



2015 / 2016 Annual Report

Prepared for the 28th Annual General Meeting
July 26 - 28, 2016
Hosted by Eabametoong First Nation



Some Milestones This Year...





Matawa First Nations Management

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Matawa First Nations Management Message

from the
President of the Board



Watcheya,

It is with great privilege and honour that the Matawa Annual General Meeting is once again upon us as we, the First Nations Peoples, take the opportunity to sit together in unity and as one.

As my colleagues on the Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors have shared many times around the table, it has been a busy year for most of us within the Matawa First Nation Management communities embarking in new opportunities and creating new successes.

Today and everyday, we work together for a brighter and promising future for:

- **Our way of life**
- **Our values**
- **Our children**
- **Our community**
- **Our culture and a healthier life style for tomorrow**

With the new federal government elected in October 2015, Matawa communities will see more infrastructure especially dealing with ending boil water advisories.

We are hopeful that action towards ending the lack of safe drinking water in our communities will be swift in the coming year. As this takes place, Matawa will be working with our communities to ensure we maximize available funding.

Other priority areas will include continuing to work with our First Nations to address capacity building in finance and administration of First Nations governance especially those communities who are in third party or co-management positions.

As a Tribal Council, there is a lot of work to do to support our First Nations.

On behalf of the 2015/2016 Board of Directors, it has been a pleasure serving our Peoples.

Remember now, and never forget that: our land is our home, and our home is our land.

Meegwetch misiway,

Darius Ferris
President of the Board of Directors



Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors

President

Darius Ferris

Constance Lake First Nation

Vice President

Frank Onabigon

Long Lake #58 First Nation

Secretary / Treasurer

Maurice Waboose

Ginoogaming First Nation

Robinson Meshake

Aroland First Nation

Charlie Okees

Eabametoong First Nation

Stanley Oskineegish

Nibinamik First Nation

Sharon Sakanee

Neskantaga First Nation

Roy Spence

Webequie First Nation

Vacant

Marten Falls First Nation





Matawa First Nations Management

Message

from the
CEO

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference

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BOOSHOO/WACHEYA MIISAWEH ANISHINABEK, ANISHINNIWUG MIINA INNINIWUG

It has been 10 years since I had the opportunity of returning to Matawa. It has been a time of growth for our member First Nations communities but more importantly, for our Peoples. I remember at our meeting there were discussions about policing or the lack of services thereof. Here we are, ten years later, with the same issues about policing. I believe discussions were quite extensive and many recommendations came out of these discussions. One resolution that did come from the Chiefs Assembly was a direction for NAPS to create a new central division which covers the Matawa area. I believe this has been accomplished.

Another issue was the matter of the Kenogami Forest which opposed the interim transfer of the Kenogami Forest Management Unit (FMU) Licence to Buchanan Forest Products. The resolution called upon the government of Ontario to recognize that First Nations needed to be the majority stakeholders in this new Kenogami FMU licence. Furthermore, the resolution directed the ability

for First Nations to direct the wood volume to the best price, provide jobs to their members, respect traditional livelihoods and knowledge. There was also mention of First Nations needing to be involved in revenue sharing of these resources within their territories. As you are all aware, the Matawa First Nations communities jointly filed a judicial review to formally oppose this FMU with the above mentioned forestry. But I believe it is through this action that the Matawa communities within the Kenogami and Ogoki Forest Units have now been able to have a major say on the management of these two forest management units. I believe, through the Chiefs united front, they were able to achieve success in this area.

One of the biggest issues was the matter of the Northern Table Agreement between NAN and Ontario which was unanimously opposed by the Matawa Chiefs and the resolution called for a suspension of talks with Ontario until all the NAN Chiefs have met to discuss this matter in a strategic session. The Northern Table has since been put on the shelf as First Nations began to exercise their Inherent and Treaty rights.

The three issues that I have specifically mentioned have been decided and acted upon by the Matawa Chiefs in a strong united stand. I believe this was the basis that the Chiefs, on July 13th, 2011, formally adopted the *Mamow-Wecheekapawetahteewiin Standing Together Unity Declaration*. I believe this declaration finally brought our nine Matawa communities together as one.

I believe by standing together as one we can realize success in achieving in prosperous negotiations on the Regional Framework, not only in mining and other industries as well, but keeping in mind our traditional values and practises in building a better future for our communities and our Peoples of the Lands.

We need to continue in exerting our Inherent and

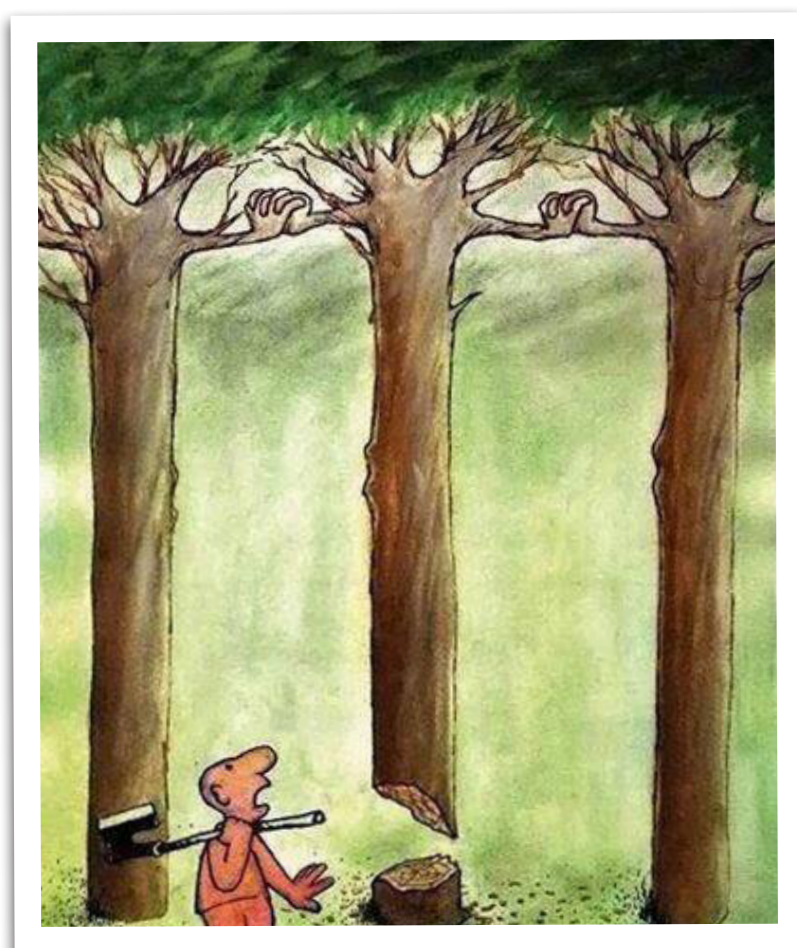
Treaty rights to our lands, water and resources.

I believe the time is right, right now, to reach that success for our Peoples. So let's work together as one.

With all my respects,

David Paul Achneepineskum

CEO, Matawa First Nations Management



Current Matawa Chiefs Council

The Matawa Chiefs Council is comprised of nine (9) First Nations Chiefs of the Matawa First Nations. The Council provides overall strategic direction to the organization and broad governance on collective issues.

For more information on Resolutions passed this year, refer to the 2015/2016 Matawa Chiefs Council Report which is available under separate cover.



Chief Dorothy Towedo
Aroland First Nation



Chief Celia Echum
Ginoogaming
First Nation



Chief Wayne Moonias
Neskantaga
First Nation



Chief Rick Allen
Constance Lake
First Nation



Chief Veronica Waboose
Long Lake #58
First Nation



Chief Johnny Yellowhead
Nibinamik
First Nation



**Chief Elizabeth
Atlookan**
Eabametoong
First Nation



**Chief Bruce
Achneepineskum**
Marten Falls
First Nation



Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie
First Nation



Matawa First Nations Management

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference

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VISION

Matawa First Nations will be prosperous and enriched First Nations both individually and collectively. By creating enhanced social and economic opportunities for everyone, the Matawa First Nations will reach their maximum potential and have confidence in the future.

MISSION

Matawa First Nations are committed to supporting each other and focusing our collective efforts on core strategic priorities. By working together as a regional community, we will use our combined knowledge and resources in order to champion the social and economic vitality of our First Nations and invest in community and people building.

VALUES

Matawa First Nations Work Together

We have the opportunities to grow and reach our maximum potential as a regional group. The diversity within our regional communities is valued and a source of local and regional pride. We are proactively involved in the economic, cultural and political development of the Matawa territory.

Matawa First Nations are Dynamic and Sustainable Communities

We integrate modern social and economic development practices with our traditional culture and heritage. We build capacity and economic wealth for present and future generations and are well positioned to succeed in the national economy.

Matawa First Nations Uphold Quality of Life

We invest and protect our quality of life – socially, economically, culturally and environmentally – and ensure that the Matawa First Nations are prosperous and healthy communities in which to live, work and raise a family.



Communications

STAFF:

Carol Audet, Communications Manager

OVERVIEW:

The Communications Department provides communications and advisory support to First Nations in Matawa, Matawa Chiefs Council, Matawa First Nations Management departments, services, corporations, and KKETS departments and services in the following areas:

- Media monitoring and support
- Development of informational materials and promotion
- Brand implementation and visual identity
- Website/cultural portal/intranet updates and training (shared role with Matawa IT)
- Social media updates and monitoring
- Radio broadcasting, recording, PA systems
- Translation

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

The overall key priority area this year has been re-establishing the communications department as it underwent a number of transitions one of which was a vacancy for a period of approximately 4 months.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Community Assistance

- Kept Matawa members apprised of Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister Zimmer visits to Ginoogaming and Aroland First Nations on January 14 and 15 through social media



- Attended closing ceremony of the Norman Shewaybick Healing Journey Walk in Webequie First Nation on February 29
- Attended Nibinamik First Nation MIning Week with KKETS/Four Rivers staff on March 30
- Attended Indigenous & Northern Affairs Minister Bennett/National Chief Bellegarde/Grand Chief Fiddler visit to Neskantaga First Nation on April 15 bringing local Thunder Bay media

Media Monitoring and Support

Regular media monitoring and support was provided as follows:

- 7 media releases
- 3 media advisories (2 were on behalf of specific Matawa First Nations)
- Matawa issues highlighted on TBTB News Hour 3 times
- Bi-weekly Ring of Fire Media clippings started on November 25 and continuing on a regular basis
- Staff kept apprised of news items relevant to respective departments

Matawa Messenger Newsletter

- 3 issued this year
- Doubling in size as more content is provided

Informational Materials and Promotion

- Focused on community based projects such as collaterals and publications for First Nations
- Started weekly Matawa Monday Memo on November 25 highlighting schedules of Matawa First Nations Management staff and upcoming events
- For Matawa First Nations Management internal projects included: development of PowerPoint presentations, better functioning letterhead, change in AGM reporting, pocket folders,

Brand Implementation and Visual Identity

Communications ensures that all updated branding is visible on all information materials before publication. This includes the Matawa logos, the ISO Registration, colour compliance, tagline, etc. If departments require these graphics Communications will provide support.

Social Media Updates and Monitoring

- Increasing followers and likes on social media platforms (Twitter and Facebook) by double or triple
- Creating content responsive to community/world events and efforts made to engage audiences

Website/Intranet/Cultural Portal

- Website regularly updated and monitored
- Cultural Portal regularly updated with Community information
- Intranet Solution launched in April 2015 has experienced some technical difficulties (see page 13 of this report in 'Opportunities' for more information)
- Assisting First Nation(s) in developing

Radio Broadcasting, Recording, PA Systems

- Bi-weekly radio shows ongoing providing continuous updates on Matawa programming
- 11 radio broadcasts via Wawatay

Quality Assurance (QA) System

Communications Manager has been receiving training on various aspects of QA system including Internal Audits and is the Communications QA Representative.

