



## CHIEFS COUNCIL

Monday June 8, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office, Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

### RE: MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL – ONTARIO ACTION PLAN FOR JOBS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Dear Premier Ford;

We hope it is in good health that you receive this letter.

The purpose of this letter is to provide a direct response from the Matawa Chiefs Council with respect to Ontario's commitment announced on April 27, 2020 for First Nations [Indigenous Partners] discussions and input into the Ontario 'Action Plan' by the Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee.

In terms of the significant financial rebound required in order for Ontario's jobs and economic recovery to be realized– the Matawa member First Nations have maintained the position that our communities will have a vital and important role in the new emerging northern economy. The development of the North will restart and drive the Ontario and Canadian economy for the next century and will require innovative thinking to improve the lives of First Nations.

A consistent message by the Matawa Chiefs Council has been the importance of certainty and equitable meaningful partnerships between the province of Ontario, industry and our First Nations in order to achieve appropriate and sustainable long-term development in the North. Given the unprecedented public health and economic situation now facing Ontario and Canada, the Matawa Chiefs Council want to ensure that all options and parties will be considered in moving forward with development in our region and homelands.

The Matawa Chiefs Council propose that discussions be established between the Matawa member First Nations and our treaty partners Ontario and Canada to explore the opportunities before us and develop a results-oriented and comprehensive First Nation – government – industry and public process. These discussions will be essential for us to work together to identify mutual needs and goals throughout our region, and then to take strategic actions as partners in improving life. The situation we are all faced with demands our cooperation and shared actions in the spirit of the Treaty.

In closing, the challenges that face the economic recovery of Ontario and Canada could be resolved by working together to build on partnerships and certainty. The Matawa Chiefs Council look forward to your response.





## CHIEFS COUNCIL

Sincerely,  
**MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL**

*Chiefs Council Quorum (5)  
Signatures Authorized for Letter*

**[Authorized]**  
Chief Dorothy Towedo  
Aroland First Nation

Chief Rick Allen  
Constance Lake First Nation

**[Authorized]**  
Chief Harvey Yesno  
Eabametoong First Nation

**[Authorized]**  
Deputy Chief Sheri Taylor  
Deputy Chief Maurice Waboose  
Ginoogaming First Nation

**[Authorized]**  
Chief Judy Desmoulin  
Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum  
Marten Falls First Nation

Chief Chris Moonias  
Neskantaga First Nation

Chief Sheldon Oskineegish  
Nibinamik First Nation

**[Authorized]**  
Chief Cornelius Wabasse  
Webequie First Nation

- The Matawa Chiefs Council and Matawa First Nations consists of nine (9) First Nations and respect the autonomy of each member First Nation.
- This statement is without prejudice to the positions Long Lake #58 First Nation takes, or may take, on the issue of whether Long Lake #58 First Nation is a party to any Treaty.
- The Matawa Chiefs Council reserves the right to re-assess and further it's positions on this issue.

cc: *Matawa Chiefs Council  
Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
Ontario Regional Chief Rosanne Archibald, Chiefs of Ontario  
Her Honour the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, OC, OOnt  
Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee  
Minister Carolyn Bennett, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs*

