



M E S S E N G E R

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference

 $\mathsf{L}_{\mathsf{N}}\mathsf{P}$ $\mathsf{L}\mathsf{T}\mathsf{P}\mathsf{U}\mathsf{V}\mathsf{U}\mathsf{U}\mathsf{V}$ $\mathsf{L}\mathsf{U}\mathsf{U}\mathsf{U}\mathsf{U}\mathsf{U}\mathsf{U}\mathsf{U}$



Regional Framework MMTC & CCLOs Have Follow Up Meeting with Musselwhite Environmental Working Committee

December 08, 2015 - The Matawa Mineral Technical Committee (MMTC), Community Communications Liaison Officers (CCLOs), Regional Framework Department and Four Rivers of Matawa hosted a follow-up meeting in Thunder Bay with the Environmental Working Committee (EWC). The EWC consists of members from the signatory First Nations and Musselwhite Mine/Goldcorp. We had our initial meeting with the EWC during a field trip tour to Musselwhite Mine on November 4th. Upon adjourning of the field trip it was decided to host a followup meeting with the EWC signatory First Nation communities and Matawa to continue our discussions. The Meeting was well attended by the EWC signatory First Nations including; North Caribou Lake, Cat Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Wunnumin Lake along with Shibogama Council and Windigo Council. We continued our discussion and focussed on learning about the EWC committee structure and governance development. In addition, we received valuable knowledge and advice on lessons learned including dispute resolution practices, how they identified their jurisdiction areas, creating a living document and most importantly the role of their Elders throughout the process. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with the EWC and researching other agreements.

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Welcome New Staff and more....



Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS)



Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program (ASAP) Update

The Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program (ASAP) will be entering into its 2nd fiscal year on April 1st, 2016 of a 3-year multi-funding agreement with Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Approximately 50 new students will be added to the existing cohort to commence the ASAP program in early April 2016.

ASAP is pleased to announce it will be recognizing potentially 71 Matawa First Nations graduates who have achieved their OSSD high school diploma status. The ASAP graduation will take place at the Davinci Centre in Thunder Bay on March 3rd, 2016. If you completed ASAP in the 2015/15 fiscal year. please ensure to contact KKETS' office to let us know if you will be attending. Travel and accommodations will be covered for graduates and one guest to attend the graduation. Please contact Una Petten at upetten@matawa.on.ca or 807-768-4488 for more information.



Previous KKETS graduating class

Programs

ASAP

If you don't have your Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), over the age of 22 years old and a Matawa First Nations member, please contact your local First Nation Employment Community Coordinator to complete an application or contact Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services' office at 1-888-688-4652 or 807-768-4470 and inquire with our Intake Referral Officer. If you have applied in the past, please contact our office to update your contact information. It is KKETS' goal to educate Matawa First Nations members that will allow participants to reach their training, post-secondary and employment aspirations.

ASAP JOB READINESS CAMP

If you are a former graduate of the Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program and want to gain additional job readiness skills along with learning tools and tips that will prepare you for employment, please contact Alicia Brink, ASAP Student Advisor at 807-768-4498 or via email at abrink@matawa.on.ca for more information. From time to time, ASAP will hold a 7 day job readiness camp at the Remote Training Centre in Neskantaga First Nation for its ASAP graduates.

ASAP BASIC CONSTRUCTION SKILLS INDUSTRIAL CERTIFICATION

Are you interested in exploring construction as a possible trade or employment? ASAP is offering a 10 day Industrial Certification in Basic Construction Skills through LiUNA Construction and Allied Workers Training Centre in Thunder Bay on March 7th to 18th, 2016. If you are former ASAP student graduate and interested in construction work, please contact Alicia Brink at abrink@matawa. on.ca or 807-768-4498 (limited seating available). Travel and temporary accommodations are provided.

Constance Lake Water Treatment Plant Nears Completion







Photo: Napier Reid Filter Vessell

The new Constance Lake First Nation Water Treatment Plant is a ground water source fed plant that will be equipped with two Napier Reid Filters. The Construction of the plant was started in June of 2015 and will be completed March 2016. It will be equipped with a pumping and filtration room, office space, training room, ventilated chemical mixing room, laboratory, electrical control room, tool storage, shower and laundry hook up for sanitary purposes.