CHALLENGES:

Maintaining Adequate Staffing Levels

- Department continues to be understaffed for the amount of users of the services
- Require a minimum of 2+ permanent positions and a 1/2 time translator to support the increased number of departmental/community requests and to fulfill some of the opportunities that are available

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Expansion of radio broadcasts and types of broadcasts (pre-recorded, etc.) and assistance to communities in establishing community radio programming
- Modernization of Matawa website and community websites
- Utilization of digital media technologies to keep the Matawa brand fresh, relevant and user-friendly to our Nations
- Expansion of video capabilities and web streaming of events, podcasts, etc.
- Development of publications/research papers
- Development of Communications Training Manual to build capacity in various areas
- Digitization of internal documents
- Development of a Speakers Series
- Collaboration with various NGOs and media companies on various advocacy campaigns



Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin

STAFF:

Francine Pellerin, Health Director
Tricia Atlookan, Regional Crisis Intervention Coordinator

OVERVIEW:

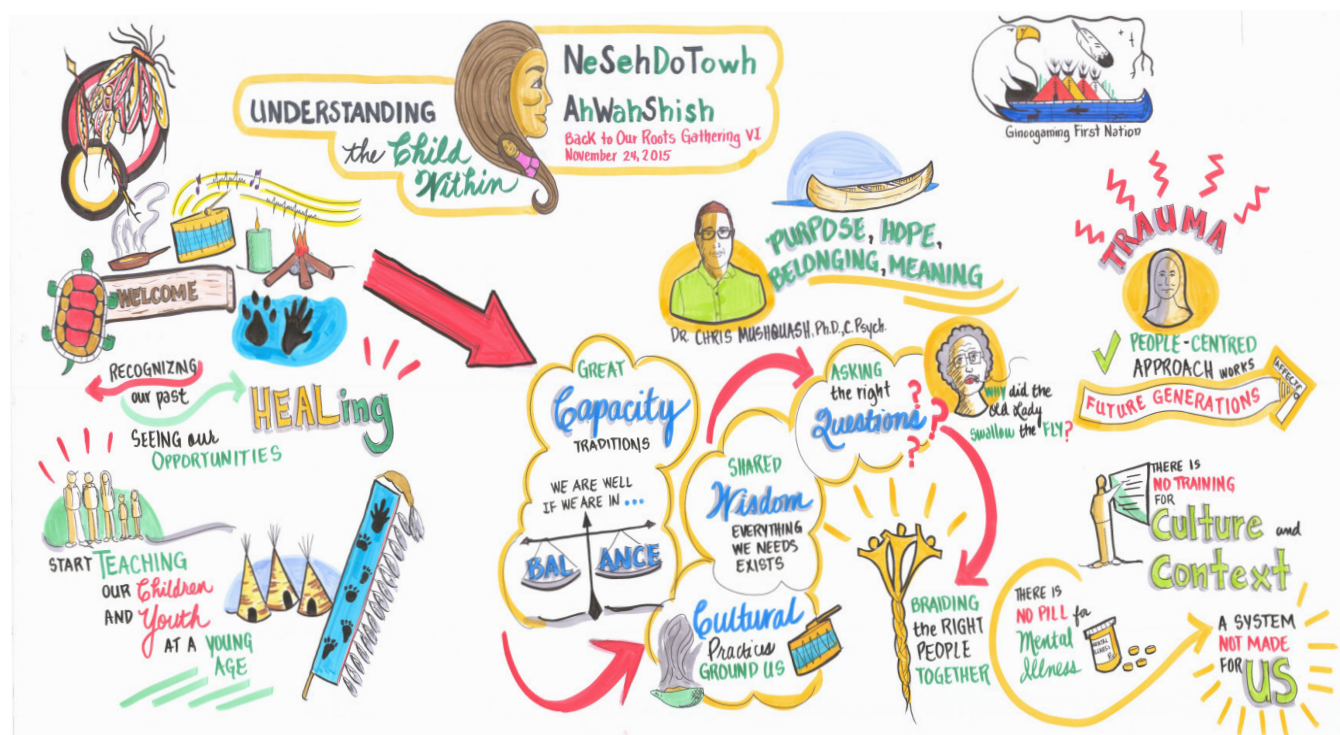
The Health and Social Meno Biimadeswin (HSMB) provides advisory, advocacy and technical support services in all areas of health and wellness programming to Matawa First Nations. The HSMB oversees the management and administration of regional funded projects, coordinates specific community-based programs, provides and assists in crisis management, intervention and promotion /awareness on wellness and healthy lifestyles. The HSMB works in partnership and collaboration with several groups, organizations, agencies and institutions who are affiliated with our First Nations in Health and Social Programming.

MATAWA HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TASK GROUP:

Chairperson, Annabelle Mendowegan, Health Director, Aroland
Vice Chair, Jeffrey Jacob, Health Director, Webequie
Secretary/Treasurer, Diane Andrews, NNADAP Worker, Constance Lake
Member, Lydia Couture, Health Director, Constance Lake
Member, Robert Baxter, Health Director, Eabametoong
Member, Sheri Taylor, Health Director, Ginoogaming
Member, Judy Desmoulin, Health Director, Long Lake #58
Member, Evelyn Baxter, Health Director, Marten Falls
Member, Sharon Sakanee, Health Director, Neskantaga
Member, Annie Oskineegish, Health Director, Nibinamik

The Committee initially was formed in 1999 as the Regional Health Committee (Resolution 99/016) and in 2000, renamed as Matawa Health Task Group (Resolution 00/19) and again, in 2004 renamed as Matawa Health & Social Task Group (MHSSTG). The Terms of Reference was revised to include the Social Programs that were working under the overall Health Programs.

The Matawa First Nations Health and Social Services Task Group is mandated by the Matawa First Nations Chiefs as an advisory group/body to the Health and Social Meno Biimadeswin, Matawa Chiefs, governments and other organizations/boards on health and social matters. The MHSSTG is a proactive group that advocates, negotiates, supports and makes recommendations regionally that will support and benefit their First Nations needs and goals.



KEY PRIORITY AREA:

1. To strengthen services for the First Nations in all areas related to community health and social services as identified by each First Nation
2. To raise the level of awareness in health and health lifestyles (prevention, promotion, intervention, treatment & aftercare)
3. To ensure and provide an effective management and administrative practices of health and social programming

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

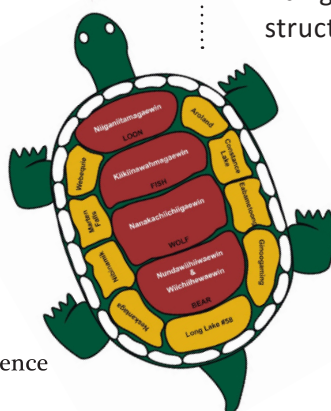
1. Continued funding for the Matawa Victim Services Program 2016-17.
2. The Matawa First Nations Mental Wellness and Continuum Framework Project Report
3. Back to Our Roots Gathering VI – Hosted by Ginoogaming First Nation Nov/15.
4. Matawa PDA Evaluation Report
5. Matawa Victim Services Report

OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Possible annualized and increased funding for Matawa Victim Services Program.
2. SPI – priority on Wellbeing/Wellness.
3. 3 First Nation Pilot Projects.
4. The Regional Strategy Framework- assurance that Health & Social issues are on the agenda.
5. Recent funding announcements.

CHALLENGES:

1. Communication at all levels.
2. Lack of and inadequate resources in all areas of health and social: programming, capacity building and training, infrastructure, accessing services, etc.
3. Development and planning without any resources.
4. Navigating within the existing Government structure.





Information Technology (IT) Services

STAFF:

Rob Wesley, Manager IT Services
Andrew Sedesky, IT Helpdesk Analyst

OVERVIEW:

1. Ensure corporate information technology is accessible and equipped with current hardware and software

- Perform professional, technical and analytical tasks to identify business requirements and to procure information technology-based enhancements that meet our corporate business needs and objectives
- Identify, select, design, and implement policies, conventions, and standards for server and network technologies and infrastructure
- Plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate the operations of information systems
- Meet with Program Managers to discuss system requirements, specifications, costs and timelines
- Hire and manage information technology personnel and contractors where required to design, develop, implement, operate, and administer computer and telecommunications software, networks and information systems
- Manage the IT Services budgets and expenditures
- Troubleshoot hardware, software and network operating systems
- Be familiar with all hardware, software and network operating systems
- Provide orientation to new users of existing technology
- Train staff about potential uses of existing technology
- Provide individual training and support on request
- Provide recommendations about accessing information and support

- Maintain current and accurate inventory of technology hardware, software and resources

2. Manage, monitor and maintain technology to ensure proper and secure access

- Troubleshoot all technology issues
- Maintain logs of required repairs and maintenance
- Make recommendations about the purchase of technology resources
- Research current and potential resources and services
- Provide network access to all staff and students
- Maintain servers
- Install work stations
- Connect and setup hardware and install all required software
- Provide network accounts and passwords as required
- Configure and maintain network access requirements
- Implement and monitor security of all aspects pertaining to the network infrastructure
- Advise staff of security breaches and/or a change in passwords or security status
- Identify and prepare hardware for disposal by ensuring removal of all corporate data

3. Assist with overall management of corporate information technology and computer systems

- Assist with planning, organization, direction, control and evaluation of the operations of information systems
- Implement policies and procedures for IT management and computer systems operations and development
- Meet with program managers to discuss system requirements, specifications, costs and timelines

- Supervise information technology personnel and contractors who design, develop, implement, operate and administer computer and telecommunications software, networks and information systems
- Operate within identified computer systems budgets, policies and procedures

4. Quality Management System (QMS)

- Adhere to, implement, review and improve Matawa First Nations Management's Quality Management System as it relates to all duties of the department

5. Prepare progress reports, briefs, work-plans, budgets and other reports as requested or required for the Chief Executive Officer and/or Board of Directors.

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

The IT Services department's key priority area is to provide secure, reliable and continuous access to Matawa's data and information systems to support the sustained delivery of Matawa First Nations programs and services to its partners and communities. IT Services strives to ensure connectivity to such resources by providing a well-designed and reliable network infrastructure.

ACOMPLISHMENTS:

- Community Email Systems
- Community Websites
- Setup of firewalls in Neskantaga (to block various website access i.e. Facebook

- Continued maintenance and hosting of:

- ◊ <http://www.matawa.on.ca/>
- ◊ <http://www.kkets.ca>
- ◊ <http://community.matawa.on.ca>
- ◊ <http://intranet.matawa.on.ca/>

CHALLENGES:

In 2009 Matawa was provided an opportunity to acquire blade server technology through a 50% grant from FedNor.

- Many of our servers purchased at that time are nearing End-of-Life
- Several have been in use for 5 years we are looking at extending those to a maximum of 6 or 7 years (these have been extended)
- Our main storage device is near End-of-Life and will require a replacement unit but its cost will be significant
- Backup jobs are significant and we will have to acquire a larger capacity system

OPPORTUNITIES:

- IT Services could potentially look at web hosting to organizations outside Matawa First Nations and our communities
- Could easily host additional community web sites
- Intranet site (Document Sharing site) will have to be redeveloped from scratch, we have looked at potential replacement software and are awaiting on potential funding sources





Education

STAFF:

ADVISORY SERVICES

Sharon Nate, Education Department Manager
Lorraine Sainnawap, Receptionist
Angela Sakanee, Education Assistant

PATHWAYS TO ACHIEVE STUDENT SUCCESS (PASS)

Ben Pretulac, Database Coordinator
Arthur Oskineegish, Network Technician
Jordan Sturgeon, System Administrator

MATAWA LEARNING CENTRE

Brad Battiston, Principal

POST SECONDARY PROGRAM

Georgette O'Nabigon, Post Secondary Coordinator
Roberta Mattinas, Post Secondary Assistant

STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAM

Stephanie Ritch, Student Nutrition Program Coordinator

REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (RACE):

Tony Sakanee, Neskantaga First Nation
Ennis Jacob, Webequie First Nation
Victor Chapais, Ginoogaming First Nation
Nancy Coaster, Marten Falls First Nation
Claire Onabigon, Long Lake #58 First Nation
Lawrence Therriault, Aroland First Nation
Nancy Waswa, Eabametoong First Nation
Mary Oskineegish, Nibinamik First Nation
Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Chief Spokesperson for Education

OVERVIEW:

The Matawa Education Department provides support and advisory services to Matawa First Nation community schools and Education Authorities that result in school improvements and have a positive impact on the quality of students' learning. The Education Department staff support local education authorities, schools and teachers, and network with Aboriginal organizations, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the Provincial Ministry of Education, School Boards, and Post Secondary and Secondary/Elementary institutions. The Department continues to develop its capacity to provide second level services to schools, including IT support, under the Pathways to Achieve Student Success (PASS) program. In addition, the Department operates the Matawa Learning Centre, an alternative secondary school approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The Matawa Post Secondary Program has responsibility for Post Secondary Administration for five Matawa First Nations; Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake # 58, Neskantaga, and Webequie. Support Services are available as well to other Matawa First Nations students upon request. In order to enhance the quality of educational programs and services, the Department continues to have a strong focus on the use of new technologies in education to increase learning opportunities for all Matawa community members.

MATAWA POST SECONDARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Tony Sakanee, Neskantaga First Nation
Ennis Jacob, Webequie First Nation
Patrick Patabon, Long Lake #58 First Nation
Robinson Meshake, Aroland First Nation
Victor Chapais, Ginoogaming First Nation

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

With additional funding provided through the First Nation Student Success Program, the Education Department has been able to restructure to provide additional support to the Matawa schools in several new areas: Native Language, Mental Health, Parent-Community Engagement, and Secondary Programming. For several months, Matawa staff have been involved in the inquest into the deaths of seven First Nations students in Thunder Bay.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Advisory Services

The Education Department continues to provide technical support for Matawa leadership both directly and through the Regional Advisory Committee on Education. This year, much work and focus has been dedicated to the First Nation Youth Inquest. On June 28th, 2016, the jury will come back with its verdict, which is highly anticipated for realistic outcomes for our First Nations students. The Education Department has provided technical support for Matawa leadership attending forums with Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Chiefs of Ontario and continues to liaise with other First Nation organizations.

