

*MEDIA ADVISORY*

**Monday, March 5, 2018**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT HOST 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

**THUNDER BAY, ON** – Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM), in partnership with Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO) Education will host the [11th Annual Matawa Education Conference](#) from March 6 – 8 this week at the Valhalla Inn in the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation. The theme is: *Wellness and Language: Strengthening Our Communities*.

Teachers from Matawa and KO schools will engage in workshops together as excellent opportunities to create meaningful connections, share their successes and celebrate their learning experiences. The focus of the conference is on building positive relationships with students in order to support their learning.

Professional learning opportunities for school staff will be provided through 80+ workshops in the areas of: cultural curriculum, assessment and evaluation, early learning, First Nation language/immersion programming, anti-bullying, technology, teaching strategies for literacy and numeracy, mental health, child development, nutrition, language revitalization, and first aid training—amongst others.

A luncheon will take place on March 7 with keynote speaker Kevin Lamoureux, who is currently serving as Education Lead for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Mr. Lamoureux is the Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Affairs at the University of Winnipeg. He works closely with schools throughout Manitoba in support of Indigenous education and the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives; enrichment and talent development, and works with troubled and disengaged students.

Other speakers to conclude the conference will include Sharon Nate, Matawa Education Department Manager, Chief Johnny Yellowhead of Nibinamik First Nation and MFNM CEO David Paul Achneepineskum.

Members of the media are cordially invited to attend.

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Valhalla Inn Ballroom, Thunder Bay, Ontario  
**Attachments:** Conference Poster

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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](mailto: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 @MatawaFNM.

