



# MATAWA First Nations

## CHIEFS COUNCIL REPORT 2010/2011

### Chiefs Council Objectives

1. Provide technical, policy and political advice
2. Support individual First Nations Chiefs, Councillors and staff at the community level within Matawa First Nations
3. To support other Aboriginal organizations who serve Matawa First Nations people

### Chiefs Council Goals 2010/2011

1. Political voice needed for Chiefs Contact
2. Terms of reference for political body, political mandates, goals and objectives
3. Re-establish the Technical committee to provide background advice to the Professional Negotiator and Chiefs
4. Establish a Chiefs Committee which will focus on political strategies, resource development and to receive recommendations from technical committee
5. Standardize mining agreements
6. Secure a professional negotiator for all nine First Nations

### Chiefs Council Goals 2011/2012

1. Consultation and Accommodation Protocol on Development
2. Government to Government Relationship
3. Defined Ring of Fire Strategy
4. Internal Relationship Protocols Between First Nations
5. Capacity Building Programs at the First Nations level

## Matawa Chiefs Council Report 2010 - 2011

Prepared for the 23rd Annual General Meeting

July 26th - July 28th, 2011

Hosted By Constance Lake First Nation



CONSTANCE LAKE  
FIRST NATION







Matawa First Nations  
Chiefs Council Report 2010/2011

## Matawa First Nations

### 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.

## Matawa First Nations

### 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.



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## Matawa First Nations

### Values

#### Matawa First Nations Work Together

We have 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, social, 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.

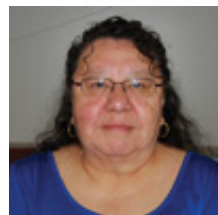
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## Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council 2010/2011

The Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council is the political arm of Matawa First Nations and is made up of a representing Chief from each member community. The Council is a support mechanism for First Nations Chiefs and Councils both collectively and individually.

Matawa Chiefs Council also employs political advocacy staff to support its efforts in helping their communities.



**Long Lake #58 First Nation**  
Chief Veronica Waboose  
(Elected January 2010)



**Aroland First Nation**  
Chief Sonny Gagnon  
(Elected October 2009)



**Marten Falls First Nation**  
Chief Elijah Moonias  
(Elected September 2009)



**Constance Lake First Nation**  
Chief Roger Wesley  
(Elected June 2011)  
Chief Arthur Moore  
(Elected May 2003)



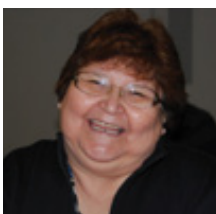
**Neskantaga First Nation**  
Chief Peter Moonias  
(Elected April 2011)  
Chief Roy Moonias  
(Elected April 2009)



**Eabametoong First Nation**  
Chief Harry Papah  
(Elected June 2011)  
Chief Lewis Nate  
(Elected May 2009)



**Nibinamik First Nation**  
Chief Roger Oskineegish  
(Elected January 2010)



**Ginoogaming First Nation**  
Chief Celia Echum  
(Elected August 2007)



**Webequie First Nation**  
Chief Cornelius Wabasse  
(Elected January 2009)

## ‘Moore’ than a Decade as Chief



Arthur Moore has become a staple at Matawa Chiefs meetings, serving as Chief for the community of Constance Lake First Nation for the last eleven years. Breaking the community record for the longest serving Chief ever, the departing leader says that he has accomplished all of the tasks he has wanted to do and is ready to move out of the role on to new challenges in his life.

Moore explains that a lot has changed over the last decade, and he has seen not only his community, but Matawa First Nations as a whole, make tremendous progress. Moore says; “Leadership is more active and focused in the area of development, and they are getting more involved, especially in the mining sector.” However Moore states, that Matawa leadership must remember that they need to work collaboratively and stay focused on the goal; “The goals for every community are all the same” says Moore; “For prosperity-to have healthy communities.”

When Moore first became Chief in 2000, he said his main focus was on education. He wanted to see his community have access to a highschool, elementary school and daycare. With a lot of lobbying, he made this a number one priority, and in 2004 saw his dream become reality with the construction of the Mamawmatawa Holistic Education Center. The locally owned school has over 200 students from Junior Kindergarten all the way to Grade Twelve, and even offers child care through the Little Lambs Day Care.

Moore explains that the education project was one of the reasons why he kept returning as Chief, so he could ensure the school was constructed. Moore believes this was one of his largest accomplishments as Chief; others include the construction of the elder’s complex and the ecotourism centre, which Moore hopes will soon serve as a healing centre.

Throughout the years, Moore has sat on various Chiefs committees, lobbied several resolutions, has acted as the spokesperson for Education, and most recently sat as the spokesperson for the Matawa Chiefs. Moore says this won’t be the last that Matawa sees of him, as he has high hopes of working in the private sector, particularly in the Ring of Fire.