The Ontario government has contributed \$820,000, Constance Lake First Nation contributed \$933,087 and, Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada contributed \$5,758,000.



Photo: South Exterior (almost complete)



Photo: Front Exterior

The new water plant is a long time coming. Michael Gillis, the Water and Wastewater Plant Operator/Manager and Constance Lake First Nation Chief and Council have been very instrumental in pushing the project. Matawa First Nations Management have also been involved in the Project from the early years.

Also, long time (now retired) INAC Engineer, Mike Deminion has been very supportive in making sure the facility is equipped with the amenities that are needed for the community.



Photo: Hallway to Pumping Room and Filter Room



Photo: Water Plant Operator Michael Gillis, Chemical Mixing Room



TUNE IN EVERY 2ND TUESDAY FROM 4:00 - 4:30 EST (3:00 - 3:30 CST)

www.wawataynews.ca/radio 89.9 FM in Sioux Lookout 106.7 FM in Timmins BellTV Channel 962

UPCOMING SHOWS

February 23, 2016 March 8, 2016 March 22, 2016



Find the Animal Contest!

Can you find the animal hiding in this photo? It is very well camouflaged, meaning it blends in with the plants around it!

The first person to e-mail the correct name of this animal to Laura at Iprior@matawa.on.ca will win a Four Rivers prize bag! Please include your name and mailing address, meegwetch!



This photo was taken by Xavier Sagutch within the traditional homelands of Eabametoong First Nation.

Ginoogaming Looks to Community Economic Strategic Plan to Guide Development for the Next 10 Years

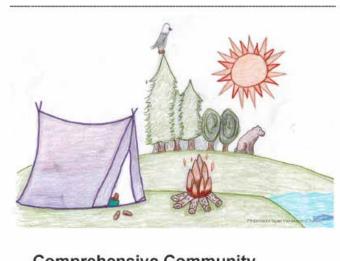
Ginoogaming First Nation (GFN) has a number of significant economic opportunities ahead of it. Ranging from large scale resource projects such as the Greenstone Hard Rock project and ongoing Ring of Fire negotiations with the other Matawa First Nations to investments in local operations to capitalizing on special licensing held for gaming or forestry activities, GFN is well positioned to grow its economy in the coming ten years. This economic growth has significant potential to create new businesses, new partnerships, and new employment for the economic and social benefit of GFN's community members.

While these economic opportunities do exist, GFN faces a number of significant challenges it must address in order to fully realize the benefits. Issues with on-reserve housing (quality and quantity), addictions to drugs and alcohol, a relatively less reliable workforce in need of skills upgrades, and the gradual erosion of important cultural and traditional practices are all very real threats to the future stability and well-being of GFN. With major resource projects entering and being discussed for the region, these negative issues have the potential to get worse if left unchecked.

Recently GFN completed a comprehensive community economic strategic plan to overcome these challenges while maximizing the opportunities by establishing a shared understanding among Ginoogaming's membership and local community, business, and political leaders on the priorities of economic development and goals for the future prosperity of Ginoogaming First Nation.

Chief Celia Echum states "The strategy provides a fact-based understanding grounded in the local realities of community members and regional stakeholders on the leading and emerging economic opportunities for GFN and the challenges and barriers that we need to overcome in order to achieve those opportunities. We are hoping to use this strategy as input into a comprehensive community plan that will look at other key areas like infrastructure, culture and language, education, health and social and more. We have been in need of a new bridge into our community for a long time now and we are determined to earn revenue streams through economic development to invest in our priorities, because we can't wait or rely on government."

The strategy explores a variety of resource and non-resource based economic opportunities to help drive Ginoogaming's economy for the coming ten years and presents a series of action plans to outline how to transform those opportunities into reality. Ginoogaming worked with Matawa Economic Development on securing funding for the project.



Comprehensive Community Economic Strategic Plan

Ginoogaming First Nation

Final Report

September 30, 2015











... that the Matawa offices in Thunder Bay are scent free?