Matawa Learning Centre

The Matawa Learning Centre provides a unique learning environment to support students and assist them to move toward the successful completion of their secondary education. The Matawa Learning Centre offers flexible schedules to meet the specific academic and personal needs of our students. We are able to support our students in ways for which provincial schools are neither equipped nor able. This unique student-centred programming enables our students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to continue their pathways to work, training, or post secondary education programs. The Matawa Learning Centre is an inspected and approved private secondary school by the Ministry of Education, with authority to grant Ontario secondary school credits and the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

The Matawa Learning Centre has completed its sixth year of operation. This past year the Principal and Teaching staff, along with a new partnership with Right to Play provided extra curricular activities for all Matawa secondary students living or visiting Thunder Bay. Also new for this past school year was a Food and Nutrition program which provided breakfast and lunch on a daily basis for the students. One eligible graduate was successful in obtaining their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

The First Nation Youth Inquest involved the Matawa Learning Centre with the Principal and Education Department Manager being called to testify. Matawa First Nations Management was heavily involved in the recommendation process with the jury, and will be required to participate and report on the implementation phase this coming school year.

Pathways to Achieve Student Success – PASS!

The Matawa PASS program provides support services and resources for Matawa schools and Education Authorities, primarily in the areas of literacy, numeracy, information technology and early learning, with funding from the federal First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP). This program also supports annual school success plans through which schools identify their priorities and goals for each year. Regular feedback on PASS activities is received from on-site visits by PASS staff, from school principals (through the Principals Working Group), and through the Regional Advisory Committee on Education (RACE).

Education Information Technology: PASS IT staff provide support for a student database in each school, as well as a regional database and back-up system to ensure data is secure and accessible to track student information and assist teachers, principals, education authorities and the Matawa Education Department in their short and long-range planning. Servers, wireless networks and other IT infrastructure have been installed and maintained



Education



in the participating schools to support the database and for instructional and administrative use. User support has been provided through a helpdesk ticketing system that helps to prioritize and track issues that arise and solutions that are implemented. A comprehensive regional 2-year plan has been developed to support the maintenance and further development of IT supports and services in Matawa schools and at the regional level. IT staff continue to expand their qualifications in specific areas, and participate in the annual IT security conference in Toronto.

Conference: In March 2016, over 280 participants, presenters and vendors attended the annual Matawa First Nations Education Conference in Thunder Bay. This included participants from all 9 Matawa First Nations. Professional development activities and training were provided for school operations staff, administrators, teachers, principals and education leadership. Early learning staff was also in attendance, as were staff from Keewatinook Okimakanak schools that participated in the second day of the conference.

Literacy and Numeracy: Literacy and Numeracy Specialists assist teachers to implement balanced literacy programs in their classrooms. They provide training for staff in how to use new or existing resources, including on-site workshops for teachers in the schools. Currently, primary student scores

(Grades 1-3) on standardized assessments have improved for the last two years in reading, writing and math by approximately 7-8%. Junior scores (Grades 4-6), however, remain an area of focus.

For the past academic year all teachers have received information, resources, professional development and support in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. While on-going support has been provided in Literacy, the major focus this year was on Numeracy and improving educational practice to ensure a balanced approach to teaching and assessing student learning in mathematics.

A review of service delivery was conducted with the schools to identify a focus for the 2016/2017 school year. Writing and follow-up to the work done this year in Numeracy were identified as priorities. New math and writing resources are being provided for the upcoming year, along with related training.

Some schools have indicated they expect a high staff turn over and are looking to ensure that new staff are trained to use the resources and programs in the schools.

Work has begun to identify how online training can be used to provide on-demand training in different areas, including the use of online platforms such as Google Hangout and Adobe Connect.

PASS staff have participated in provincial conferences on improvement planning, and have facilitated workshops at the Matawa Education Conference and the NAN Early Learning Conference.

Early Learning: Limited funding was received for Early Learning in 2015-2016. The School Improvement Specialist provided some support to teachers and the schools, particularly in the use of assessment data in planning for JK and SK programs. This support has included implementation of the Matawa JK report card in 2015-2016, initial development of an SK report card, and the continuation of the Early Years Evaluation (EYE) for JK and SK students. The Early Learning Framework was completed in 2015, however no funding was available to begin implementation this year. Funding has been requested to support this work in 2016-2017.



Distance Learning: A Distance Learning Coordinator was hired in the fall to begin identifying opportunities and resources in distance learning that would benefit Matawa schools. After a review of earlier e-learning surveys, a current needs assessment survey was developed for teachers and principals in Matawa schools. Various platforms for delivering courses or training over the Internet have been reviewed and applicable resources tested to see how each may best suit distance learning needs in our communities. In addition to providing opportunities for PASS staff to support teachers and principals online, these resources will be used in September for PD for principals and teachers enrolled in Special Education for Administrators with the Ontario Principals' Council.

Structural Readiness: Limited funding was received in 2015-2016 for Structural Readiness activities. Strategic and business plans are being developed for the Matawa Education Department, which will help to identify how the Education Department can best support the implementation of the Regional Education Strategic Plan approved by the Matawa Chiefs in 2015.

School Improvement: Most schools had School Improvement Plans (SIPs) and the Education Department staff have supported schools in the implementation of their SIP goals, especially in the areas of numeracy and literacy. The School Improvement Specialist has visited all of the schools to assist schools in the development of their SIP's, and to work with principals on identified areas of concern. All principals continue receive information updates on workplace health and safety.

Student Nutrition Program: In the Spring of 2015, the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) introduced the First Nation Student Nutrition Program (FNSNP). Matawa Education Department is coordinating this program for 8 sites in 6 Matawa schools or communities: Matawa Learning Centre, Ginoogaming First Nation, Migizi Wazisin Elementary School (Long Lake #58), Migizi Miigwanan Secondary School (Long Lake #58), Neskantaga Education Centre, Nibinamik Education Centre, Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre Elementary (Webequie), Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre Secondary (Webequie). Funding was released for the program in January 2016, and in the first 3 months, a total of 14,598 meals were served to Matawa First Nations students at the 8 sites, including 8,735 breakfasts and 5,863 mid-morning or afternoon snacks. In addition to coordinating the program and providing meals for students at the Matawa Learning Centre, several workshops for students have been hosted as part of the program:

- Worm Composting Workshop with Matawa Learning Centre (EcoSuperior)
- Growing Your Own Food and Trying New Food with Webequie First Nation Grade 4-5
- Walleye Fish Fry and Fishing Workshop with Matawa Learning Centre (David Ritch)
- Community Garden (Lakehead University Campus)



MLC Graduate - Steve Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation



Education

Post Secondary

The Post Secondary Program administers post secondary on behalf of: Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58, Neskantaga and Webequie First Nations. The Post Secondary Program provides financial, counselling support services; maintains the GRADS database; and is a liaison for the MPS Advisory Committee, participating First Nation Members and Post Secondary Institutes. The major programs and initiatives in 2015- 2016 were:

Revised Annual Post Secondary Policy & Student for Matawa Post Secondary: The Matawa Post Secondary Policy & Student Guideline needs to be reviewed and or revised annually to meet the National Post Secondary Guidelines.

Maadaadizi Committee: A Committee was formed in Thunder Bay in 2013, consisting of Post Secondary Institute Student Service Staff, Post Secondary Counsellors and Coordinators. The purpose of this Committee is to work together to prepare post secondary students and to expose them to resources available for students while they attend post secondary in Thunder Bay. An orientation event is held annually at the beginning of school. This year the event will be held on Saturday September 10, 2016 at the Marina Park in Thunder Bay.

Post-Secondary Assistant: In the past year the post secondary program had a change of staff, a new Post-Secondary Assistant was hired on May 30, 2016. The Post Secondary Assistants main focus will be to work directly with the students via: Email, Post Secondary Institution on-site visits, Career Fairs, Orientation, Post Secondary Student Oriented Committees and Community visits as well as learn all the functions of the post secondary program.

Matawa Rotary Bursary Program

In partnership with the Rotary Club of Bowmanville, Ontario, the Matawa Education Department coordinates an annual bursary and award competition that is open to all Matawa First Nation students from Kindergarten to Post-Secondary. Post-secondary bursary winners continue to receive an award each year until they have completed their program. Awards are presented in several categories: elementary; secondary; college; university; trades, apprenticeship and training; and the Matawa Learning Centre. This year, a new category was added for Native Language entries. This year's awards were presented at the annual Matawa Post Secondary Graduation and Awards Banquet held in Thunder Bay on June 2, 2016. Bursary and award winners are announced in the Matawa Messenger.

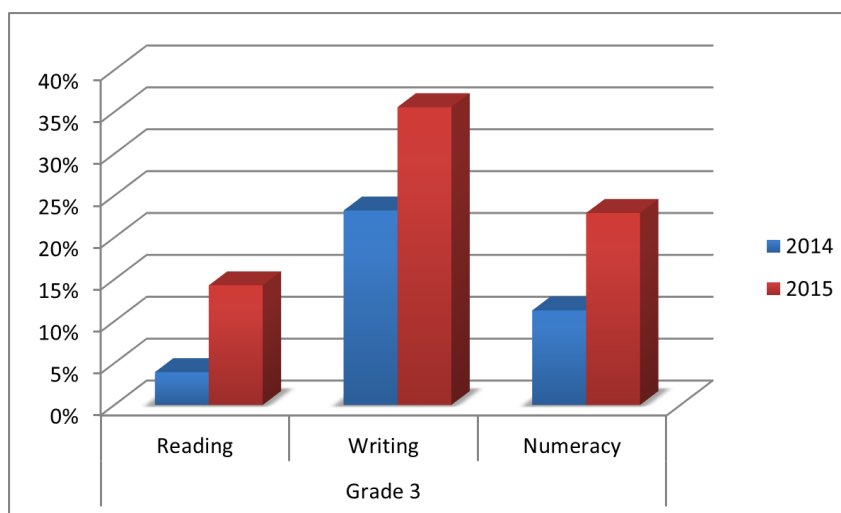
HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES:

In the Matawa Learning Centre, the addition of the Student Nutrition Program has made it possible to provide students with healthy breakfasts and snacks on a daily basis. Through our partnership with Right to Play, students are also able to have healthy meals on an occasional basis, and to enjoy after-school and weekend activities at the school and in the community.

Scores from the Grade 3 EQAO assessments indicate that primary division students in the Matawa schools continue to improve in the areas reading and writing. These scores showed a significant increase in Reading, Writing and Math (Numeracy).

The Matawa Regional Education Strategic Plan was approved in July 2015 and work has begun in several of the strategic areas. Funding has been secured for 2016-2017 for a Community Liaison to work with schools and education authorities in the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Strategic and Business Plans are being developed for the Matawa Education Department to help identify how it can best support the achievement of the identified strategic goals.

Percentage of Matawa Grade 3 Students Achieving Provincial Standards 2014-2015



The Matawa Post Secondary Programs main focus is to provide academic and social assistance to post secondary while they are attending school. Each year the Matawa Post Secondary Program hosts an Annual MPS Grad & Awards Banquet to honour our students. On June 2, 2016 the MPS Program honoured (22) twenty-two Post Secondary Graduates. This years MPS Grad & Awards Banquet was held at the Victoria Inn. At this event the Education Department gave out several awards through the unique partnership with the Bowmanville Rotary Club.

The MPS staff sits on various Committees that will ensure our Matawa students are made aware of resources and opportunities available to them. Example: On May 5, 2016 the (AYARA) Aboriginal Achievement Awards gave out 45 recognition awards, 15 of the students were from the Matawa Communities. (AYARA Awards are distributed to students in Northwestern Ontario). The Matawa First Nations Management and Education Department provide financial assistance as well to the AYARA.

CHALLENGES:

The Matawa Learning Centre receives its operational funding through student tuition. Some communities are not paying this tuition, and this has an impact on the number of staff, resources and opportunities for students at the Learning Centre. Without the payment of past-due tuition, and the timely payment of future tuition, the Learning Centre may not be able to continue operating.

Funding through the FNSSP program for Early Learning is inconsistent, making it difficult to implement the regional framework and to have dedicated staff to support schools and teachers. On-going, stable funding is needed to ensure the regional framework can be implemented and support provided to the schools and teachers who work with young learners.

While the percentage of students achieving at the provincial level in Grade 3 literacy and mathematics has increased, achievement in Grade 6 has decreased (see chart below). Additional resources and support, with a focus on Grades 4-6, will continue to be provided in the coming year.



Education

Under the First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP), INAC has required a two-year proposal for 2016-2018. It is anticipated that at the end of the 2017-2018 school year, new federal funding program(s) will be introduced to replace this program. No information is available at this time, however, about what changes may be introduced and how funding may be distributed. Through working with the Regional Advisory Committee on Education (RACE) and through on-going communication with the Matawa communities, Matawa Education will continue to provide information and obtain feedback on current initiatives, and identify how Matawa Education can best support students and learning in Matawa First Nations.