Moore would like to thank the community of Constance Lake for giving him the confidence to be a leader for eleven years, and would also like to thank Matawa Chiefs for working with him. “It’s been a rewarding experience for me, I gathered a lot of knowledge throughout the years, working with the political organizations, government agencies,” says Moore; “Sometimes there is time for change, and it is time for me to move on to other things. Great opportunities are ahead and I look forward to that”. ■

## The Keeskitay Monument

As a hawk cried above in a light rain, about 30 people gathered for the unveiling of the Keeskitay Monument on the Witchwood River Crossing, approximately 175 km north of Aroland First Nation. The monument, made of metal and local stone - selected by the Charles and John Keeskitay - was unveiled on Saturday May 28, 2011. The site marks the grave of Ogima-Akiinini - Keeper of the Land - a medicine man from Eabametoong First Nation who is a member of the Keesketey Family. Terrance Keeskitay helped organize the unveiling with family members and representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Bill Mequanawap, from Neskantaga First Nation, was on hand to provide a ceremony to mark this occasion.

This recognition was finally given to Ogima Akiinini after his gravesite was desecrated when a forest road was built on top of it. After several years of negotiations with the MNR, along with the confirmation of the archaeologist, the family was able to protect this sacred site. The current forestry road will be relocated around the site after consultation with the Keeskitay Family. ■



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2. Support individual First Nations Chiefs, Councillors and staff at the community level within Matawa First Nations
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## Chiefs Council Goals 2010/2011

1. Political voice needed for Chiefs Contact
2. Terms of reference for political body, political mandates, goals and objectives
3. Establish a Chiefs Committee which will focus on political strategies.
4. Re-establish the Technical Committee to provide background advice to the Chiefs.
5. Standardize mining agreements
6. Secure a professional negotiator for all nine First Nations.
7. Strategic, business, and political strategies.
8. Establish agreements/protocols that deal with social and health deliveries.
9. Work towards establishing a health authority.
10. Get youth involved and leading in spiritual gatherings/activities ■

## Chiefs Council Major Accomplishments 2010/2011

### 1. Creating a Declaration of Unity

- Developed to strengthen unity among the First Nation and provide direction for detailed Ring of Fire Strategy.

### 2. Hire a Ring of Fire Coordinator:

- Funding was secured and Raymond Ferris was hired for this position.

### 3. Capacity Building Funding

Funding was received for Matawa First Nations to support capacity building with First Nation in preparation for Mining Development in the following key areas:

- Education / Training
- Economic Development
- Environment
- Health
- Administrative, Communications and Infrastructure

### 4. Support for Prescription Drug Strategy - Meno Biimadeseyung

- The Strategy to Overcome Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse in Matawa Communities

### 5. Meshake Case Victory

- Political and Financial support to Meshake Family who won their case to building and maintain a trappers cabin in their traditional territory ■



## Chiefs Council Goals 2011/2012

1. Consultation and Accommodation Protocol on Development
2. Government to Government Relationship
3. Defined Ring of Fire Strategy
4. Internal Relationship Protocols Between First Nations
5. Capacity Building Programs at the First Nation Level in the areas of Prescription Drugs, Environmental Monitoring and Adult Education. ■





# Chiefs Meetings 2010/2011

## July 2010

July 27-29

Matawa AGM, at Neskantaga First Nation

## August 2010

August 4-5, 2010

Discussions on Far North Act with Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN)

August 10-11, 2010

Some Matawa Chiefs held introductory meeting with Cliffs in Cleveland

August 13, 2010

## NAN Chiefs Meeting

August 17-19, 2010

## Tikinagan Annual Meeting in Sandy Lake First Nation

August 20, 2010

Matawa Chiefs meeting with Ministers Gravelle, Jeffrey and Bentley

## September 2010

September 7-9, 2010

## Matawa Chiefs attend Mushkegowuk Land Use Planning Meeting in Discussion on Matawa / Mushkegowuk Joint Declaration

## October 2010

October 5-6, 2010

## Matawa Chiefs Meeting in Thunder Bay

October 22, 2010

## Matawa Chiefs visit Marten Falls First Nation

October 27, 2010

Matawa Chiefs visit Eabametoong First Nations to offer support during State of Emergency due to Prescription Drug Abuse

## November 2010

November 7-10, 2010

Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association, Winnipeg

November 22-25

## Chiefs of Ontario Meeting in Toronto

## December 2010

December 7-9, 2010

## NAN Chiefs Meeting: Thunder Bay

December 20-21, 2010

## Matawa Chiefs Meeting in Aroland First Nation

January 2011

January 17, 2011

## Matawa Chiefs meet with Lake Nipigon/Lake Superior Chiefs

## February 2011

February 1-3, 2011

Joint Matawa Chiefs/Technical Committee Meeting in Thunder Bay

February 17-18, 2011

## Matawa Chiefs Meeting in Thunder Bay

February 22-24, 2010

NAN Economic Development Forum in Thunder Bay

## March 2011

March 1-3, 2011	Matawa Community Governance and Economic Development Conference in Thunder Bay
March 6-9, 2011	PDAC Conference in Toronto
March 22-24, 2011	NAN Chiefs Meeting, Timmins and Joint meeting with the Matawa – Mushkegowuk Chiefs
March 29-30, 2011	Matawa Chiefs and Technical Committee meeting in Thunder Bay

