

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday May 19, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS OFFER CONDOLENCES TO THE BEGG AND KEEASH FAMILIES AND URGE MATAWA LEARNING CENTRE STUDENTS TO EXERCISE CAUTION IN THE CITY OF THUNDER BAY

THUNDER BAY, ON: Matawa First Nation Chiefs, Board of Directors and staff today offered their deepest condolences to the Begg family and community of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug following the unofficial identification of the body of 14-year-old Josiah Begg found in the McIntyre River yesterday. They also are taking the opportunity express the same deep condolences to the family of the late Tamara Keeash and community of North Caribou Lake First Nation as they struggle with their tragic loss.

The Matawa Chiefs are urging students from the Matawa Learning Centre (MLC) to exercise caution in the city of Thunder Bay. MLC is a private First Nation high school run by Matawa serving the students of five (5) remote Matawa communities of Neskantaga, Webequie, Marten Falls, Nibinamik and Eabametoong First Nations. It has been in operation since 2010.

David Paul Achneepineskum, Matawa CEO said, “Our prayers are with the family of Josiah Begg, we hope that you will find peace and strength as you face your lives without your love one. We also want to take the opportunity to give our prayers to the family of Tammy Keeash. As First Nations Peoples, we share your sorrows and we will be there for you as you go through your healing. On behalf of our Chiefs and our Peoples—our sincere condolences and prayers to all of you. We will stand by you as we work together to find answers to the cause of your loss.”

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For more information, please contact Carol Audet, Communications Manager – Matawa First Nations at (807) 632-9663 or by email at caudet@matawa.on.ca.

Matawa First Nations Management is a Tribal Council providing a variety of advisory services and programs to 8 Ojibway and Cree First Nations in James Bay Treaty No. 9 and 1 First Nation in the Robinson-Superior Treaty area. Follow them on Facebook or Twitter @MatawaFN