The main challenge the Post Secondary Program is the lack of adequate funding for students. The number of post secondary applications increases annually. This past year the KKETS program was able to partner with the Post Secondary Program to fund additional students. KKETS contribution was to assist with addressing the increased number of applications received from the ASAP Graduates.

OPPORTUNITIES:

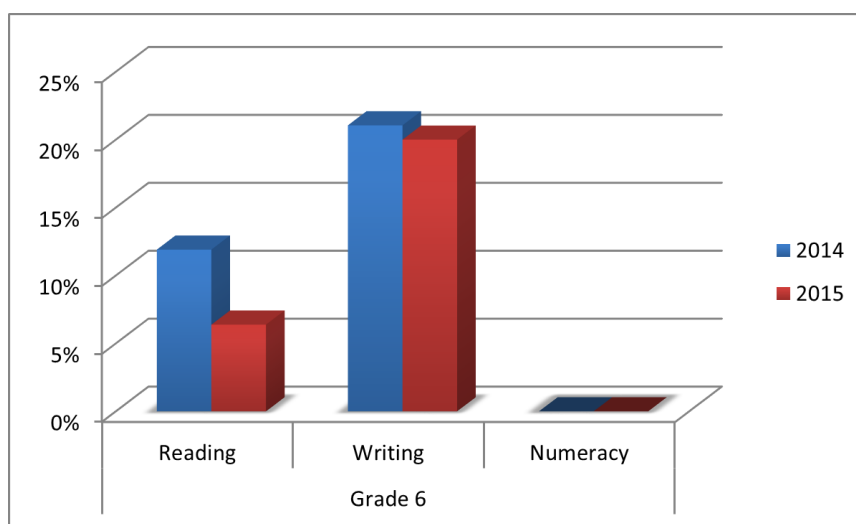
This year's inquest will have an impact on the Matawa Learning Centre. Several government departments and non-government agencies have expressed interest in working with the Learning Centre to address some of the concerns identified through the inquest. At the same time, it will be a challenge to incorporate anticipated opportunities.

In partnership with Lakehead University, the Matawa Learning Centre is developing an outdoor leadership credit course for 2016-2017. We are finalizing arrangements for the donation of a bus for student travel to outdoor venues for the course, and for other events.

New positions have been approved under the FNSSSP program for 2016-2017 in the areas of Native Language, mental health, school success. Consequently, additional support will be available to schools and students, and capacity will be increased to implement the Regional Education Strategic Plan.

The MPS Program will continue to work with the Education Staff, MPS Advisory and RACE Committee on the Regional Strategic Plan for the Post Secondary Student Success program.

Percentage of Matawa Grade 6 Students Achieving Provincial Standards 2014-2015





Quality Assurance



STAFF:

Shelly Boudreau, Quality Assurance Coordinator

OVERVIEW:

Matawa First Nations Management has embraced a Quality Management System (QMS) to assist with quality assurance (QA) throughout the organization. It was implemented according to the values, goals and objectives of Matawa and is monitored and continually enhanced.

The Quality Management System guarantees quality, accountability and transparency. This is done through planning, policies, procedures and processes.

Matawa First Nations Management is committed to supporting member First Nations and focusing its efforts on core strategic priorities. Matawa First Nations Management will provide quality services to the Matawa communities and their members.

QA REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE

The Quality Assurance Department has a QA Representative's Committee which is made up of a representative from each of the Matawa departments (and alternate in some departments)

KEY PRIORITY AREA

The Quality Assurance Department focused on training the employees in the fundamentals of Matawa's Quality Management System. With on-going education the organization will continue to work together in an effort to provide the best possible services to the Matawa Communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Through contributions from Management and Staff, Matawa was successful in obtaining their ISO 9001:2008 Certification for another 3 years (Original date of Certification was December 13, 2012). Last year's Re-certification Audit in November 2015 confirmed that there continues to be no real areas of concern as employees are complying with the Quality Management Systems requirements.

Staff continues to be educated and informed about Matawa's Quality Management System through workshops and other printed resources. This year the Department was successful in training most employees in the fundamentals of Quality Assurance.

With analysis and follow-up from surveys administered from the various departments, Matawa was able to provide quality services to our members and continually improve on the services already being provided by the organization.

CHALLENGES:

A new ISO Standard was introduced in September 2015. Matawa must now transition from ISO 9001:2008 to ISO 9001:2015. There are some major changes to the Standard but from our view, the changes are positive and ones that Matawa can easily transition towards.

OPPORTUNITIES:

The Quality Assurance Department's goals for this upcoming year are to transition to the ISO 9001:2015 standard, continue to educate and train staff in all areas of Quality Assurance and to assist departments in any way possible to help them provide quality services to our communities and their members.



Technical Advisory Services

STAFF:

Lindsey Jupp, Environmental Technician
 Aaron Wesley, Operations & Maintenance Technician
 Saverio Rizzo, Housing Inspector/Coordinator
 Morris Douglas, Fire Marshal
 Monica Budiselic, Fire Marshal
 Wesley Bova, P.Eng., Advisory Engineer/Manager of Technical Services

OVERVIEW:

Matawa Technical Services assist member communities in the development and maintenance of community infrastructure. This includes assisting with communities with all aspects including the environmental component and Aboriginal Affairs capital approvals process.

Matawa First Nations respond to First Nation requests, services provided vary according to individual community needs, levels of individual capacity, technical proficiency, and management expertise. Consequently, the services we provide may vary and could include:

- Project Planning, Development and Reporting
- Operation and Maintenance of Water and Wastewater infrastructure
- Coordination of Water and Wastewater Operator Training
- Environmental Remediation Project support
- Housing Inspection and Programming
- Fire Safety and Protection
- ACRS and ICMS reporting
- Additional programs as they become available

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

With the change in government and commitments to First Nations infrastructure, INAC (Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada) indicated in November 2015 that their key areas of focus were identified as drinking water, fire protection and prevention, education, and housing. We will be working to maximize the improvement in Matawa communities with

As of right now there have been some announcements with respect to housing. We have also received some commitments with respect to improving drinking water. However, INAC's strategy including cash-flow and time lines to address all of the issues has not been identified.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Assisted with the development of infrastructure projects
- Assisted with the operations and maintenance of water and wastewater systems
- Assisted with First Nations Infrastructure Investment Plan (FNIIP) annual reports and capital reporting
- Assisted in Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, Section 95 (CMHC) and INAC's Housing and Renovation Program Application June 2016
- Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS) Data Collection & Reporting
- Oversaw the completion of the Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS) tri annual reports
- Assisted communities with environmental aspects related to infrastructure development both on and adjacent to communities



Two major capital projects were underway in 2015/16:

1. Participated on the Constance Lake First Nation's project team which saw the construction of its new water treatment plant completed early in 2016.
2. Webequie First Nation Airport Redevelopment Study completed phase one of its project evaluating potential improvements to the airport which included runway extensions and reorganization of operational layout. Phase two is presently underway looking at the economic/business aspect of the project.

In terms of recently confirmed projects in 2016/17:

1. Project approval was also recently given for Neskantaga's \$6.7 million dollar Water Treatment Plant Upgrades project.
2. Project approval was also recently given to for a major repair for Webequie First Nation's school roof in excess of \$1 million dollars.

CHALLENGES:

INAC has indicated that they will be tightening the restrictions First Nation Infrastructure Investment Plan (FNIIP). The deadline for all capital project applications through FNIIP is September 30th. It has been indicated that if First Nations' submissions are late they will not be considered for funding in the 2017/18 fiscal year. We are anticipating higher demands on capital given the government's commitments.

OPPORTUNITIES:

We are hopeful that we will continue to see approval of major capital projects related to Matawa's water treatment plants.

Additionally, we would like to see a number of new homes constructed in addition to a number of housing renovations in Matawa communities.



Membership

STAFF:

Barb Rabbit, Membership Indian Registration Administrator (IRA)

OVERVIEW:

Matawa Membership program provides membership services in areas of status card issuance (laminate Certificate of Indian Status), any changings occurring in the life of an individual registered as a status Indian such as reporting birth, marriage, divorce and death events. Other reports include miscellaneous amendments to amend, add and update information from an individual's existing Registry page. Matawa administers these services for the following First Nation communities:

- Aroland First Nation
- Eabametoong First Nation
- Marten Falls First Nation
- Neskantaga First Nation
- Nibinamik First Nation
- Webequie First Nation

The mandate for the Membership Service is to provide an accurate and updated Indian Registry. The Membership Indian Registration Administrator manages internal and external events required for Indian Registration reporting in accordance with the *Indian Act*, federal and provincial statutes and the policies and procedures of the Indian Registration System.



KEY PRIORITY AREA:

The key priority areas with the Membership Department is to focus and promote awareness in the early registration of minor children and identification requirements with individuals seeking status card issuance. These two primary issues of registration and identification has been an ongoing concern when accessing many programs and services. Therefore, the Membership Department will target more promotional material to our First Nations.



"The Indian Act is the Canadian federal legislation first passed in 1876 that sets out certain federal government obligations. It provides for the registration of person as Indians, identifies who is entitled to be registered and who is not, sets the requirements of Band Lists (membership) and makes provisions of protests of decisions concerning registration and membership and for appeals."

- INAC Indian Registration Administrator Manual

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Community Visits

Matawa Membership Services had previously provided annual community visits to the six First Nations communities. This year Membership will be providing two annual visits to each of the FN communities and the schedule is in development.

Collaboration with First Nations Representatives for Indian Registration Awareness

Matawa Membership Services along with First Nation Liaisons or Reps have been working on promoting and bringing awareness with First Nations programs in both the Birth and Indian registration process. The Healthy Babies/Healthy Children (HBHC) program is an essential venue as the program is geared toward expectant mothers/caregivers that have children under six years old.

CHALLENGES:

Laminated Certificate of Indian Status to New Secure Certificate of Indian Status

The new transition in applying for a secure Certificate of Indian Status card is slowly moving ahead. The new roll out of the secure Certificate status card is now here and applications are available at any regional INAC office across Canada. (Note: Once an individual has applied for the new secure status card, the individual cannot revert back to a laminate CIS card).

As more individuals are applying for the new secure card, some don't have sufficient identification (ID) and documentation to meet requirements. As Membership Clerks/IRAs, we don't have the updated training so we refer any matters to INAC directly.

Currently, Membership is working on promoting identification awareness using Matawa Messenger, developing brochures /or pamphlet; etc.

Birth Registration

Registering a child is an important event. There are still issues arising in delayed birth registration of a child. When a delay in registering a child occurs it becomes more complex. The parent (s) have to pay an additional process fee along with the cost of birth certificate and or Live Birth. Once the delayed registration is processed, parents will require certain validation requirements such as a copy of mother's birth certificate and to be commissioned.

Identification Issues

The secure Certificate of Indian status requires valid government IDs and may require documentation in obtaining the new status card. Many people don't have proper identifications and may not be aware of what is required to get proper IDs. Many individuals are unable to get IDs due to lack of monetary funds or other situations. Matawa Membership Services is working on to developing identification awareness by media, newsletter, etc.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Birth Registration Venue

There are now programs for new mothers/caregivers to access programs with their communities such as HBHC program, Ontario Works, Service Ontario outreach visits to the community.

Feedback Survey

The Membership department will be conducting client survey to each community visit to gather feedback. This information will be compiled and used for further analysis to better the service.

Secure Certificate of Indian Status Training (SCIS)

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will notify of upcoming training for 2016/17.



Four Rivers Environmental Services Group

STAFF:

Sarah Cockerton, Manager of Environmental Programs
 Dawn Desmoulin, Environmental Initiatives Coordinator
 Kimberly Jorgenson, Environmental Assessments and Project Officer
 Laura Prior, Environmental Coordination Officer
 Hayley King, Environmental Project Officer
 Jennifer Duncan, Geomatics Technician
 Charlene Wagenaar, Geomatics Technician
 Gordon Parker, Environmental Projects & Training Officer
 Larissa Mikkelsen, Environmental Assessments Officer
 Peter Moses, Mineral Information & Support Officer



OVERVIEW:

Four Rivers was formed in 2011 as the Matawa Environment Service Group; established to assist the Matawa member First Nations with building capacity to actively manage land and water resources within their traditional territories. Four Rivers has a team of environmental and technical staff who provide information and education about mining, as well as training certification, and support services to Matawa member First Nations.

As part of its ongoing capacity building activities, Four Rivers coordinates three key support programs which aim to support lands and resource initiatives at the community level. The Four Rivers Mineral Development Communication program aims to raise awareness at the community level on mineral development, plans and permitting, and support facilitation and commination processes to participate in mineral development approval processes including Environmental Assessments. As part of the Four Rivers Mapping Support Program, Four Rivers facilitates First Nations values collection through GIS/GPS services and ongoing training and mentoring supports at the community level. It also provides a much in demand map-making service for member First Nations and MFNM departments.

Activities associated with the Four Rivers Environmental Monitoring Program include the advancement of First Nation protocols for environmental monitoring procedures, and the development and delivery of ongoing training and mentoring program. As a part of this work, Four Rivers provides on-going support services to our trained certified Environmental Monitors of the BEAHR program.

