



CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 26th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Marten Falls First Nation to be effective from and after 1:00pm Eastern Standard time on July 31, 2014

RESOLUTION #17-31-07-14

SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

WHEREAS, a safe and sustainable water supply is a critical element of all life on earth and the lack of access to safe drinking water has adverse physical and psychological effects; and

WHEREAS, a number of Matawa First Nations communities continue to live with unsafe drinking water, which is having detrimental effects on their health, safety, and overall well being, and the Matawa Chiefs Council of the 26th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly have grave concerns about the provision of potable water; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Expert Panel on Safe Drinking Water for First Nations concluded that “the Federal Government has never provided enough funding to First Nations to ensure that the quantity and quality of their water systems was comparable to that of off-reserve communities”¹; and

WHEREAS, Neskantaga First Nation presently has a boil water advisory that has been in place for nearly twenty (20) years and many Matawa First Nations communities also have water treatment facilities that are not in compliance with current regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act was passed into law on June 19, 2013 and regulations regarding the quality of drinking water, the training and certification of water and wastewater system operators; the treatment of water and wastewater; the monitoring, testing, sampling and reporting; and the protection of sources of drinking water located on reserve will soon be adopted increasing First Nations’ liabilities; and

WHEREAS, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) continues to provide bottled water and reverse osmosis units, often at a very high cost to First Nations for communities with unsafe drinking water, instead of addressing the problem; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council of the 26th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly are committed to the provision of high quality safe drinking water to all Matawa First Nations community members; and





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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council of the 26th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly call on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to implement an effective safe interim system to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to Matawa First Nation Communities in addition to fast tracking the provision of the capital investments required to upgrade or replace the existing water treatment plants and distribution systems on Matawa First Nations in order that they meet or exceed current provincial regulations.

1 – Expert Panel on Safe Drinking Water for First Nations. 2006. Report of the Expert Panel on Safe Drinking Water for First Nations, vol.1. Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, pp. 22, 49-50.

MOVED BY: Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Elijah K. Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation
ABSTENTIONS: None
CARRIED: Yes

Chief Executive Officer