We are. Many staff members and visitors are sensitive to perfume, colognes, aftershaves and other scented products. So we ask that you please refrain from wearing them at anytime while in any Matawa building.

Matawa Membership - Indian Registration



Mandate

The Matawa First Nations Membership Department provides services for the following communities:

- 1. Aroland First Nation
- 2. Eabametoong First Nation
- 3. Marten Falls First Nation
- 4. Neskantaga First Nation
- 5. Nibinamik First Nation
- 6. Webequie First Nation

Services

The Membership-Indian Registration Administrator (IRA) manages external and internal events required for Indian Registration reporting in accordance with the *Indian Act*, the policies and procedures that are governed by the Indian Registrar.

The IRA also provides status card inssuance (laminate Certificate of Indian Status) for members of the 6 First Nations mentioned above for the following reasons:

- Lost/stolen/damaged card
- New first card new registrants such as infants
- Renewals expired valid card ¹
- Replacements amendments such as marriage, individual name changes, etc.

¹ The laminated Certificate of Indian Status card has an expiration date. It can be found at the back where it states "The card is valid until." If a status card has a N/A on valid date, please have the card renewed.



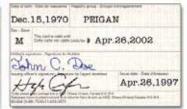


Photo: Sample laminated paper Certificate of Indian Status card currently issued at Matawa office for members of 6 communities



Identification Requirements

ID requirements for CIS (status) cards must comply with the INAC policy in order to validate your card issuance. The following applies:

16 and Older

- Must provide 2 pieces of identification, <u>OR</u>;
- One piece of identification <u>AND</u> guarantor declaration

15 and Younger

- Must have one piece of ID of parent or legal guardian and one piece of ID for child, <u>OR</u>;
- One piece of identification of parent or legal guardian <u>AND</u> one guarantor declaration

A guarantor must have known the application for a minimum of two years. The guarantor must also write: "This is a true likeness of [applicant's name]" on the back of one photo and also sign and date it. Acceptable guarantors are:

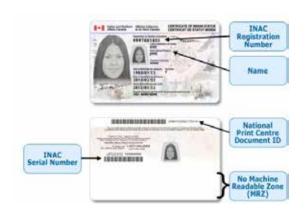
- Chief/Councillor/IRA
- Dentist, medical doctor, or chiropractor
- Judge, magistrate, police officer
- Lawyer, Notary Public
- Minister (authorized to perform marriages)
- Social Worker
- Principal
- Pharmacist
- Professional Accountant
- Veterinarian

Note: Individuals who have the new SCIS (Secure Certificate of Indian Status) card cannot revert back to a laminate CIS card. If the new SCIS is lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed, the cardholders are to call toll-free 1-800-567-9604.

SERVICES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:

For people in Thunder Bay who fall within mandate or living in the remote communities listed above (who are coming to Thunder Bay), please call up ahead to book an appointment. The toll free number is 1-800-463-2249 or call (807) 344-4575 to speak with Membership-IRA.

How to Apply for the New Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card



The new In-Canada Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) is now available to apply at any regional Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) offices across Canada. The Thunder Bay INAC office is now accepting applications for the new Secure status card.

Apply in person at:

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Indian Registration
100 Anemki Place, Suite 101
Fort William First Nation
Ph no. (807) 623-3534 for further inquires
website: www.aandc.gc.ca

Registration of a Child under the Indian Act

To register a minor child (under 16 years of age) as a Status Indian under the Indian Act, the following documentations are required to be provided:

1) Long Form Birth Certificate

- identifies child and parents;
- official birth certificate with appropriate official seal/ signature;
- original birth document

May be referred to as, a large birth certificate, statement of live birth, certified birth registration or long form birth certificate. For births in Ontario contact Service Ontario www.ontario.ca

2) Application for Registration of a Minor Child under the Indian Act

- all parental signatures required;
- If applicable: If one parent is unable to sign the document, include a copy of custody papers;
- If other guardianship issues apply, please contact the INAC office

Apply in person or mail all required documents to:

Indian Registration
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
100 Anemki Place, Suite 101
Fort William First Nation, ON P7J 1A5