## April 2011

April 5-7, 2011	Ontario Ring of Fire Conference
April 12-14 2011	Chiefs of Ontario Meeting in Toronto
April 15, 2011	Matawa Chiefs Meeting in Toronto

## May 2011

May 18-20, 2011	Matawa Chiefs Meeting in Thunder Bay
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## June 2011

June 6-8, 2011	Matawa Chiefs Meeting in Neskantaga First Nation
June 14-16, 2011	All Ontario Chiefs Meeting in Toronto
June 22, 2011	Ontario Ring of Fire Infrastructure Conference in Thunder Bay
June 23, 2011	Chiefs/ONFLP Meeting in Toronto
June 24-25, 2011	Matawa Chiefs Meeting in Thunder Bay

## July 2011

July 13-14, 2011	Matawa Chiefs signing of Declaration in Webequie First Nation
July 18, 2011	First Nations Water Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie
July 19-21, 2011	Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Chiefs Conference in Thunder Bay
July 26-28, 2011	Matawa Annual General Meeting in Constance Lake First Nation ■



*July 13-14, 2011 - Matawa Chiefs signing of Declaration in Webequie First Nation*



## Resolutions 2010/2011

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08/08/11: Letter of Intent

#### Resolution 01

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#### Resolution 04

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#### Resolution 05

20/05/11: Matawa Strategic Partnership Initiative

#### Resolution 06

20/05/11: Regional Economic Development Corporation

#### Resolution 07

20/05/11: Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment for Mining & Infrastructure

#### Resolution 08

20/05/11: Environment Monitoring and Training Programs ■



## CHIEFS COUNCIL

Resolution 01 – 08/08/11

### LETTER OF INTENT

We the undersigned First Nations, Aroland, Constance Lake, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58, Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, and Webequie have reached an agreement to move forward on creating a unified approach with respect to the Unity Declaration put forward at Neskantaga First Nation Matawa Summit held on June 6-8, 2011.

The First Nations Chiefs have agreed to move forward with the Unity Declaration in further examining the vision of the Declaration and how this will affect the First Nations Community members. Therefore, the Chiefs agree to meet and formulate directions on the following issues:

- Finalize the Unity Declaration,
- Finalize the Vision and Mission Statements,
- Categorize all the key themes from the small group working sessions of this Matawa Summit,
- Develop a Communications Strategy, and
- Plan for the next gathering of the nine (9) First Nations to ratify the Declaration, Vision and Mission Statements and Communication Strategy.

The nine (9) First Nations Chiefs shall meet on June 24, 2011 in Webequie First Nation to discuss the above issues mentioned and establish time-lines for further meeting as required. The Chiefs will also establish a Technical Working Group and direct them to summarize and provide advice to the Chiefs on how to effectively integrate the content into their planning.

Moved by: Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation

Carried (8)

Dated in Neskantaga First Nation, Ontario, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

#### Chiefs Present:

Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation  
 Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation  
 Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation  
 Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake # 58 First Nation  
 Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation  
 Chief Eli Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation  
 Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation  
 Councillor Ron Wesley, Constance Lake First Nation



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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION 01 – 20/05/11

#### **Back to Our Roots: Chii Kee Way Meno Biimadeseyung PDA Strategy**

**Whereas** the Matawa First Nations Chiefs have identified Prescription Drug Abuse / Misuse as a state of emergency in their First Nations owing to the medical, social, economic difficulties it's having on community members; and

**Whereas** Matawa Health and Social Services Task Group has developed Back to Our Roots: Chii Kee Way Meno Biimadeseyung, The Strategy to Overcome Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse in the Matawa Communities based on community solution they have identified; and

**Whereas** it will be essential for communities to be healthy for any economic develop to happen in the region, and

**Whereas** Companies will require a healthy workforce to be successful;

**Therefore Be It Resolve** that Matawa First Nations Chiefs support Back to Our Roots: Chii Kee Way Meno Biimadeseyung; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs lobby Canada, Ontario and Industry for funding to assist First Nations to address this problem.

Moved by: Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Arthur Moore, Constance Lake First Nation

Carried (9)

Dated in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

#### Chiefs Present:

Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation

Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

Chief Arthur Moore, Constance Lake First Nation

Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Chief Roger Oskineegish, Nibinamik First Nation

Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

Chief Eli Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation

Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation



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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION 02 – 20/05/11

#### **Activation of KKETS as Matawa Employment and Training Replacement**

**Whereas** at the 2010 Matawa First Nations Annual General Assembly the members passed a resolution to create a Matawa Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (ARHDA) with Human Resource Development Canada (HRSDC); and

**Whereas**, Matawa First Nations was successful in securing an AHRDA with HRSDC which will support community training needs, especially in light of mineral and infrastructure development in the Matawa region; and

**Whereas** this AHRDA required a separate stand alone corporation to be formed outside of Matawa First Nations Management Inc.; and

**Whereas** this corporation is called KKETS Employment and Training (Kiikenomaga-Kikenjigenwen); and

**Whereas** HRSDC requires a support resolution to activate funding agreements with this new corporation; and

**Whereas** new board members will be required for this corporation by the Matawa Annual General Meeting;

**Therefore Be It Resolve** that Matawa First Nations Chiefs support KKETS to receive funding directly from HRSDC as the employment and training mechanism for Matawa First Nation; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs have their community board members for the upcoming Matawa Annual General Assembly.

