



Matawa First Nations Management

2020 Message

from the
CEO



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Another great year has come and gone for the Matawa First Nations. I believe it's been a good year for all of us. I believe that growth in an organization is essential but it must be done with the support of our First Nations. Growth must be community driven and community owned. I believe that has been our vision on how Matawa would provide our services.

One of the critical services that has been initiated is the broadband fibre project. This project is different from other projects that have been taken place in other First Nations. This fibre which will be installed in our remote First Nations will be owned and completely operated by our First Nations. The other advantage is that fibre will be connected to every home, institution, and businesses in our communities. I believe this is a tremendous achievement for our First Nations. You will see in a separate report the opportunities this fibre will bring to our Peoples of the Land. Although this phase one of our overall connectivity plans is only for remote communities, we are working on phase two of the project which will connect the road access communities to fibre to the home as well. We hope to get this phase two project going within the next 12 months.

As you are aware, there is a global crisis, a pandemic called COVID-19 which is impacting the lives of people across the world. Our First Nations and Matawa have taken steps to advert a potential deadly disaster amongst our Peoples. All of our First Nations have gone into lockdown to prevent loss of life. So far, I believe it has worked. But still, we still need to be vigilant and take extreme precautions to keep our communities safe. We know it has created hardships for our Peoples. Currently in the country just south of us "Kichi Mookiiman Aki," the pandemic is causing many hardships. Unfortunately, some of those impacted are our brothers and sisters of other Nations. Our hearts and prayers are with them. In our history, this is not a first case of a pandemic that will have deadly consequences to our Peoples. We can go back almost 100 years ago when a sickness called the Spanish Flu caused many deaths and hardships for our Peoples of the Land. That is why as First Nations we must take extreme measures to ensure the health and safety of our loves. I wish you good health and I want to encourage you to take heed of the warnings and the preventable measures to keep your family safe.

On behalf of our staff from Matawa First Nations Management, Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS), Matawa Education and Care Centre, Four Rivers Environmental Services Group, Matawa Health Cooperative and our new organization, Awashishewiigihiwaywiin (Social Services Framework), we will do whatever it takes to work with our First Nations to achieve their goals. We are there to provide professional and dedicated support for our First Nations. We are committed to our Peoples of the Land and to our Leadership.