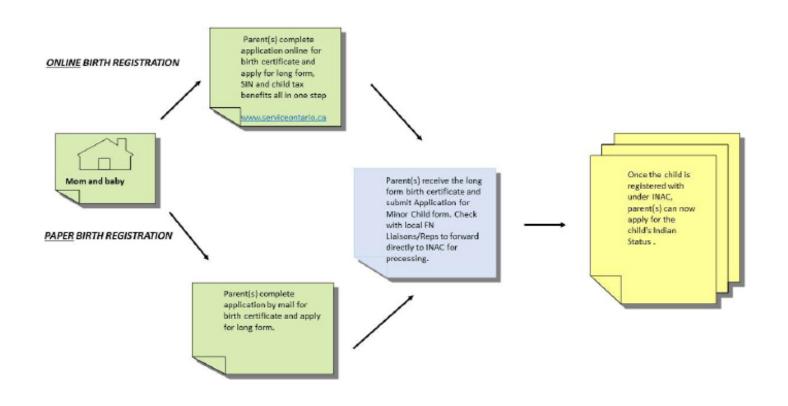
Why is Birth Registration Important?

Birth registration is the foundation required prior to requesting and obtaining a birth certificate to apply for other government programs including:

- Indian Status (Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada)
- Non Insured Health Benefits (Health Canada)
- Social Insurance Number (Service Canada)
- Renewal of Ontario Health Insurance coverage (Min. of Health & Long-Term Care)
- Child Tax Benefits (Canada Revenue Agency)
- Drivers Licence
- Passport

First Nations only receive funding for residents that have applied for Indian Status and are registered members of the First Nation.

How Does the Birth Registration Process Work?



Healing Journey Home 2016







On February 12, 2016 a group of walkers led by Webequie First Nation member and high school teacher Norman Shewaybick started their *Healing Journey Home 2016* walk at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre to raise awareness of the lack of health services in remote First Nations following the loss of his wife Laura on October 17, 2015. She was medevaced from the remote First Nation in respiratory distress after the nursing station's supply of oxygen was extinguished. Norman says his wife's death could have been prevented if she was provided adequate health care. The walk is also a healing journey for Norman and his sons Leon, Eric and Brandon. Jessie Sofea, best friend of the late Laura Shewaybick also joined them at the walk's starting location.

The walkers are honouring her memory by carrying an oxygen tank back to Webequie. "The reason for this walk is that I don't want any other family to go through what I'm going through," Norman says.

"It's time for change. Something has to be done. I promised my wife I'll take an oxygen tank home," He added. "I'll be out there, sacrificing my family, just to save others."

Travelling 100 kilometres per day, they are expected to arrive home by the end of February. They expect to be at the Highway 808 junction to Webequie First Nation on February 22. First Nation leaders and representatives of the Government of Canada and Ontario have been invited to meet with Chief and Council upon the walkers' arrival in Webequie on February 29.

The Matawa Chiefs and Health & Social Services Task Group have been reviewing the health and social needs and services and identified suicide, mental health, addictions, physical health, supportive housing, capital, equipment, professional development and other social issues within the spectrum of the determinants of health as major issues.

In 2015, the Auditor General of Canada concluded that First Nations in remote communities are severely marginalized when it comes to access and delivery and that the continued failure by Health Canada to address health care needs has resulted in the health of First Nations people being considerably poor than that of the rest of the Canadian population.

In his walk, Norman will be asking people from remote communities how poor health care has affected them personally and in their families. More information on their journey can be found on Facebook by searching: Healing Journey Home 2016.



DONATIONS CAN BE MADE THROUGH:

BANK: CIBC
Name of Account: Healing Journey Home 2016
Branch: 2087

Account: **7754590**

An article from a student at the Matawa Learning Centre:

On January 19th to the 21st I attended a Chiefs meeting in Thunder Bay at the Valhalla Inn Hotel. Topics included Residential schools, Youth Suicides and Community issues.

The meeting started off with an honor song from the NAN Traditional Drum, followed by an opening prayer by an Elder. By the end of each day the same process repeats it with a closing song and prayer.