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

The overall key priority area for Four Rivers in the 2015/2016 year was to support capacity building in environmental stewardship and mineral development communications for resource development within member First Nations through the delivery of provincially and federally funded programming.

Upon entering the 2016/2017 fiscal year, the continued operation of Four Rivers was in jeopardy by changes to federal funding program and overall lack of confirmed funding. The priority area for Four Rivers in the upcoming year is to transition all operations to new sources of funding and new models

for funding. In doing so, Four Rivers through Matawa First Nations Management, will pursue new sources of funding that can support programming to member First Nations. Four Rivers also intends to establish a new business entity and fee for service funding system which will allow Four Rivers to seek out and capture new markets. Four Rivers will also establish strategic partnerships where the added support of other groups will allow Four Rivers to better compete for new revenues. Overall, it is hoped that these actions will secure the long term sustainability of Four Rivers, while maintaining its capacity.

MATAWA MINERAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (MMTC):

Conrad Chapais, Ginoogaming First Nation
 Ron Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation
 Mark Bell, Aroland First Nation
 Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation
 Darcy Waboose, Long Lake #58 First Nation
 Tom Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation
 Kelvin Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
 Lias Yellowhead, Raymond Sugarhead, Nibinamik First Nation
 Gordon Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

Mandate

The mandate of the MMTC is to collect and share information with the province and Matawa-Member First Nations concerning mining exploration and developments, expand and clarify details of the benefits of the Province and Matawa Member First Nations working together on issues related to mining exploration and development, assist in developing Matawa-Member First Nations community involvement and participation in the Matawa-Member First Nations decision making process and provide outreach and education to both mineral/mining proponents and the Matawa-Member First Nations communities. The MMTC also provides advice and recommendations to the Matawa-Member First Nations' Chiefs on mineral and mining related issues. The MMTC meets 6 times a year with forum objectives to:

Provide a process to better identify emerging issues of interest to Matawa-Member First Nations, government and industry; support discussions on mining issues; allow for information exchange; facilitate a common understanding of the mineral development sector and related issues; build upon relationships and allow for collaboration on the resolutions of issues.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION LIAISON OFFICERS (CCLOs):

Dwayne Gagnon, Godfrey Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
 Irvin Taylor, Constance Lake First Nation
 Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation
 Conrad Chapais, Ginoogaming First Nation
 Ervin Waboose, Long Lake #58 First Nation
 Maria Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation
 Kelvin Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
 John Ashpanaquestkum, Nibinamik First Nation
 Randy Sofea, Webequie First Nation

Mandate

Each of the nine member First Nations of Matawa have been funded to employ a community Communications Liaison Officer (CCLO). These positions are funded by MNDM to help communities understand the proposed Ring of Fire and mining development impacts (environmental, social etc.) as well as mining opportunities such as economic development opportunities (jobs, training, IBA's, RRS and entrepreneurship, partnerships and joint ventures etc.)

The CCLO ensures that the community has access to information but also to provide information and/or feedback as appropriate to Four Rivers or other departments at Matawa that would help us provide better advisory services to the communities.



Four Rivers Environmental Services Group

Key Priority Area #1: Mapping Supports and Capacity Building

Four Rivers provides comprehensive geomatics supports and programming to assist First Nation communities in mapping their traditional lands to support land and water resource management. The goal of the geomatics Program is to provide training and equipment needed for the communities to gather, store, analyze and display important land and resource data. Map and data products are made available upon request to support community projects. Training focuses on the use of handheld GPS units to collect data in the field and the use of various types of geographic information Systems (GIS) to utilize the data collected.

CBLUP Workshop

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Community Based Land Use Planning (CBLUP) workshop was held at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay Ontario from November 17-19, 2016. There were a total of 53 community participants from all nine Matawa member First Nations as well as Mishkeegogamang First Nation. Topics of discussion included; elder perspectives on land use planning, the far north land use strategy, infrastructure proposals, forestry, implementation of land use plans and trapping. There was also an information sharing session for all participants that included topics such as; environmental monitoring, ring of fire baseline data collection, mineral development in the Matawa area, seasonal stream changes, geomatics, tourism, surficial geoscience, watersheds in the ring of fire, mercury research, aquatic monitoring, and Ontario parks.

OPPORTUNITIES

Discussion and feedback from community members regarding the land use planning process, as well as the services that Four Rivers provides.

CBLUP Webinar Series

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Four Rivers administered all of and delivered portions of a 5-part webinar series for land use planners in the Matawa communities. Topics included; Sites of Aboriginal and Cultural Significance (SOACS) and its application process, Project Management, Mineral Exploration and Mining Activity, Mining and Environmental Assessment in the Matawa Area, and Forestry in the Matawa Area. All the webinars were recorded and are available for further viewing upon request.

CHALLENGES

Internet is limited in the far north communities and some had difficulty connecting and getting those who signed up to sign in and listen live.

OPPORTUNITIES

To develop a series of training/information material that will be made available digitally to the Matawa communities.

CBLUP Geomatics Support

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Four Rivers Geomatics team completed a variety of tasks related to geomatics support for the Land Use Planners in the 7 far north Matawa communities. Support included training, development of training materials, custom map creation, large format printing, and project support. A total of 133 custom maps were created, 184 printing requests, and a total of 944 maps printed. These numbers reflect requests specifically related to land use planning.

CHALLENGES

Keeping up with the volume of requests that come in and responding in a timely manner.

OPPORTUNITIES

Providing a service to our member communities that supports the work that each community is doing. Opportunities for continual feedback on services provided allows for continual improvement.

CBLUP Training Support

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Training support for the community based land use planners in each of the 7 far north communities was completed and topics covered varied. For example, in Neskantaga First Nation acoustic monitoring devices were set up and GPS was used to make their location. Another example included introductory GPS/GIS skills in Aroland First Nation. Generally, the topics covered were related to GIS or GPS.

OPPORTUNITIES

Helping to support the work that the land use planning teams are doing in the communities by building capacity through training and project support. Opportunities for feedback from community members enable the department to provide and alter training to better meet community needs.

Geomatics Programming

Four Rivers offers a comprehensive geomatics program to assist the Matawa member communities in mapping their traditional lands. The overall goal of the program is to provide training to build capacity and provide support in the form of project assistance, data collection, custom map creation, large format printing and scanning. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year there were a total of 377 custom map requests, 613 printing requests and 7632 maps printed.



CHALLENGES

Keeping up with the volume of requests that come in and responding in a timely manner.

OPPORTUNITIES

Providing a service to our member communities that supports the work that each community is doing. Opportunities for continual feedback on services provided allows for continual improvement.





Four Rivers Environmental Services Group

UAV Equipment Purchase and Training

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Four Rivers acquired a drone or UAV equipment to capture custom aerial imagery. The drone was acquired in June 2015 and training took place in July 2015. Follow-up training occurred in the spring of 2016. Since the technology has changed so drastically in the last year, our UAV provider (Pleson Geoscience) has switched out our originally purchased drone for something in line with current technology. This was done free of charge. The new UAV device will allow Four Rivers staff to train better and faster which will ultimately allow us to provide the service to our communities that much faster and in a more reliable manner.

CHALLENGES

There was a substantial learning curve with the original UAV unit we purchased, which made it difficult to use/display in communities.

OPPORTUNITIES

The new UAV device will allow Four Rivers staff to train better and faster which will ultimately allow us to provide the service to our communities that much faster and in a more reliable manner.

ESRI 2016 Calendar Map Publication

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ESRI Canada (leading GIS software provider) holds an annual calendar contest. GIS users from across the country can submit maps they have made and 12 are chosen as winners for the upcoming years calendar which is distributed to all ESRI software users in Canada. The Four Rivers Geomatics Team submitted their custom

comprehensive Treaty map of Canada as a contest entry and were selected for the month of May in the 2016 calendar. The map was created originally by request for a teacher in Eabametoong First Nation for use as a teaching aid in his classroom.

MMTC Meeting Preparation and Facilitation

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Four Rivers continually participates in the Matawa Mineral Technical Committee meetings. Four Rivers will provide updates on various topics, as well as technical advice. Recently, Four Rivers has taken over the facilitation and organization of the MMTC meetings and held its first meeting as the new organizers from June 7-9, 2016.

OPPORTUNITIES

The first meeting of the 2016-2017 fiscal year was a success, but there were many lessons learned and some good feedback received for how we can continually improve the facilitation of the meetings.



Key Priority Area #2: Environmental Monitoring Training and Support

The Four Rivers Environmental Services Group is dedicated to providing, tools, resources, training and advisory services so that Matawa First Nation communities can make informed decisions about their land. Four Rivers has accredited trainers who can deliver national and provincial environmental certificate programs as well as their own original and community specific environmental training programs. These programs are suitable for lands and resource staff or community members who desire to work in the environmental field, or who have an interest in doing environmental monitoring for their communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Acoustic Monitoring

Four Rivers completed a 1 year acoustic monitoring and data collection project with three Matawa Communities to document sightings of Avian Species at Risk. Four at Risk species were successfully recorded and verified as well as a full avian species list for the areas sampled. This data will be included in the Ecological database and Four Rivers hopes to expand the program into every Matawa community.

Certified Benthic ID

Several members of Four Rivers staff are qualified through the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network protocol to positively identify benthic invertebrates to the Order level, and one staff member has taken the certification exam required to identify benthic invertebrates to the Family level. This expertise is available to Matawa communities for environmental monitoring purposes, and for teaching and capacity building.

Greenstone Gold Technical Review

Four Rivers staff helped facilitate the development of Ginoogaming First Nation's Request for Proposals for the comprehensive review of Greenstone Gold's Baseline Technical Documents and draft Environmental Assessment. Four Rivers has provided support and

assistance throughout the selection of the winning bidder and worked with Dillon Consulting Ltd. to meet the community's objectives.

First Aid Instructor

Four Rivers has undertaken to have staff qualified to teach Standard First Aid and related courses. Two staff members are fully qualified and able to provide courses immediately. The benefit of this training being in-house is that it can be provided to communities at cost, and with a First Nations perspective. Available courses include:

- Emergency First Aid
- Standard First Aid
- CPR
- First Aid for Health Care Providers
- Red Cross Babysitting course
- Marine First Aid

Discovery Lake Project

Four Rivers assisted with the development and delivery of a camp cleanup and wetland assessment project through the National Wetland Conservation Fund. An abandoned exploration camp was dismantled and the site cleaned, as well as an assessment conducted on Discover Lake (near the site) and a nearby wetland complex. This project provided useful data on the region, employed several community members for a number of weeks and rehabilitated an area near the community.





Four Rivers Environmental Services Group

Key Priority Area #3: Community Environmental Engagement & Communication Outreach

OPPORTUNITIES:

Watershed Project

Four Rivers is waiting for funding confirmation to undertake a two-year rehabilitation program of Wetlands around Constance, Pike and Wilmot Lakes in Constance Lake First Nation. This project is in support of Constance Lake First Nation's Comprehensive Community Plan.

Acoustic Monitoring (Bird and Bat)

As mentioned previously, Four Rivers is hoping to extend the Species at Risk data collection project to include the remainder of Matawa communities over the next three years. Concurrently with this project Four Rivers is waiting on funding confirmation for acoustic monitoring of Bats in the Matawa region. Specifically White Nosed bats. These projects will add considerably to the collection of data housed at Four Rivers and will be available to communities for use in Land Use Planning and all future endeavors.

Wolverine in Eabametoong

Four Rivers is planning a data collection and outreach program to investigate current and historical sightings of Wolverine in the region. A one year pilot study has been funded by The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to conduct the project.



Four Rivers staff attended various youth events over the 2015 summer months including; Ginoogaming First Nation Spring Gathering; Long Lake #58 Youth Environment Festival; Ginoogaming First Nation Youth Canoe Trip; Nibinamik First Nation Youth Retreat; Marten Falls First Nation Career Fair; and the Long Lake #58 Fall Camp. Outreach Activities included attendance at PDAC as well as hosting events such as the Matawa Community Environmental Planning Conference, and the Women in Mining Round table.

Long Lake #58 First Nation Fall Camp

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Four Rivers staff travelled to Longlac to participate in the annual Long Lake 58 First Nation Fall camp held at Marlow Wesley's trap line northeast of the community. Some of the activities provided by Four Rivers included; colouring, crafts, owl pellets, trail cameras, puzzles, microscopes, bird information, and maps and values collection.

OPPORTUNITIES

This event gave participating Four Rivers staff the opportunity to relationship build more with the community members of Long Lake #58 as well as expose youth to the mapping and sciences at Four Rivers.

Nibinamik Youth Retreat

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Four Rivers staff travelled to Nibinamik First Nation to provide youth science programming during the Annual Youth Retreat. Programming included; benthic collection (observation and discussion), environmental colouring/activity booklet, values collection mapping exercise and owl pellet dissection.

OPPORTUNITIES

This event gave participating Four Rivers staff the opportunity to get to know the community members of Nibinamik better. The accomplishment would be teaching the kids about maps and science.

