



## CHIEFS COUNCIL

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

### RESOLUTION #07-16-09-2021

#### MATAWA HEALTH COOPERATIVE: PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE

**WHEREAS** Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) has a complex system that results in jurisdictional ambiguity related to health care delivery, making Matawa member First Nations vulnerable to public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS** in January 2021, the Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC) received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health to employ one (1) Public Health Lead and nine (9) Public Health Nurses to assist the Matawa member First Nations with COVID-19 public health support (COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, screening, contact tracing, educational support, etc.) for one year; and

**WHEREAS** through this one-year arrangement with the Ontario Ministry of Health, it has revealed a definite need for a long-term arrangement for public health ~~nursing~~ for the Matawa communities, as they contribute in many important ways to the improvement of our people's overall health and well-being, focusing on disease, disability and injury prevention and health promotion; and

**WHEREAS** the MHC would like to submit a request for funding to expand their public health ~~nursing~~ program to include an additional six (6) public health nurses, one (1) public health manager, one (1) public health analyst and one (1) public health nursing practice consultant to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC); 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)*.

**WHEREAS** the Matawa Chiefs Council acknowledge that not funding this public health ~~nursing~~ initiative can have detrimental effects on overall health and well-being of their members.





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**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the application by the Matawa Health Cooperative to preserve their current Public Health Initiative program and to expand the program to support the ongoing need for public health services in the Matawa member First Nations; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that funding be provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Indigenous Services Canada with appropriate compensation, including remoteness factors; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that funding be provided to the Matawa Health Cooperative to provide proper administrative support services to public health staff in the areas of technology, human resources, finances and accommodations.

**MOVED BY:** Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation  
**SECONDED BY:** Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

**OPPOSED:** None.  
**ABSENTIONS:** None.  
**CARRIED:** Consensus (X)

Chief Executive Officer

QMS #: COM TEM 008  
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APPROVED BY: COM MGR