Moved by: Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

Carried (9)



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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION 03 – 20/05/11

#### Matawa Summit

**Whereas** an number of early exploration camps and sites in the Ring of Fire area, as well as other areas in the traditional territories of the First Nations within Matawa First Nations; and

**Whereas**, there will be future advanced exploration sites and mining development sites plus other infrastructural (roads, rail, transmission, tele-communications) and energy development accompanying this mineral development through-out the region; and

**Whereas**, this development will have a significant impact on the First Nations who use these areas of hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering; and

**Whereas** this development will have a profound socio-economic impact on the First Nations people in this area, as well as the overall development of northern Ontario; and

**Whereas** there is a need for all First Nations of Matawa First Nations to come together to chart a course for how First Nations will realizing the opportunities which could flow from the Ring of Fire and mitigate some of the risks associated with it; and;

**Whereas** there is a need to hear from Chiefs, Councils, Elders, Youth, Women and other community representative from individual First Nations to chart this course in collective fashion; and

**Therefore Be It Resolve** that Matawa First Nations Chiefs support a Matawa Summit in Neskantaga First Nation, June 6-8, 2011 to develop that collective vision experience; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that that Naskantaga First Nation be compensated to host this Matawa Summit where they will not go into deficit; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs direct that the report from the Matawa Summit be made available to the Matawa First Nations members prior to the Annual General Meeting of Matawa First Nations.



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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

Moved by: Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation  
 Seconded by: Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Carried (9)

Dated in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

### Chiefs Present:

Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation  
 Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation  
 Chief Arthur Moore, Constance Lake First Nation  
 Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation  
 Chief Roger Oskineegish, Nibinamik First Nation  
 Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake # 58 First Nation  
 Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation  
 Chief Eli Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation  
 Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation



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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION 04 – 20/05/11

#### Indian Day School

**Whereas** many First Nations people, including those from Matawa First Nations, attended Indian Day Schools operated by Churches and suffered various forms of abuse; and

**Whereas** First Nations people who attended Indian Day School were not eligible for the common experience funding as per the residential school settlement agreement with Canada; and

**Whereas** the Chiefs of Ontario have contract with a lawyer to interview First Nations people to see if a class action lawsuit is an option; and

**Whereas** this lawyer is focusing on Nishnawbe-Aski Nation First Nation;

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Matawa First Nation Chiefs direct the lawyer to visit all Matawa First Nation communities who were affected by Indian Day School, including Long Lake #58 First Nation.

Moved by: Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

Carried (9)

Dated in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

#### Chiefs Present:

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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION 05 – 20/05/11

#### Matawa Strategic Partnership Initiative (SPI)

**Whereas** it is essential the Matawa First Nations prepare for the future economic and social development which will come with the mineral development in the Matawa region; and

**Whereas** Matawa First Nations, through the advice of the Matawa Mineral Technical Committee, Matawa Health and Social Services Task Force, Matawa Education Committee, Matawa Employment and Training Committee, Matawa Economic Development Officers and Band Manager at each First Nation has develop priorities in the area of capacity building; and

**Whereas** the following areas have been identified as needing support:

- Economic Development
- Education and Training
- Environment
- Health
- Community Administration/Infrastructure

**Whereas**, Matawa First Nations has applied to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for funding to support regional needs in the above priority areas;

**Therefore Be It Resolve** that Matawa First Nations Chiefs support Matawa First Nations SPI application, including its commitment to help address Prescription Drug Abuse; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Matawa First Nations report back to the Matawa Chiefs on the outcomes of the SPI Funding and how it supports community priorities.

Moved by: Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Arthur Moore, Constance Lake First Nation



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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION 06 – 20/05/11

#### Regional Economic Development Corporation

**Whereas** it is essential the Matawa First Nations prepare for the future economic and social development which will come with the mineral development in the Matawa region; and

**Whereas** Matawa First Nations see there is a need for institution to help capture large economic development opportunities for the First Nations; and

**Whereas** these institutions will take time to develop and need greater community input; and

**Whereas** there is a need to explain the financial and economic concepts, opportunities, choices and challenges to community members;

**Therefore Be It Resolve** that Matawa First Nations Chiefs support the creation of a regional Economic Development Corporation to assist in capturing large economic opportunities; and

**Be It Further Resolved** work being on determining the structure, shareholder arrangement, ownership, relationship to subsidiary corporations, joint ventures, trusts, limited and general partnerships, conflict of interest, relationship to community corporations; etc. and

**Be It Further Resolved** and business and financial education program be developed to assist community members understand all the concepts and ensuing economic and employment opportunities available; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that regular reports will be provided to the Matawa First Nations Chiefs for direction and approval.