Ginoogaming Canoe Trip

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Four Rivers staff assisted with and took part in a summer student canoe program with Ginoogaming First Nation over the summer. Four Rivers staff provided environmental outreach and education to 28 summer students on the trip. Four Rivers hopes to continue to support this continued endeavour.

PDAC Conference 2016

Both Matawa and Four Rivers had booths for display at the 2016 Prospectors and Developers Conference in Toronto, Ontario from March 6-9, 2016. Four Rivers showcased the services we provide and the work we do with our member communities. A total of 275 people stopped in and chatted with Four Rivers staff at our booth.

CHALLENGES

The booth location in the 'Investors Exchange' area of the Tradeshow limited visitor understanding of our Department and Organization.

OPPORTUNITIES

Attending the conference gave us the opportunity to network with other industry professionals and showcase the type of work we do and our departments abilities.

Our Worlds are Unifying: Women in Mining Round Table

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Informal event with the objectives of introducing Women in Mining Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario Chapter (WIM) to Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) and brainstorming potential ways the two organization could work together. WIM is a grass-roots volunteer based organization that seeks to empower women, promote and guide women who are in or want to enter the mining industry and to act as mentors. A total 25 people attended the event including people from MFNM Four Rivers and Regional Framework Departments, Women in Mining Board and Chapter Members, KKETs students, Noront staff members, Aboriginal Geoscience Liaison with the Ministry of Northern Development in Mines and a representative from Paro.

OPPORTUNITIES

There has been identified the opportunity for the development of supplemental programming and workshops through WIM in collaboration with KKETS as part of trades training.

Regional Ecological Data Collection Project

Four Rivers has developed an Open Data Portal, currently with 118 pieces of public ecological data available to Matawa members, consisting of both geospatial (points, lines, or polygons) for mapping and reports.

CHALLENGES

Processing data to make it publicly available and providing direction to the source. Methodology has been identified to make the process more efficient.



OPPORTUNITIES

Eventually, the portal will only be accessible by Matawa members, and will be a source for more sensitive ecological data. The Open Data Portal will be used to identify gaps in existing ecological data, providing a strong base from which to build a case for baseline ecological data all across the Matawa traditional territory.

Four Rivers Website

A New Four Rivers website has been created and hosted locally at Matawa First Nations Management. Four Rivers staff has full control over the website's content and functions, and are better able to communicate programming, news, and opportunities.

CHALLENGES

There were challenges with the initial platform, and with hosting from Matawa's server. However, these issues have been resolved, allowing for more flexibility, control, and efficiency.

OPPORTUNITIES

Having a more functional, accessible website is an opportunity for Four Rivers to get into and advertise more interactive programming and outreach, potentially through online videos.

Community Environmental Planning Conference

Four Rivers worked to develop and host a Matawa Community Environmental Planning Conference on Oct. 20-23/15, as per the Matawa Chiefs Council Resolution #01 – 15/07/2015. The goal of the Conference was to stimulate community discussions on the Environmental Assessment process, contributing to meaningful dialogue both at home and throughout the

The anticipated outcomes included increased community capacity to contribute to EA discussions, as well as a conference report that could be used as a preliminary tool to facilitate EA dialogue in communities. The Conference was very well attended, with over 50 community delegates and approximately 100 people participating (including First Nation members residing in Thunder Bay, Matawa staff and guests from the Province of Ontario).

OPPORTUNITIES

Feedback from the event was very positive. All conference feedback and discussion results will be compiled in the report. An Action Plan will be developed from the report which will help guide the path that Four Rivers will take in ongoing activities with the Regional Framework Environment Pillar.

Mineral Development Support and Outreach Activities

The Four Rivers Mineral Development Communications and Support program aims to raise awareness at the community level on mineral exploration and development, plans and permitting processes, and the Ontario Mining Act. The program goals are to support facilitation, communication and education for the Matawa Member First Nations communities to participate in mineral development and approval processes, through capacity building with training and information workshops.

- Attended and contributed to 5 MMTC meetings
- Presented Mining Workshops in 3 communities; specifically "Understanding Mining" and "Plans & Permits" workshops
- Advising on Plans and permits to First Nations are ongoing
- Outreach activities in Career fairs, including school presentations on 8 occasions
- Outreach participation to communities on mining related matters on 10 occasions
- Attendance at various Mining forums ie, PDAC, CAMA, NWOPA, Greenstone Minerals Forum, NOF-NEC, and NADF Mining Summit.



Regional Framework

STAFF:

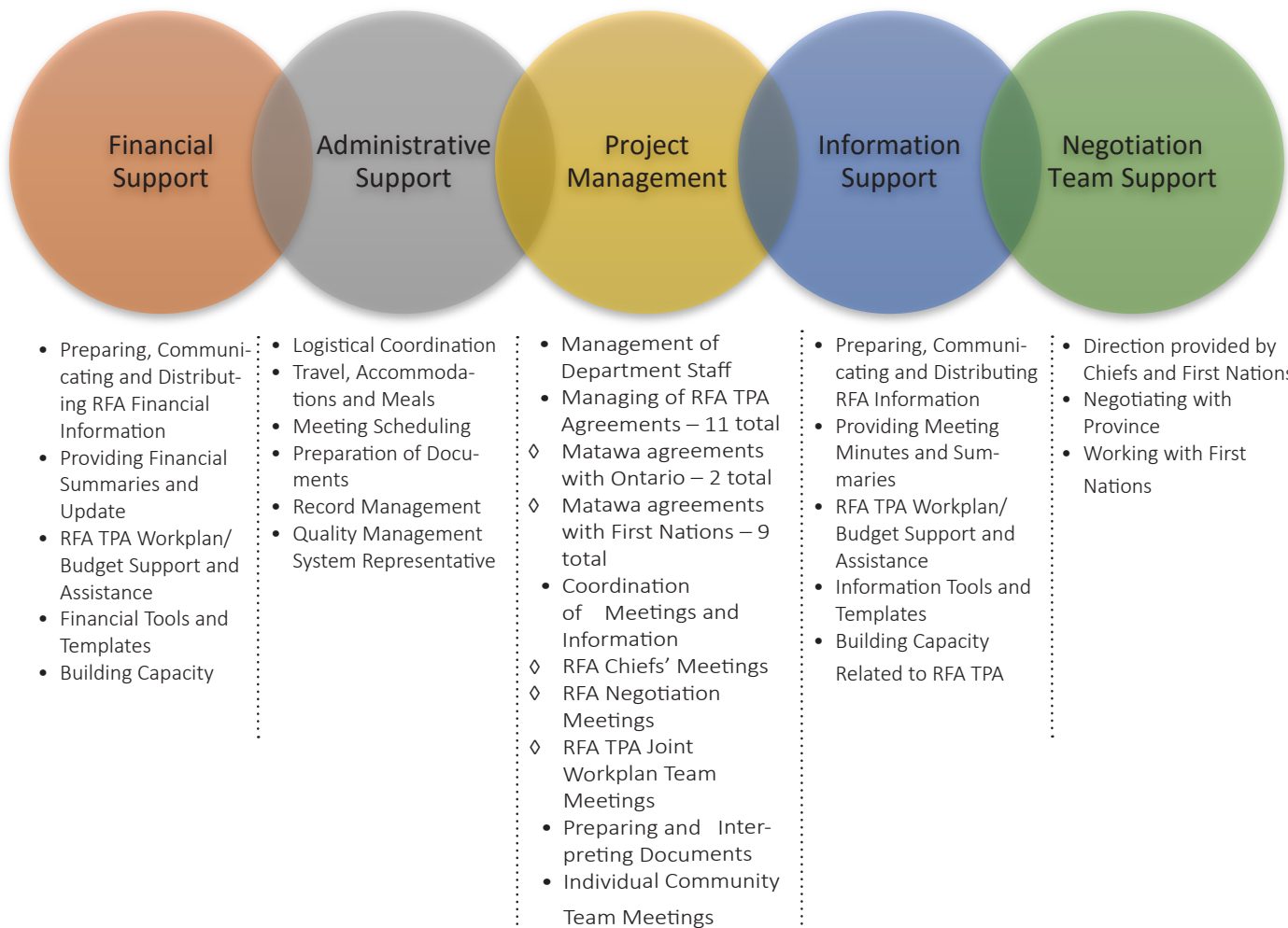
Kathy Brady, Project Manager
 Rosanna Peever, Administrative Assistant
 Holly Pyhtila, Information Support Officer
 Brook Mainville, Finance Officer

NEGOTIATING TEAM:

Bob Rae, Lead Negotiator
 Bryce Edwards, Lead Negotiator Assistant
 Kaitlyn Ritchie, Lead Negotiator Assistant

OVERVIEW:

Regional Framework Department provides support and assistance to the Matawa Chiefs, Matawa Member Communities, Negotiation Team, Community Representatives and Advisors throughout the Regional Framework Agreement processes. The Regional Framework Department's mandate is to provide support and assistance to our communities in the following areas:





Regional Framework

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

The key priority areas for the Regional Framework Department are to support and assist the 9 Matawa First Nations throughout the Regional Framework Agreement (RFA) Negotiations and related processes including:

1. First Nation RFA Teams
2. RFA Negotiations Team
3. Meetings and Logistics
4. Communications and Documentation
5. Information Support
6. Financial Support
7. TPA Workplans/Budgets/Reports

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Negotiations:

Regional Framework Agreement: Discussions with Ontario continue in 4 priority pillar areas:

1. *Environmental Assessment (EA)*
 - Matawa First Nations have presented an EA proposal/concept paper to Ontario – November 2015
 - Ontario has responded to our proposal
 - Ontario has provided a draft Enhanced Environmental Assessment Agreement in Principle (EA AIP) – June 2016
 - Discussions continue on our response to the draft EA AIP
 - Marten Falls presented Enhanced EA concept to Chiefs – June 2016
2. *Socio-Economics: Community Benefits Fund (CBF)*
 - Matawa First Nations have presented a CBF proposal/concept paper to Ontario – November 2015
 - Ontario has agreed in principle to a CBF
 - An interim payment has been offered by Ontario – June 2016
 - Discussions continue on structure, administration, funding allocation and delivery targets

3. *Infrastructure:*

- Matawa First Nations have presented an Infrastructure proposal/concept paper to Ontario – November 2015
- Formal response not yet received from Ontario
- Community Access Road Studies: 4 First Nations' study (summer 2016 completion) and Marten Falls road studies

4. *Resource Revenue Sharing:*

- Long-term item that will not be generated until there are mines built and operating. Our First Nations want to be informed and prepared for discussions.
- Long Lake #58 First Nation has commissioned research on the topic and is compiling an information resource document.

Regional Framework Department Meetings & Workshops Summary:

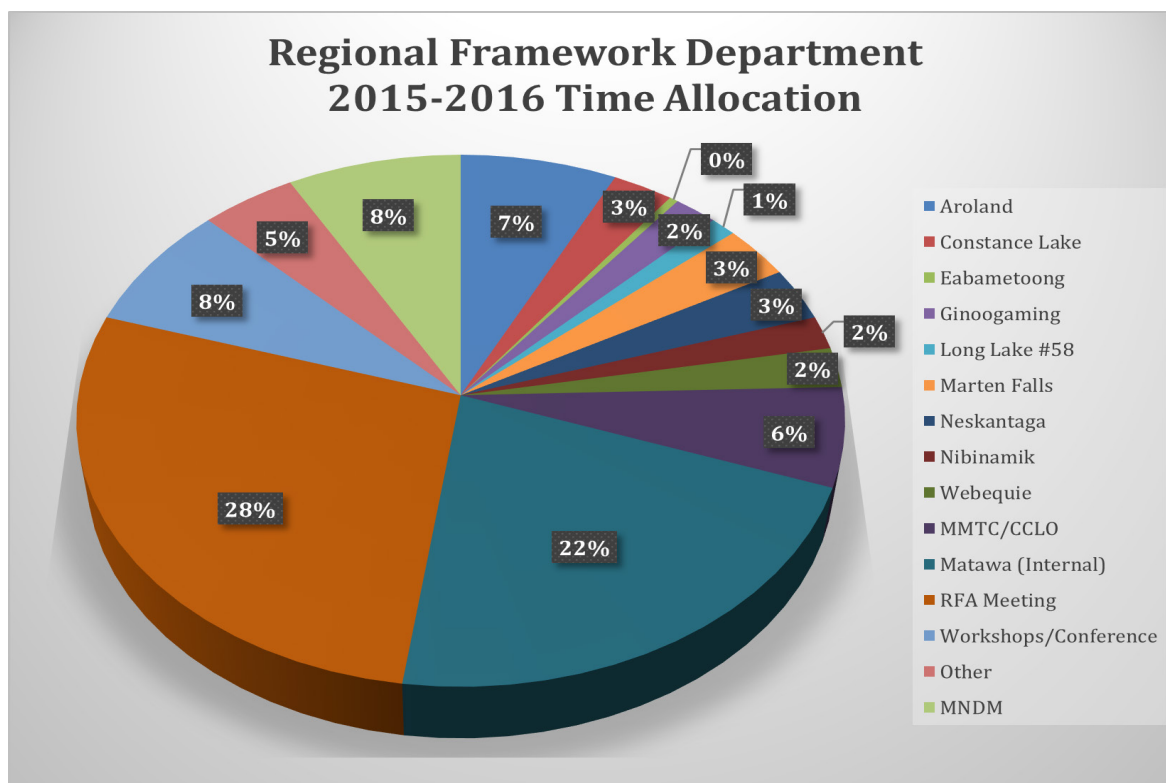
1. Regional Framework related meetings: 69 days
2. Regional Framework Department individual Meetings with Communities: 61 days
3. Regional Framework meetings with Ontario: 20 days
4. Matawa internal Tribal Council meetings: 54 days
5. MMTCC/CCLO Meetings: 15 days (not including workshops & conferences)
6. MNM Meetings: 20 days
7. Other: 11

