



CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 33rd Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Thunder Bay, Ontario to be effective from and after 1:00pm Eastern Standard time on September 16, 2021.

RESOLUTION #06-16-09-2021

EXPANSION OF MATAWA HEALTH COOPERATIVE: PHYSICIAN SERVICES

WHEREAS in 2017, Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), Eabametoong First Nation and Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) entered into a tripartite partnership agreement (supported by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care) with the goal to increase the number of family physicians in our Matawa communities; and

WHEREAS through this agreement, a First Nation Remote Residency Program was developed to address the significant gap in family physician care in the North. This unique program would assist in recruiting/educating/training residents to work/live in the remote communities within the Matawa territory; and

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario School of Medicine obtained financial support from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to establish this residency program but Matawa First Nations Management was not successful in securing funding to support the salaries of the residents upon completion of the program (return of service – 2 years); and

WHEREAS the Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC) submitted a business plan (Feb 2020) to expand their existing physician services to the Ministry of Health, to take on the students graduating from NOSM in the Remote First Nations Residency Stream and others; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Health has not as of yet provided funding to the MHC to expand physician services a year later, as per the request and even as amended request (submitted March 2021); and

WHEREAS the Matawa Health Cooperative has employed one physician thus far from the Remote Residency Stream, but the funding for this position is not sustainable; and

WHEREAS the underfunding of the (MHC) to expand their physician services, puts MHC at high risk at losing this valuable program and medical staff for the Matawa communities; and





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WHEREAS, the Matawa Chiefs Council acknowledge the underfunding of the Matawa Health Cooperative: Physician Services Program can have detrimental effects on overall health and well-being of their members; and

WHEREAS 2.8 out of every 10 deaths in our communities could potentially have been **delayed** by earlier medical or public health interventions as identified in the *Mamow-Ahyamowen Partnership – Matawa First Nations Mortality and Morbidity Review (2019)*.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council support the expansion of the Matawa Health Co-operative: Physician Services Program to take on the additional graduates of the Remote First Nations Residency Program; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that funding be provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to support these physicians with appropriate compensation, including remoteness factors that make it different from an urban practice; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that funding be provided to the Matawa Health Co-operative to provide proper administrative support services to physicians and all health staff in the areas of technology, human resources, finances, and accommodations.

MOVED BY: Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake # 58 First Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation

OPPOSED: None.
ABSENCES: None.
CARRIED: Consensus (X)



Chief Executive Officer

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APPROVED BY: COM MGR



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