Moved by: Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation



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Carried (9)

Dated in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION 07 – 20/05/11

#### **Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment for Mining and Enabling Infrastructure Development in the Matawa First Nation Traditional Territories**

**Whereas**, a number of mineral developments are anticipated in the traditional territories of First Nations with Matawa First Nations; and

**Whereas**, there will be other enabling infrastructural (roads, rail, transmission, telecommunications, energy developments) accompanying these mineral developments through-out the region; and

**Whereas**, these developments will likely have a significant impact on the First Nations in the area who use these lands for hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering and other traditional activities; and

**Whereas**, these developments will likely have profound socio-economic and cultural effects on the First Nations people in this area, as well as the overall development of northern Ontario; and

**Whereas**, these developments are likely to have significant adverse effects on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems (fish, fauna, flora, and water quality and quantity) and human health in northern Ontario; and

**Whereas**, the First Nations with the Matawa First Nations will experience the majority of adverse effects, including cumulative effects of multiple developments over time;

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs call for a Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act for the Cliffs' Chromite Project and Noront's Eagle's Nest Project and enabling infrastructure in our traditional territories; and



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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs call for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) and the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) to negotiate a joint panel agreement with the Matawa First Nations Chiefs on the implementation of the Joint Review Panel process, including timelines, panel member appointments, community based processes and funding to participate therein.

Moved by: Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

Dated in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

### Chiefs Present:

Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation  
 Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation  
 Chief Arthur Moore, Constance Lake First Nation  
 Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation  
 Chief Roger Oskineegish, Nibinamik First Nation  
 Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake # 58 First Nation  
 Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation  
 Chief Eli Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation  
 Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation



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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION 08 – 20/05/11

#### Environmental Monitoring and Training Programs

**Whereas**, a number of mineral developments are anticipated in the traditional territories of First Nations with the Matawa First Nations; and

**Whereas**, there will be future exploration and mining development sites and other enabling infrastructure (roads, rail, transmission, tele-communications, energy developments) accompanying these mineral developments through-out the region; and

**Whereas**, these developments will likely have a significant impact on the First Nations in the area who use these lands for hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering and other traditional activities; and

**Whereas**, there is a need to collect environmental and cultural values to establish a baseline to which changes associated these developments can be identified; and

**Whereas**, while these developments occur, there is a need to monitor these environmental and cultural values in order to identify potential adverse effects and implement mitigation measures; and

**Whereas**, the First Nations with the Matawa First Nations will experience the majority of adverse effects, including cumulative effects of multiple developments over time; and

**Whereas**, the First Nations with the Matawa First Nations must implement the values collection and monitoring programs as they have a vested interest in the land, have the closest proximity to these developments and need to have confidence in the integrity of the baseline monitoring data; and

**Whereas**, there is a need for capacity building and training within the First Nations of the Matawa First Nations on environmental and cultural values collection to implement the values collection and monitoring programs; and

**Whereas**, this capacity building and training represents an education and employment opportunity for the First Nations with the Matawa First Nations; and

**Whereas**, the First Nations with the Matawa First Nations have already established the Matawa Environmental Management Unit, titled Four Rivers, to coordinate, develop, and deliver environmental training programs as well as environmental awareness and advisory services;



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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

**Therefore Be It Resolved** the Matawa First Nations Chiefs support Four Rivers in pursuing funding opportunities to support and train community environmental monitors and other lands and resource staff; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Matawa First Nation Chiefs support the hiring and training of environmental monitors in each First Nation; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Matawa First Nation Chiefs support the delivery of Four Rivers developed environmental and cultural values collection and monitoring training programs, including but not limited to the GIS, GPS, TEK, and field data collection training programs; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Matawa First Nation Chiefs support Four Rivers in customizing and delivering already established environmental training programs, including Eco Canada's BEAHR programs and the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network training program, on topics such as land use planning, biomonitoring, and community environmental coordination.

Moved by: Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation  
 Seconded by: Chief Roger Oskineegish, Nibinamik First Nation  
 Carried (9)

Dated in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

### Chiefs Present:

Chief Celia Echum, Ginooogaming First Nation  
 Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation  
 Chief Arthur Moore, Constance Lake First Nation  
 Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation  
 Chief Roger Oskineegish, Nibinamik First Nation  
 Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake # 58 First Nation  
 Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation  
 Chief Eli Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation  
 Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation



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## CHIEFS COUNCIL

### Mamow- Wecheekapawetahteewiin

#### LL° ·ΔΓΒ<·ΔΓ·Δ~ UNITY DECLARATION

We, the undersigned nine (9) First Nations; Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Ginoogaming, Marten Falls, Long Lake #58, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie, live and rely upon the lands, water and resources entrusted to us by the Creator. We are connected through our language, culture, social and economic interests. The First Nations have the inherent right of self-determination as determined by our First Nations and applies to our homelands. This fundamental right has always rested with our people. The inherent right of self-determination is an Aboriginal and Treaty right recognized and affirmed under **Section 35** of the **Constitution Act, 1982**. The nine (9) First Nations take the position that our traditional territories are under our control, and approval to operate in our respective territories cannot be given by the Government or any other entities. We are united in sharing a common vision of being self-sufficient, self-governing peoples within a healthy, thriving culture, living in our homelands that shall sustain us for all times.