The Drum was requested at certain intervals throughout the day. We sang healing, honor, and memorial songs to provide support for those in attendance. In my personal opinion, it was very emotional to listen to all the Elders share their stories about their experiences. The Youth did a presentation on suicide and was a very difficult topic to listen to. The Chiefs also discussed community issues such as Alcohol and Drug abuse, Housing and water issues. The Chiefs stated to have a plan of action at their next upcoming chiefs meeting in Timmins, Ontario. Overall, my experience at this meeting has been rather informative and emotional. I hope to see a positive outcome in the months to follow.







15 Minutes of FUN!!

By: Marlo Sobush, Johnny Therriault School - Aroland First Nation

On Wednesday, January 27th the students and parents of Johnny Therriault School participated in Family Literacy Day 2016. Family Literacy Day is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada which began in 1999. Spending just 15 minutes a day reading with your child can improve their literacy skills dramatically and can even help a parent improve their skills as well.

The afternoon consisted of eight different literacy based activities which found students and parents sharing in the love of reading and writing. Activities such as snowman hangman, snakes and ladders, syllabic name writing, and boggle were just a few of the fun filled literacy centers the children and their families participated in.

Family literacy programs focus on parents as the means to improve the reading and writing skills of all family members. By reading to children and engaging in fun literacy activities, parents are actively keeping their own skills sharp while at the same time strengthening the relationship between the family which, in turn, encourages lifelong learning.

Although national Family Literacy Day has passed, you may want to try a couple of the following activities with your child to help enhance literacy in everyone's lives:

Lights out, talk on: After your bedtime story, turn the lights off and talk about new endings to the story you just read together.

Find A-B-C: Have an alphabet scavenger hunt to look for things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. If you can't find some letters, go outside or try looking in books and magazines

Let's go Shopping: Have kids write the family grocery list out themselves, then bring it to the store.

How was your day today?: Exchange notes (or write a journal) with your child telling each other about the best part of your day. **Or switch it up: what's the best thing you expect to happen tomorrow?**

Aroland Teacher Awarded



By: Bill Beaucage, Principal, Johnny Therriault School -Aroland First Nation

This past November, Marlo Sobush, a Grade 3-4 teacher at Johnny Therriault School in Aroland, was recognized and awarded the "Teacher Excellence Award" at the Miigwewin Conference.

Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute hosted this annual event on November 26-27, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel in Sudbury, Ontario. The award is given to any elementary teacher employed in a First Nation School with three (3) or more years of experience. Criteria for the award is as follows:

- Demonstrates an enthusiasm for learning
- Makes an effort to contribute to the school community
- Inspires students to take on new challenges and reach their full potential
- Creates innovative and challenging opportunities that help students learn
- Uses different teaching methods to match student learning styles
- Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the subjects and curriculum
- Is committed to their own professional development and to teaching excellence
- Is a role model for other teachers
- Demonstrates an understanding or willingness to learn the traditional teachings

Marlo Sobush's dedication towards all of her students is evident in her day to day practice as an educator. Marlo portrays a positive attitude towards learning.

First Nation Student Nutrition Program

Good news for Matawa communities and our schoolaged children! Matawa First Nations Management is pleased to introduce a partnership with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services that actively addresses the nutritional needs of our young people. The First Nation Student Nutrition Program is a cost-shared initiative aimed at providing funding to support a nutritious breakfast, mid-morning meal or lunch programs for elementary and secondary school-aged children and youth. The program also backs Ontario's Healthy Kids Strategy (2013) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2014). It is an opportunity to support a First Nations led approach to delivering provincially funded, cost-shared nutrition on-reserve in Ontario.

Through the implementation of the First Nation Student Nutrition Program, communities can ensure they are:

- Offering a full meal (three food groups);
- Offering nutritious food in a safe environment;
- Offer the program every day that school is open;
- Being universally accessible to all children and youth in the community;
- Submitting program data to demonstrate the outputs and impact of the funding.

