agreements with the First Nations. On Wednesday, following their Matawa meeting, they will travel to Marathon to study the Environmental Management Systems and Sustainability Programs of the Hemlo Gold Mine. They will also meet with the Ojibways of the Pic River, and the community of Pic Mobert to share experiences about the Hemlo Gold Mine Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Cooperation Agreement.

For more information contact:

Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation Tel: 807-242-7221



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION #01 – 21/02/2013

ACCEPTANCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

WHEREAS with current and future economic development opportunities across the Matawa Region, member First Nations will need more technical expertise and support to meet those needs; and

WHEREAS on July 9, 2012, Matawa First Nations Management re-establishment the Economic Development Department with the directive to establish an Economic Development Committee and;

WHEREAS the committee is intended to support and compliment the efforts of the Matawa Economic Development Department and is designed to reflect the diversity of interests and wide range of experience and expertise available within the member First Nations; and

WHEREAS the Matawa First Nations Unity Declaration further emphasizes the benefits of the member First Nations working together to build capacity and coordinating regional-scoped projects and activities; and

WHEREAS the member First Nations Economic Development Officers recognizes a need to work together to ensure their respective communities capture and maximize economic development opportunities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs accept the Economic Development Committee Terms of Reference as presented and authorize the member First Nations Economic Development staff to work together to leverage the economic development initiatives of our communities and our Region under the Terms of Reference; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs direct Matawa First Nations Management to advocate on the Economic Development Committee's behalf for funding and support for all its projects, priorities and activities.

MOVED BY: Chief Allen Towegishig, Long Lake #58 First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation

Carried.

Dated in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the 21st day of February, 2013.

Chiefs Present: (9)

Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Chief Allan Towegishig, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

Chief Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation

Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation

Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation

Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation

Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

Councillor Grace Bottle, Marten Falls First Nation



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION #02 – 21/02/2013

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES CONTRACTS WITH FIRST NATIONS

WHEREAS the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) has various programs which are aimed at improving the lives of young people; and

WHEREAS First Nations leadership and staff know the needs of their communities and children and have the capacity to either hire staff or contract with various service agencies for appropriate services; and

WHEREAS there is a need to bring better integration of services coming into First Nations within their respective Health and Social Services Departments.

WHEREAS First Nations would like to enter into direct funding agreements with the MCYS to better service their membership;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Ministry of Children and Youth Services be mandated to enter into Contracts with First Nations for service delivery where First Nations deem appropriate and ensuring each First Nation is funded for a minimum of one full time counsellor, and that the Minister of Children and Youth Services meet with Matawa First Nations Chiefs.

Moved by: Chief Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation

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

Carried.

Dated in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the 21st day of February, 2013.

Chiefs Present:

Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
Chief Allan Towegishig, Long Lake # 58 First Nation
Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
Chief Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation
Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation
Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation
Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
Councillor Grace Bottle, Marten Falls First Nation



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

Resolution # 01 - 10/4/13

MATAWA BROADBAND UPGRADING SUPPORT MOTION: Phase II

WHEREAS there is a need for upgraded broadband with fibre options in all Matawa First Nations; and

WHEREAS the current initiatives have not provided timely, appropriate and financially viable operations to the First Nations; and

WHEREAS there is a need to have more detailed information for communities to make decisions on Broadband opportunities, routing, partnership development; and

WHEREAS the Matawa First Nations will need to develop a proposal to FedNor, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, and other funders which will support additional community engagement and fact finding; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs support a developmental proposal for expanded Broadband Services the First Nations will all the various community and technical information to make decisions.

Moved by: Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Carried (5):

Dated in Timmins, Ontario, the 10th day of April 2013.

Chiefs Present:

Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
 Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
 Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
 Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation
 Councilor Robinson Meshake, Proxy, Aroland First Nation



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

Resolution # 2-10/4/13

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION AND SUPPORT OFFICER

Whereas: Amendments to Ontario's Mining Act have introduced new regulatory requirements at early exploration stages of the mining sequence (plans and permits).

Whereas: These requirements include formal notice and consultation with First Nation communities whose rights may be adversely affected by proposed mineral exploration activities;

Whereas: This may place increased demands on First Nation communities to review and respond to notices and technical information they receive;

Whereas: Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) has been providing advisory and support to Matawa communities, as well as the First Nation Community Communication Liaison Officers, the Mineral Tech Committees, Economic Development Officers, and Environmental Monitoring personnel;

Whereas: MNDM has offered to fund a Mineral Development Information and Support Officer at the Tribal Council level to assist CCLOs, Mineral Tech Committee, Chief and Council and other community members and personnel with support and information sharing regarding plans and permits and mineral development;

Whereas: The person in the position would have technical expertise and understanding of the mining sequence, mineral development, environment and EAs, plans and permitting, and the new Mining Act regulations, as well as experience with information flow, communications processes, community processes, and facilitation skills;

Therefore be it resolved that the Matawa Chiefs support creating a position for a Mineral Development Information and Support Officer to assist First Nations with plans and permits as required and with information sharing, communications, capacity building and support to understand the proposed plans and permits and their impact on the community, as well as other mineral development information as requested by First Nations.