We will do whatever is necessary in order to protect our land, our water and our resources for the future generations. We agree that we must stand together in order to ensure our nation is protected. Therefore, we assert our Aboriginal and Treaty rights to the land, water and resources by requiring our written consent before any development activity may proceed. Failure to consult, accommodate and receive the consent of the First Nation(s) to proceed with any work or activity is an unjustified infringement upon our Aboriginal, Treaty and Custodial rights as First Nations.

Dated in Webequie First Nation at the Matawa Chiefs Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011.

X   
Chief Felix Echum  
Ginoogaming First Nation

X   
Chief Sonny Wagnon  
Aroland First Nation

X   
Chief Robert Moonias  
Marten Falls First Nation

X   
Chief Peter Moonias  
Neskantaga First Nation

X   
Chief Roger Oskineegish  
Nibinamik First Nation

X   
Chief Harry Papah  
Eabametoong First Nation

X   
Chief Cornelius Wabasse  
Webequie First Nation

X   
Chief Roger Wesley  
Constance Lake First Nation

X   
Chief Veronica Waboose  
Long Lake #58 First Nation



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## Media Statements 2010/2011

**May 19th, 2011**

First Nation Tired of Waiting for Wood Allocation

**May 11th, 2011**

Media Statement: Learning Centre Privacy

**April 29th, 2011**

Constance Lake wins court motion

**April 28th, 2011**

Constance Lake seeks urgent court injunction to stop drilling by Zenyatta Ventures Ltd.

**March 31st, 2011**

Matawa Introduces Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Resource Centre

**March 6th, 2011**

Matawa attends PDAC 2011

**March 1st, 2011**

Ontario backs down on Meshake Hunting Cabin Appeal

**February 10th, 2011**

Matawa Learning Centre Grand Opening

**February 4th, 2011**

Matawa & Lake Nipigon First Nations Chiefs ready to tackle mining and infrastructure issues together

**January 25th, 2011**

Matawa Introduces Ring of Fire Coordinator

**January 13th, 2011**

Government & Industry steam ahead on Ring of Fire, while First Nations are left waiting on the Platform

**December 17th, 2010**

Tap still runs dry in Constance Lake First Nation

**November 19th, 2010**

Water Woes Continue for Constance Lake First Nation

**November 12th, 2010**

Matawa Non-Profit Housing Begins Construction on New Units

**October 29th, 2010**

Eabametoong First Nation Responds

**October 22nd, 2010**

Eabametoong First Nation Declares State of Emergency

**October 19th, 2010**

Matawa First Nations Announces Employment and Training Organization

**October 6th, 2010**

Matawa Environmental Conference

**September 23, 2010**

Matawa First Nations at Parliament Hill for Post-Secondary Education

**August 30th, 2010**

Matawa First Nations communities to participate in Residential School Memorial Day

**August 24th, 2010**

Matawa First Nations Chief Announces Deadline Following a Meeting with Ontario Ministers ■

## First Nation Tired of Waiting for Wood Allocation and Questions the Hold-up

**Ginoogaming First Nation, May 19th, 2011-** Ginoogaming First Nation is tired of waiting for a vital wood allocation to support its forestry operations, it declared today. The First Nation, located close to the town of Longlac in Northwestern Ontario, requested its wood allocation over one year ago to support numerous projects by the First Nation's forestry company, Making Ground Forest Products Limited (MGFP).

Ginoogaming First Nation has made numerous requests over the past year to the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, and Forestry (MNDMF) through letters and participating in the Provincial Wood Competition, but has yet to be successful.

Ginoogaming First Nations Economic Development Manager, Adolph Rasevych, says; "It's been noted in the media that wood is being supplied to Atikokan, White River, Beardmore, Armstrong and more... yet Ginoogaming First Nation is a hub in the centre of all of these communities and our requests have been constantly denied. This is difficult for the company and our First Nation members to comprehend because we do in fact have a major project ready to go that will bring significant economic investment and employment to the region."

The First Nation-owned corporation, MGFP, has three forestry projects currently underway. One of these projects has been funded in its entirety. The allocation of 50-thousand cubic meters of conifer is the only hold up to the project proceeding.

Ginoogaming First Nation Chief Celia Echum says; "The rest of these projects depend on the initial project getting started. We are looking to create more than 400 jobs in the region, yet Ontario continues to ignore our requests. The Ontario government apparently does not realize the economic potential that a First Nation like Ginoogaming has to offer."