Five communities have selected to work with Matawa Education Department in this endeavour. The communities will implement the program for their students with administrative support from Matawa. As this New Year begins, we are excited to partner with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to enhance the nutrition of our young people.





Boozhoo from the Matawa Learning Centre. February 1st marks a new semester for our current students and we are expecting new students from remote Matawa communities. The new semester will also bring new initiatives in addition to those already underway. All students, current and new, can look forward to our collaboration with:

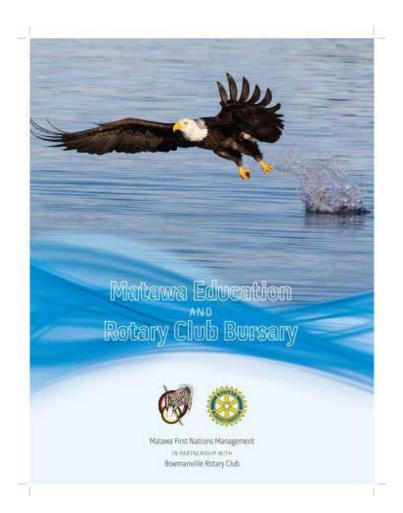
- Anna Keefe Anna is a PH.D. candidate writing a thesis exploring strategies for supporting Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth in developing skills that sustain life-long learning with a language and literacy focus. She will also be providing professional development in topics in literacy.
- Bowmanville Rotary Club Coming up this spring will be the awarding of the annual Matawa Education and Bowmanville Rotary Club Bursary.
- Confederation College Students will have the opportunity to participate in an indigenous knowledge science fair in April.
- Lakehead University LU will be hiring some students this spring and summer, and the rugby team will be sparking interest in rugby. Our students have been proud supporters of the hockey team
- Ontario Justice Education Network OJEN will be providing assistance with our Gr. 11 Understanding Canadian Law course being offered this new semester as well as making various presentations to our students.
- Thunder Bay Tourism Students will be helped with business ideas and job placements.
- Youth Employment Services (YES) YES will be providing our students with job readiness and life skills workshops.

In addition to these collaborative initiatives, our Student Activities Coordinator will be continuing after school programming with support from Right To Play. This means continued fun with Anishnawbe Mushkiki sponsored Canada Games Complex activities, weekly movie nights, ball hockey at St. James Public School, and much more. We also look forward to our Nutrition Program starting soon – stay tuned for details.

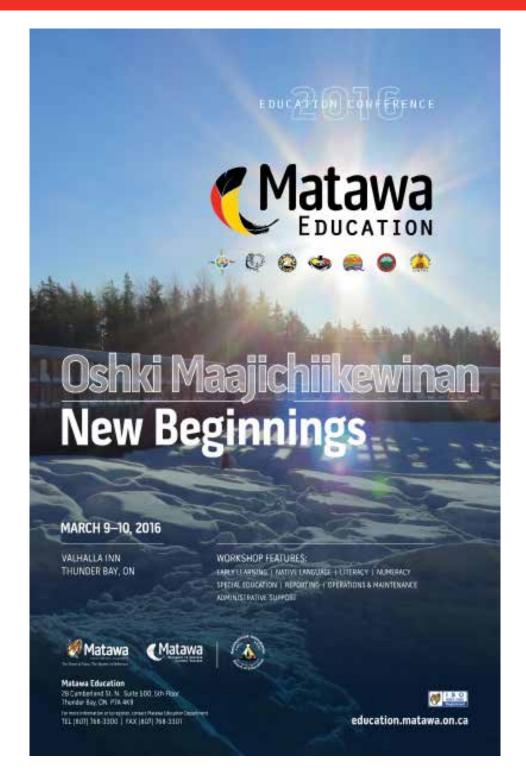
Matawa and Bowmanville Rotary Club Bursary

Matawa members (on and off reserve) are encouraged to apply for the Education Department Bursary, supported through the Bowmanville Rotary Club!

