



# CHIEFS COUNCIL

*RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Aroland First Nation to be effective from and after 1:00pm Eastern Standard time on July 30, 2015*

## **RESOLUTION #18 – 30-07-15**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF A STRONGER ABORIGINAL WORKFORCE FOR THE FOREST INDUSTRY**

**WHEREAS** there has been positive signs of a rebound for the forest industry with the restart of the AV Terrace Bay Pulp Mill in Terrace Bay, Ontario and the Longlac Lumber Inc. sawmill in Longlac, Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** the Matawa First Nations with traditional territories in the Kenogami Forest and Ogoki Forest are pursuing long term forest management licenses for these forest management units and are identifying business and employment opportunities associated with the delivery of wood fibre and potential ownership of consuming mills; and

**WHEREAS** Kiikenogama Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS) has been delivering employment related services and training through various federal human resources funding programs as a local delivery mechanism with a mandate to develop a strong Aboriginal workforce for the Matawa First Nations; and

**WHEREAS** KKETS has faced challenges in securing employment for graduates of the Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program and the Ring of Fire Aboriginal Training Alliance project due to union issues and other timelines for the Ring of Fire Development that don't meet our First Nations timelines; and

**WHEREAS** many of the KKETS graduates have obtained their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and other trades based skills certificates that could be transferrable to other sectors including forestry; and

**WHEREAS** there is the potential for our First Nations to create the business entities to employ our people in the consuming mills and other forestry related employment in harvesting, road construction, silviculture, and management; and

**WHEREAS** our First Nations Peoples will need job specific training to secure forestry positions that require technical skills and a high school diploma; and





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**WHEREAS** our First Nations Peoples will need retention based programming to provide life skills training and support for our people to maintain in good standing with their employers;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Economic Development Department to work in partnership with KKETS to secure funding through the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs for a regional training project to upgrade the education attainment and technical skills levels of our First Nations Peoples to increase their employability in the forest industry.

**MOVED BY:** Chief Allen Towegishig, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

**SECONDED BY:** Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

**ABSTENTIONS:**

**CARRIED:** (9)

  
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Chief Executive Officer