In total, Ginoogaming is requesting approximately a 675,000 cubic meter allocation. The three projects include manufacturing utility post, pole and tie, and can expand to include a Wafer Board Plant and Bio-mass cogeneration plant. ■



## Media Statements 2010/2011

### **Constance Lake First Nation seeks urgent court injunction to stop drilling by Zenyatta Ventures Ltd. (a mineral exploration company with agreements with Cliffs)**

**Constance Lake First Nation, April 28, 2011-** Constance Lake First Nation (CLFN) has filed a motion in the Ontario Superior Court to seek an order that would stop Zenyatta from further mineral exploration drilling in a critically important area within CLFN's traditional territory. This motion will be heard by the Court on Friday April 29 in Toronto.

CLFN will also hold a demonstration on Monday May 2 (and perhaps beyond), under CLFN's traditional law, to emphasize its commitment to protect CLFN's aboriginal and treaty rights. This demonstration will be held where the Pagwachuan River crosses Highway 11, approximately 80 km west of Calstock (120 km west of Hearst). There is a sign marking the Pagwachuan River as a bridge crosses over it on Highway 11. This location is near the Zenyatta southern exploration base camp. CLFN asks any supporters to attend and to respect the fact that this is CLFN's demonstration. The OPP has been contacted about this.

Zenyatta has staked mining claims (the "Albany Claims") over 300,000 acres north-west of Hearst, Ontario.

Much of the Albany Claims overlap an area known to CLFN as the "Heartland" because of its significant historic and current value to the First Nation. There is very high use of this area by CLFN members for hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering plants for medicine and food, and many other traditional cultural uses. Sacred sites, including burial sites, are in this area.

"This land is at the core of our cultural and spiritual being as a people," says Chief Arthur Moore. "We are deeply concerned that drilling and other exploration activity will cause irreparable harm to our cultural sites, our rights, and our relationship to the land."

The First Nation has been trying to negotiate an agreement with Zenyatta and some accommodation from the Ontario Government, which would have included measures to identify and protect such sites and to mitigate impacts to the exercise of aboriginal and treaty rights, when it found out that Zenyatta had unilaterally gone onto the land to begin its exploration program.

"We cannot allow our rights – including to meaningful consultation and accommodation – to be unilaterally steamrolled," says the Chief. "We therefore are forced to bring this legal action and to assert our rightful place in this world through our planned demonstration. But we are more open to negotiating fair accommodation measures if Zenyatta and the Crown would do the honourable thing and cease the drilling in the mean time. So far they have refused to do this."

One big obstacle here is Ontario and the Mining Act. While the Mining Act has been amended, the amendments that would most affect First Nations are not yet in force. Even had they been, there is still no requirement in the new Act to consult First Nations before claims are staked, and there is no requirement for substantive accommodation to be reached before exploration begins.

Cliffs (a big mining company headquartered in Cleveland Ohio with a lot of interest in the Ring of Fire), through one of its affiliates, owns a 75% interest in the Albany claims that Zenyatta intends to explore, and can take over this project if certain conditions are met. CLFN met with certain executives from Cliffs a few weeks ago and made them aware of the serious issues, and asked Cliffs to try to persuade Zenyatta to do the right thing. Cliffs has not come through with any assistance to CLFN.

"All mining and mineral exploration companies need to know that while Constance Lake First Nation does not oppose this kind of activity in our traditional territory, such activity can only happen if it is done right. This means our rights and the land and our relationship to the land need to be fully respected," says the Chief. ■

## First Nations' Court Victory Stands after Ontario Backs Down on Meshake Hunting Cabin Appeal

**March 1, 2011-** Ontario abandoned its appeal in Meshake, a case about First Nation hunting cabins. Ontario's appeal was scheduled to be heard today at the Ontario Court of Appeal. Elsie Meshake and Howard Meshake (Cyrette), of Aroland First Nation, built a cabin for hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering. The Ministry of Natural Resources charged them for failing to get a work permit for their cabin and with failing to comply with a stop-work order (an order issued by MNR because the Meshakes did not have a permit).

With Ontario's appeal abandoned, the precedent set by the lower courts stands firm. The trial decision held that the Meshakes' actions in building and using their cabin were protected by their constitutional rights under Treaty 9. It also held that the work permit system under Ontario's Public Lands Act unjustifiably infringed these rights.<sup>1</sup> Ontario appealed, and the Meshakes won again before a judge at the Ontario Court of Justice.<sup>2</sup> Ontario appealed a second time, to the Ontario Court of Appeal. Ontario has now backed down and abandoned this appeal.

1 R. v O'Sullivan Lake Outfitters, Elsie Meshake & Howard Meshake (30 November 2006), Geraldton 04/041305 (OCJ) (interim decision per Donio JP) and R. v O'Sullivan Lake Outfitters, Elsie Meshake & Howard Meshake (2006 November 2007), Geraldton 04/041305 (OCJ) (final decision per Donio JP). 2 R. v O'Sullivan Lake Outfitters, Elsie Meshake & Howard Meshake (26 September 2008), Thunder Bay 04/041305 (OCJ) (appeal decision per Pettit Baig J).

"Traditionally, we would go out all over our territory to hunt, trap and fish, and we would build shelters for this purpose," explained Chief Sonny Gagnon, of Aroland First Nation. "We still do this. It has taken a long struggle, but we are interpreting this move as a sign that Ontario is finally accepting our rights to build and use our cabins out on the land."