Students in elementary, high school, college, university, and any ASAP/KKETS programs may find detailed instructions at www.education.matawa.on.ca or on the Matawa First Nations Facebook page. **Deadline is May 1, 2016!**







For the 2016 Education Conference, Matawa Education Department is excited to be partnering with the Keewaytinook Okimakanak Board of Education! Their educators will be joining Matawa educators on March 10 for a variety of workshops and professional development sessions. The new Regional Education Strategic Plan for the Matawa community schools will be highlighted at this conference, along with First Nations educational practices. For further information about online registration, please contact Melanie Holley at (mholley@matawa.on.ca).



First Nations Infrastructure Development



Partnership Workshop



For more information:

Kathy Brady

(807) 344-4575

Ext. 6522

kbrady@matawa.on.ca

Victoria Inn Thunder Bay, Ontario

Workshop Details Coming Soon

For more information

Rosanna Peever

(807) 344-4575

Ext. 3661

rpeever@matawa.on.ca











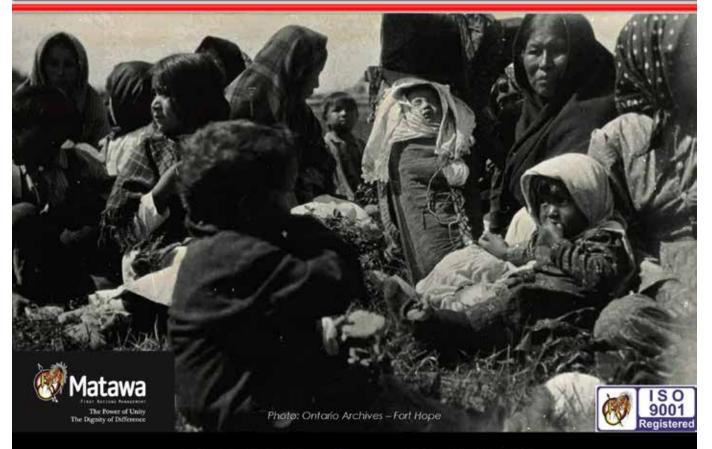








Wisdom Keepers Conference



SAVE the DATE

March 1 - 3, 2016

Airline Hotel and Conference Centre

THUNDER BAY, ON

www.matawa.on.ca

Matawa First Nations Management Welcomes New Staff

Matawa First Nations Management

Finance Assistant, Robina Baxter



Hello to Matawa. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Robina Baxter and I am a member of Eabametoong First Nation. I am currently completing the third year of the Business Accounting-Administration Program with Confederation College. I am doing my work placement with Matawa in the Finance department;

I started on January 4 and am expecting to finish mid April. It has been a great learning experience and look forward to more learning from the Finance Department who have been very helpful and a pleasure to work with. Thank you to all very much.

KKETS - Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program (ASAP) Client Support Officer, Cassandra Riddle



Cassandra is the newest Client Support Officer with the ASAP Team. She is originally from the Niagara Region but came to Thunder Bay by way of Victoria British Columbia in 2010. Cassandra is a social worker by training and a baker by hobby. Cassandra's background was in economics

and entrepreneurship before obtaining her social work degree. Her passions include people watching, food security, and relationship building. Cassandra is pleased to join the ASAP team and she is thankful for the opportunity to get to know the students and staff and to work together to achieve success.

Living with Us... Pehsk (Common Nighthawk)



Pnoto Creait: Xavier Sagutch in the traditional area of Eabametoong First Nation

Pehsk feed mainly on flying insects (bugs) like moths and mayflies. They often nest on the ground, cuddling up to rocks, leaves and wood. You are more likely to spot the patterned bird flying in the sky, rather than on camouflaging grounds. The common nighthawk is federally considered "threatened", meaning that people need to be considerate of this bird's habitat (home) when developing in an area where they live as their homelands are shrinking across Canada. Common Nighthawks have been confirmed to live within the Matawa region.

Did You Know... that you can use Geographical Information System (GIS) as a tool to help map bird sightings? Perhaps you are interested in recording sightings of species at risk, like the Common Nighthawk, within your community. GIS can help map where you have seen birds, or other endangered species, to help with protecting them. Four Rivers provides a service to communities that provides GIS software, tools and training on how to map. If you would like access to these tools and resources, or training on how to map or use GIS/GPS technology please contact Four Rivers.



















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