Regional Framework Department Highlights:

1. Matawa Chiefs Retreat, Nor'Wester Hotel, Thunder Bay – May 12-14, 2015
2. Matawa Community Environmental Planning Conference, Airline Hotel, Thunder Bay October 20-23, 2015
3. First Nation Infrastructure Development and Partnership, Victoria Inn, Thunder Bay February 24, 2016
4. Matawa Wisdom Keepers Conference, Airline Hotel, Thunder Bay March 1-3, 2016
5. Matawa Power to the People Energy Conference, Victoria Inn, Thunder Bay May 2-3, 2016



Meeting & Workshops Summary July 2015- July 2016



EXPLANATORY NOTES:

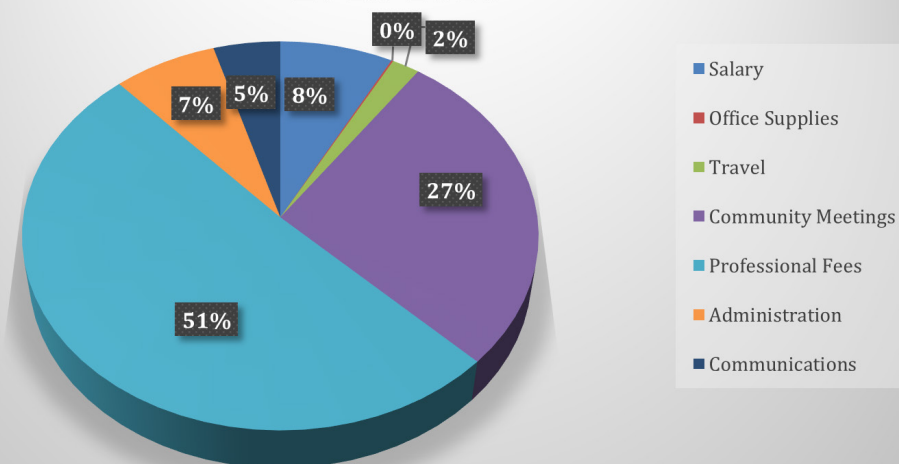
- First Nations' % represents meetings with RF Department
- MMTC/CCLLO % represents Mineral Technical Meetings
- Matawa Internal % represents meetings within organization
- RFA Meetings % represents meetings with Chiefs, Community Members, Community Representatives, Negotiations Team, Advisors, RFA TPA Joint Workplan Team and Chiefs sub-committee
- Workshops/Conferences % represents Infrastructure, Environmental, Energy, Wisdom Keepers, PDAC, CAMA, Shareholder and Advocacy Leadership Training and Don't Fear the Podium Training (participants pictured above)
- Other % represents external inquiries
- MNDM % represents meetings with the Province's Negotiation Team, Ring of Fire Secretariat and staff



Regional Framework

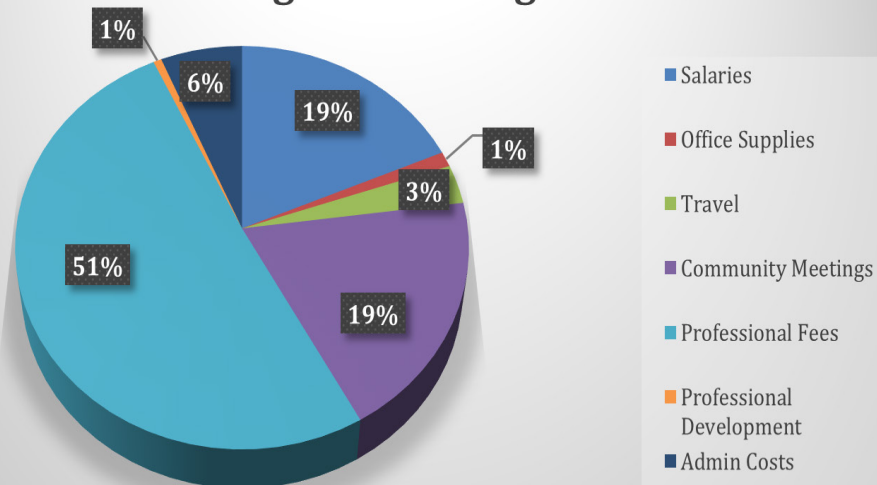
RFA TPA Matawa Funding Summary April 2015 - March 2016

Regional Framework Matawa Expenditures 2015-2016

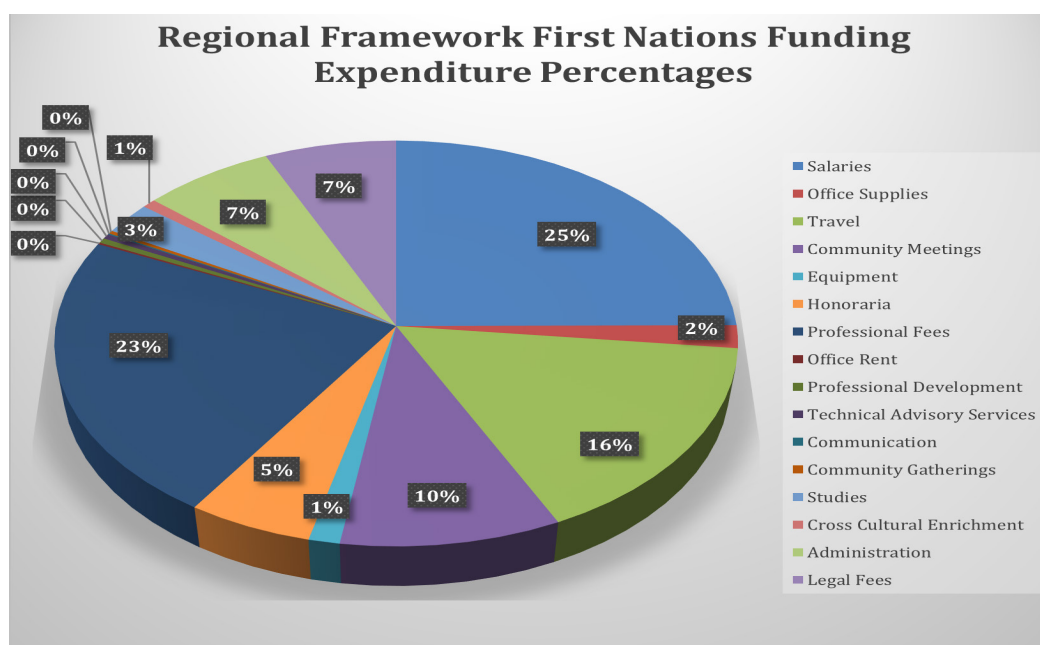


RFA TPA Matawa Funding Summary April 2016 - March 2017

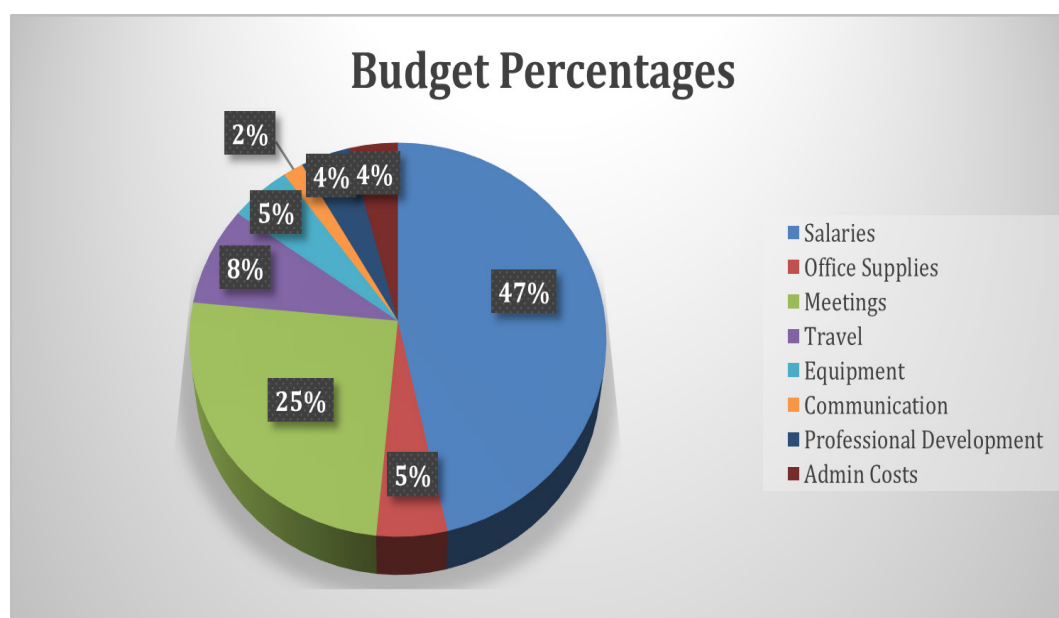
Budget Percentages



RFA TPA Matawa Funding Summary April 2016 - March 2017



RFA TPA Flow Through Management Funds: April 2016 - March 2017



EXPLANATORY NOTES:

- Salaries: Two additional RFA support staff hired- Informational Support Officer and Finance Officer
- Meetings: 4 RFA TPA Joint Workplan Team- 2 representatives per First Nation funded to attend- meeting logistics and coordination
- Professional development: RFA Joint Workplan Team training



Regional Framework

CHALLENGES:

Funding

- Delay of RFA funding agreements slows progress within the First Nations which impedes their ability to function in a productive manner
- Funding allocations are not satisfying all of our First Nations' requirements
- Reporting is received late and delays the release of RFA funds

Communications

- This has been identified as a challenge by all of our First Nations
- Understanding roles and responsibilities
- Remote locations with unreliable equipment (internet, phone, radio, satellite)

Jurisdiction

- Gaining a clear understanding of our jurisdiction and how it applies to the RFA

Capacity Building

- Takes time to absorb, understand and gather data and information when dealing with a large project of this scale

First Nations' Crises

- Our First Nations are dealing with unprecedented crises that have a direct impact on their ability to work while dealing with trauma

OPPORTUNITIES:

Funding

- Improving funding releases - April 01, 2017
- RFA TPA Joint Workplan Team quarterly meetings
- 2 additional support staff for RFD - May 2016
- Secure multi-year funding
- Increase funding amounts

Communications

- Working closely with the First Nations and assisting with communication structures
- Intranet improvements: Currently we are trying to solidify funding to improve our intranet which will benefit our communities by providing a secure online resource for access to information

Capacity Building

- RFD community visits
- Create and assist with tools and templates





Financial Advisory Services

STAFF:

Andrew Yesno, Manager

OVERVIEW:

The department is available to help enhance member First Nation management, operations and life by delivering community finance, management and governance advisory services upon request. Financial advisory services may include working with the local managers, administration staff, education and health staff to address financial and personnel management capacity development. The Financial Advisory staff can work with the community finance personnel in the areas of computerized accounting and bookkeeping, financial planning, policy development, and internal reporting and audit preparation. Communities can also access support for preparation of funding proposals for a variety of community driven initiatives.

BAND MANAGERS COMMITTEE:

Vacant, Aroland First Nation
Monica John George, Constance Lake First Nation
Stella Waboose, Eabametoong First Nation
Ernest Waboose, Ginoogaming First Nation
Henry Waboose, Long Lake #58 First Nation
Linda Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation
Lillian Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
Phillip Oskineegish, Nibinamik First Nation
Vacant, Webequie First Nation

The Matawa First Nations Band Managers Committee is a committee of the Band Managers from the participating Matawa First Nations. The purpose of the committee is to build and maintain unified interaction between managers from each member First Nation to build capacity, share knowledge, coordinate projects and implement training to improve quality management systems and level of service and thereby, enhancing quality of life and community spirit in the Matawa communities. It was formed in 2011.