Further be it resolved that the Mineral Development Support and Information Officer be jointly supported and managed by Four Rivers and Matawa Communications at MFNM, and

Finally be it resolved that the Mineral Development and Support Information Officer Proposal include additional funding for computers at the First Nation level to take on added responsibility and that this training position be multi-year funded.

Moved by: Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation

Seconded by: Councilor Robinson Meshake, Aroland First Nation

Carried (5):

Dated in Timmins, Ontario, the 10th day of April 2013.

Chiefs Present:

Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation

Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation

Councilor Robinson Meshake, Proxy, Aroland First Nation



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 02-- 10/05/13

Appeal of OPP Assault Case

Whereas an officer of the Geraldton District Ontario Provincial Police was investigated by the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) for assault causing bodily harm; and

Whereas the Officer was charged by the Crown-Attorney for assault causing bodily harm to an Aroland First Nation member; and

Whereas there was a video of the incident which clearly shows the Aroland Member with his hands cuffed behind his back and in a cell, through down on the floor by a OPP officer. At that time, a second OPP Officer was present in the cell and a security guard was standing by; and

Whereas the Aroland member's head was cracked open on the cement floor and bone were broken in his face; and

Whereas the officer was found not-guilty by a Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice on May 3, 2013; and

Whereas there were errors in fact in the findings based on what was said during the court case and on the video; and

Whereas this incident has clearly damaged relationships between the OPP and First Nation people in this region, and will affect people's ability to come forward with information about cases to the OPP; and

Whereas there is fear by First Nations people that excessive force by the OPP will become the norm due to this decision; and

Whereas it has affected First Nations people's perception of the justice system that there is one law for First Nations people and another for OPP officers, where racial profiling is normal and there is no cross- cultural training for new officers in regional stations;

Whereas the Crown Attorney is deciding on whether to appeal this decision;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs support Aroland First Nation call for an appeal of this case by the Crown Attorney to the Ontario Court of Appeal; and

Be It Further Resolved that Matawa First Nations Chiefs ask Nishanwbe-Aski Legal Services and the Nishnawbe-Ask Nation Executive to work with the Matawa First Nation Chiefs and call upon the Crown Attorney to appeal this case.

Moved by: Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Allen Towegishig, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Carried (8)

Dated in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the 10th day of May, 2013.

Chiefs Present:

Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
 Chief Allan Towegishig, Long Lake # 58 First Nation
 Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
 Chief Roger Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation
 Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
 Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation
 Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation
 Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation



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CHIEFS COUNCIL

*RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs Council passed at the
24th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Webequie First Nation to be effective from and after
3:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time on the 2nd day of August 2012.*

RESOLUTION #08 – 08-02-12

SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF KKETS REGIONAL TRAINING PLAN

WHEREAS: Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen (KKETS) was established to support the community training needs of the Matawa member First Nations, especially in light of the mineral and infrastructure development in the region;

AND WHEREAS: under the direction of KKETS Board of Directors, a Regional Training Committee was formed to assist with the development of proposals and a Regional Training Plan for the Matawa member First Nations;

AND WHEREAS: research was completed in the form of surveys within the Matawa member First Nations with data being compiled to create a skills inventory to support such proposals and plans;

AND WHEREAS: the skills inventory provides our First Nations and KKETS Regional Training Committee with key statistics on the gaps in the levels of education attainment, training certification and work experience of our peoples and was used to develop a Regional Training plan to meet the demands and needs identified;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; in order to decrease the chronic level of unemployment in our communities and take advantage of the economic opportunities forthcoming, KKETS requires support and funding to carry out the training and skills upgrading identified in the implementation of the Regional Training Plan;

AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED: that the 24th Annual Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support KKETS Regional Training Plan and direct them to apply for funding to Ontario, Canada, industry and other sources to acquire the funding required to implement the KKETS Regional Training Plan and increase capacity to provide enhanced skills training programs.

MOVED BY: Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation

ABSTENTIONS: 0

CARRIED: Motion carried.


Chief Executive Officer



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MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference



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Prepared for the 25th Annual General Meeting

July 30 to August 1, 2013 | Hosted by Long Lake #58 First Nation