In a 1999 Saskatchewan case called Sundown, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized that hunting cabins can be protected as reasonably incidental to the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights. But until Meshake, it was not clear how Ontario's work permit system under the Public Lands Act figured in to that framework. ■

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## Media Statements 2010/2011

### **Lake Nipigon First Nations and Matawa First Nations Leadership ready to tackle mining and infrastructure issues together**

**Thunder Bay, ON, February 4th, 2011-** The Lake Nipigon First Nations and Matawa First Nations Chiefs are forming a united front when it comes to mining and infrastructure issues. The Chiefs met yesterday to initiate discussions on entering into a memorandum of understanding to work cooperatively together on common issues directly related to mineral development.

The Chiefs agreed to a framework on the issues the memorandum will undertake. Three key issues including the location of the proposed chromite processing plant, the transmission line from Nipigon to Little Jackfish and exploring economic and infrastructure opportunities, are going to form the initial content of the memorandum.

Chief Sonny Gagnon states; “The chromite will be taken from the traditional territories of the First Nations people; it only makes sense that we the First Nations people must have direct benefit from the construction and operation of the chromite processing facility. Matawa First Nations strongly stands behind the request that the processing facility be located in the Greenstone area”.

The Chiefs in attendance at yesterday’s meeting unanimously supported the creation of an alliance between the two Chiefs organizations. It was stressed by all Chiefs that First Nations must present a united front on the important issues facing the two organizations. Developments in the Ring of Fire will provide opportunities but also accompanying challenges for First Nations and as such, the First Nations from the two organizations must support each other.

Chief Pierre Pelletier states; “It’s exciting that the Lake Nipigon Chiefs and the Matawa Chiefs are banding together to take on common issues such as the transmission line from Nipigon to Little Jackfish. We, as the Chiefs of Lake Nipigon wish to see this transmission line become a reality. It’s encouraging to see that the Matawa Chiefs share this same position”.

Understanding the importance and the urgency of the issues confronting the First Nations and the short time frames to develop strategies and action plans for these matters, the Chiefs have agreed to sign off on the memorandum of understanding on Friday, February 11, 2011. ■



## Matawa First Nations Chief Announces Deadline Following a Meeting with Ontario Ministers

**Thunder Bay ON, August 24th, 2010-** Matawa First Nations Chiefs representing their respective communities are looking for immediate resources following a meeting with three provincial ministers. Matawa First Nations Chiefs gathered with Ministers Chris Bentley, Michael Gravelle, and Linda Jeffrey last week in Thunder Bay, Ontario, in attempt to secure much needed funding to better prepare their First Nations communities about the initiatives within the Ring of Fire.

The Chiefs brought forward a proposal that requested funding in four main areas which included Matawa Technical Support, a community budget to implement eight communications liaison officers, a Ring of Fire Coordinator budget, along with funding for the Matawa First Nations Technical Committee.

Constance Lake First Nation Chief Arthur Moore says; “It was a great disappointment that there wasn’t any sort of tangible commitment from the Ministers in attendance. This funding is critical for our communities to move forward. No development of any kind will happen in the Matawa First Nations traditional territory unless each individual community is consulted and accommodated, and in order to do that, we need proper resources in place.”

Funding has been provided in the past to support the Interim Mineral Measures Process- a document that provides guidelines on how communities interact with the mineral exploration and mining industry. Chief Moore states; “The IMMP is just a starting point for dialogue to begin and to bring First Nations and mineral companies together on some common understandings. In order to continue the process, our people need to be properly informed.”

The government announced in the 2010 Ontario budget that 45 million-dollars will be allocated over the next three years for a new project-based skills training program to help First Nations communities and northern Ontarians participate in economic development opportunities, such as the Ring of Fire.

Chief Sonny Gagnon of Aroland First Nation says; “The funding announced isn’t specific enough. First Nations need to be more of a priority when it comes to development in the Ring of Fire. Our First Nations continue to work together, not only with the Matawa communities but with regional municipalities. It is time that these actions be supported and taken seriously.”

Chief Gagnon has set a deadline of September 15th, 2010 for the Ministers to respond to the Matawa First Nations Chiefs proposal. A request of 2.1 million-dollars was made to assist Matawa First Nations communities prepare for mining development in the Ring of Fire and surrounding area. Chief Gagnon adds; “This isn’t the first time the province has seen this proposal, we presented it back in April. It isn’t new and should be acted on immediately.”

Chief Cornelius Wabasse of Webequie First Nation says; “It is well known the Ring of Fire mineral discoveries brings enormous challenges and opportunities to the First Nations communities who will be directly impacted by both the potential mining sites as well as the regional infrastructure requirements for the mine operations within the Ring of Fire”. ■





## **Matawa Chiefs Council Report 2010 - 2011**

Prepared for the 23rd Annual General Meeting

July 26th - July 28th, 2011

Hosted By Constance Lake First Nation



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