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

Capacity Development at the community level shall be the key priority area for the department. Pursuing proper funding, with community and leadership support, is vital in achieving this.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The department has continued its work in assisting communities with administrative level governance initiatives (personnel and finance policy reviews)
- New working relationship established with the First Nation Financial Management Board (FMB)
- Funding for a Band & Finance Manager meeting was received via the FMB, held in December 2015
- FMB also funded multiple communities to attend the 2016 FMB Financial Management Systems workshop in Winnipeg
- FAD Manager and Matawa CEO David Paul Achneepineskum were invited to present and share with over 40 Nations from Northern British Columbia in Terrace, BC during the Northern Chiefs Coalition Meeting in February of this year
- Updated and refreshed reference library and documentation
- Engagement with both Federal and Provincial governments on potential funding opportunities for capacity development needs in the communities
- Community outreach, community requested visits and workshops have been conducted and facilitated throughout the year
- Participation with Confederation College in developing a new post-diploma program (Indigenous Governance & Public Administration)



Financial Advisory Services



CHALLENGES:

A lack of funding has resulted in being unable to meet regularly and maintain the committee goals of unified interaction, capacity building and sharing of knowledge and resources.

The previous federal government had little interest in investing in community level capacity development and governance. The new government has made the department optimistic that there is potential for more cooperation going ahead.

OPPORTUNITIES:

With the new federal government there has been a shift in investment priorities from “mining readiness” to “community wellness.” This includes Governance and Financial Management.

With this, the Matawa Financial Advisory Department (FAD) is undertaking plans to evaluate and assess every Matawa First Nation through an independent firm to assess the needs and skills within each community. This data would then be used to determine the needs required directly from the First Nations and define how the FAD would develop and expand in order to assist the communities in capacity development.

Ex. In-house bookkeeping services, payroll services or contracting a CPA to assist in communities being audit ready/preparation etc.

Expansion of the relationship with the FMB to include capacity development services for struggling communities.

Collaborating with the Aboriginal Finance Officers Association (AFOA) on potential governance and capacity development workshops.





Economic Development

STAFF:

Jason Rasevych, Economic Development Advisor (Program Manager)
Jonathan Neegan, Project Coordinator

OVERVIEW:

The Matawa Economic Development Department works with our member First Nations to develop, promote, and support a diverse private sector and entrepreneurial culture within our First Nations communities. We work to help create the opportunity-ready Matawa First Nations and to foster economic growth and success through economic and business development. We work together to ensure that our peoples enjoy the same opportunities for employment, income, wealth creation and well-being as other Canadians. We help our First Nations develop infrastructure, businesses and human capital to grow our local economies. The department also provides project management and administration services for many regional initiatives across different sectors including mining, forestry, tourism and energy and general management support for the Native Camp Operators Alliance and Agoke Development Corporation.

COMMITTEES:

See page 46 for a listing of the various Committees the Matawa Economic Development works with:

- Matawa Economic Development Committee
- Broadband Working Group
- Ogoki Forest Working Group
- Matawa Energy Planning Committee
- Ginoogam Development Corporation

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

Has been regional economic development support through EDO / EDC outreach. Some of the ways this was achieved was by working with our First Nations EDOs and EDCs to develop proposals leading to projects that will have an impact at the community level. Our goal is to address the gaps in our communities and take advantage of an economic opportunity that is priority for our First Nations.



All of our communities are at different stages and have different priorities; we do have common goals to work together on projects. We also deliver training in different areas including board development. In the last two years we assisted in securing over \$1.2 million in project/program funding for a broad range of community initiatives across various sectors.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Broadband Infrastructure Development Plan

- Completed business plan to establish a First Nations owned Telecommunications Company to own and operate the fibre optic network.
- Along with the working group and other departments developed a preferred route for the First Nations network
- Issued request for proposal for design and construction of the innovative Fibre to the Home network.

Forestry – Commercial Development and Land Management

a) Ogoki Forest

- Assisted with the incorporation of the Agoke Development Corporation and associated board of director and shareholder training workshops.
- Assisted the Agoke Development Corporation with securing a Forest Resource License from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to harvest wood fibre in the Ogoki Forest. This includes future opportunities in forest management services and road agreements
- Acted as liaison for Agoke Development Corporation providing negotiations support, contract review, management and administrative services
- Secured funding from Natural Resources Canada to complete a feasibility study to start a First Nations owned harvesting company
- Collaborated with Four Rivers to support the pre-engagement process to achieve a long-term license to manage the forest

b) Kenogami Forest

- Assisted with incorporation of the Ginoogam Development Corporation and associated board of director and shareholder training workshops
- Participated in the feasibility study to establish a First Nations owned harvesting company
- Provided support to the Ginoogam board of directors and general manager with financial and administrative services.

Tourism Strategic Planning Project

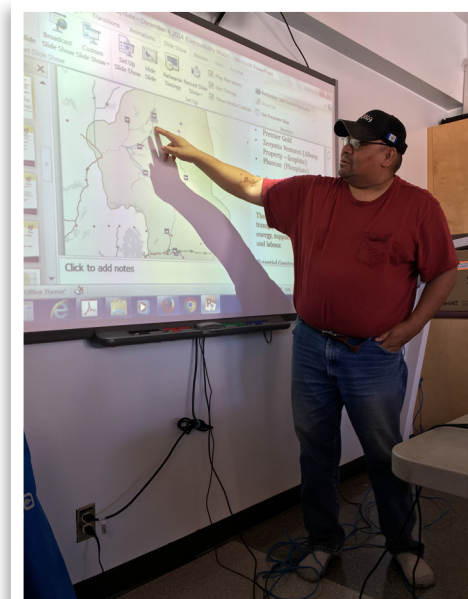
We secured funding in 2015 to develop a long-term tourism strategic plan that will support individual community plans for the 9 First Nations while assessing opportunities in the region. The project will also identify a strategic direction for the Native Camp Operators Alliance.

- Completed the market research and primary assessment of our First Nations
- Completed site visits in several communities to identify cultural tourism assets

** The project has been stalled by FedNor to complete the remaining deliverables*

Matawa Economic Development Committee - Readiness Project

- Updated community profiles for each First Nation which is being promoted on the new Matawa community portal website
- Developed a community economic development resource kit to assist with capacity building for current and future EDOs
- Assessed our First Nations economic development corporate structures and offered financial and corporate literacy training to understand financial, accounting and legal implications.





Economic Development

Energy Development Planning and Capacity Building

Matawa Economic Development worked with the Independent Electricity System Operators to develop a process to interface directly with them on the long term energy planning requirements of our First Nations. We are working to build awareness and understanding of the energy sector, energy generation and transmission line projects. We are assisting with developing solar, and waterpower demonstration and the financial analysis to support informed decision making and investment for our First Nations. This has led to the establishment of the Matawa Energy Planning Committee in June 2016.

Matawa Business Plan

Worked with project steering team on a business plan to establish a new environmental services company.

First Peoples Worldwide – Shareholder Advocacy Leadership Training (SALT):

Assisted with the promotion and delivery for the SALT training to establish a unit of Indigenous shareholder advocates throughout the Americas. Our goal is to create sources of support for Indigenous Peoples using market-based strategies to uphold Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for development within our traditional territories.

Native Camp Operators Alliance - Remote Fly-in Camp Outpost Management

Assisted tourism camp outposts located in Webequie First Nation (Chipai and Wapikopa) with general management and administrative support. Helped the camps raise profit margins in the 2015 season.

Other Local Initiatives

- Assisted with the development of the Ginoogaming Economic Strategic Plan
- Assisted with the development of the Neskantaga Economic Strategic Plan
- Assisting with the development of a gap analysis for remote electrification for Neskantaga and Nibinamik
- Assisting Nibinamik First Nation with corporate structuring and capacity building for Aki-Majidaawin Corporation
- Assisting Neskantaga Economic Development Corporation with business planning to upgrade the hotel/lodge and establish restaurant
- Assisting Eabametoong First Nation – Local Telecommunications Firm with corporate structuring.
- Assisted remote First Nations with advisory on K-NET cellular tower expansion

CHALLENGES:

- Poor support from Federal Government Agencies that promote themselves as leads in First Nation Economic Development (INAC, INAC –SPI, FED-NOR). These agencies also lack the understanding of our First Nations real needs which results in poor investments and ineffective resource placements, cultural awareness training for federal officials is needed at all levels.
- Unilateral decisions by INAC and FedNor providing funding and mandates to other organizations to undertake comprehensive community planning, and facilitation for other projects and studies (well-being, housing, governance/finance etc.)
- Top down driven government process for forest tenure modernization for enhanced sustainable forest licenses which leads to poor support for community consultation and decision making

- Absence of our First Nations' positions in Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan leading other agencies and processes to move forward without our First Nations goals, ambitions and plans.
- Lack of a regional economic development system and joint venture partnership decision making model or the capacity building initiatives to raise the awareness and understanding of what one would look like.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Ways that Matawa can help our First Nations in Economic Development:

- Expansion of human resources for better economic development support services for our First Nations in different sectors (Mining Unit, Forestry Unit, Tourism Unit, Energy Unit)
- The development and integration of community based Economic Development Database to complete asset and skills inventories, market studies, needs/gaps analysis. This would assist our First Nations make informed decisions with economic information at the community level that is also regionally linked and strategic.
- The enabling of a First Nations Regional Development Corporation to take advantage of the current business opportunities and compete in the marketplace and build capacity. Our First Nations need the right for-profit structure to launch partnerships.
- Develop and deliver education and capacity building programs on financial literacy, corporation models and governance, trusts and shareholder and partnership agreements
- The commissioning of economic studies on several major resource projects like the Ring of Fire, Greenstone Gold Project, Transcan Pipeline and Forestry. This would help our First Nations make better decisions on the direction of community based and regional economic development relating to these projects.

MATAWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

The Matawa Economic Development Committee (MEDC) was established in 2013 to provide strategic recommendations to the Chiefs Council and to work together on projects with common goals. The committee provides input into the economic development department workplan and is involved in project management activities for several planning initiatives (Tourism, Broadband, Energy). The MEDC consists of the community economic development officer or following appointed representatives:

Mark Bell, Aroland First Nation
Ernest Moore, Constance Lake First Nation
Lewis Nate, Eabametoong First Nation
Peter Rasevych, Ginoogaming First Nation
Darcy Waboose, Long Lake #58 First Nation
Delia Okees, Marten Falls First Nation
Edward Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
Byron Wapoos, Nibinamik First Nation
Glen Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

OGOKI FOREST WORKING GROUP:

The Ogoki Forest Working Group (OFWG) was established in 2014 to provide to work together to assume greater control of forest management responsibilities including environmental stewardship and economic benefits from commercial forestry operations. OFWG consists following appointed representatives:

Sheldon Atlookan, Aroland First Nation
Mark Bell, Aroland First Nation
Ernie Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
Joseph Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
Ron Misewance, Eabametoong First Nation
Lewis Nate, Eabametoong First Nation
Bill Spade, Eabametoong First Nation
Andy Yesno Sr., Eabametoong First Nation
Lawrence Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation
Mel Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation
Dave Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation
Delia Okees, Marten Falls First Nation



Economic Development

The Agoke Development Corporation was established in 2015 to to plan and maximize business opportunities related to commercial forestry in the Ogoki Forest. The boards of directors are Mark Bell, Bill Spade and Delia Okees.



BROADBAND WORKING GROUP:

The Matawa Broadband Working Group (MBWG) was established in 2013 to develop a technical plan to connect our 5 remote First Nations (Nibinamik, Webequie, Neskantaga, Eabametoong, Marten Falls) to an intercommunity broadband fibre optic network. Aroland is also involved in the project as a connection point to Marten Falls. The MBWG also assists with the community engagement and consists of the following appointed representatives:

Mark Bell, Aroland First Nation
 Lewis Nate, Eabametoong First Nation
 Wayne Slipperjack, Eabametoong First Nation
 Lawrence Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation
 Dave Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation
 Delia Okees, Marten Falls First Nation
 Edward Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
 Dorothy Sakanee, Neskantaga First Nation
 Harvey Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
 Byron Wapoos, Nibinamik First Nation
 James Suganaqueb, Glen Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

MATAWA ENERGY PLANNING COMMITTEE (MEPC):

The Matawa Energy Planning Committee (MEPC) was established in June 2016 to develop a planning and community engagement process for the expansion of the Ontario electrical transmission system to the remote Matawa First Nations. The MEPC will also undertake studies for business planning to capture the diverse needs of the First Nations and reflect those needs within the technical options for connecting to the provincial transmission system, micro-grids and other energy generation projects.

Mark Bell, Aroland First Nation
 Ernest Moore, Constance Lake First Nation
 Lewis Nate, Eabametoong First Nation
 Peter Rasevych, Ginoogaming First Nation
 Darcy Waboose, Long Lake #58 First Nation
 John O’Nabigon, Long Lake #58 First Nation
 Delia Okees, Marten Falls First Nation
 Edward Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
 Byron Wapoos, Nibinamik First Nation
 James Suganaque, Webequie First Nation
 Glen Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

GINOOGAM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

The Ginoogam Development Corporation was established in 2015 to to plan and maximize business opportunities related to commercial forestry in the Kenogami Forest. The board of directors are Sheldon Atlookan (Aroland), John O’Nabigon (Long Lake #58), and Calvin Taylor (Ginoogaming).



Matawa First Nations Management

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The Power of Unity
The Dignity of Difference