

“When doctors are mostly off-site, they have limited ability to examine patients, collaborate with nurses, and function as a part of a medical team,” says Chief Elizabeth Atlookan of Eabametoong First Nation. “Having daily access to a physician can only strengthen our community’s medical services, and hopefully experiencing life in Eabametoong will provide great value to the residents who are chosen to become a part of our community through the joint selection process. Eabametoong is a unique and beautiful community; both community and resident will be enriched by the opportunity that has been developed through the partnership between Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Matawa, and Eabametoong.”

The interview process for the 2018 – 2019 academic year is set to occur between January and March 2018. Physicians who complete the program will be required to practise in a Matawa First Nations community for four years after completing their training. When fully implemented, there will be four residents (two first-year and two second-year residents) in the program each year.

Eabametoong First Nation is the first remote Matawa community in this partnership to host a postgraduate medical resident with a return of service, and has been a significant contributor in the development in the program stream. Lessons learned from this partnership will help inform planning and advocacy for expansion of residency training in other remote First Nations communities in Northern Ontario.



Pictured (left to right): David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO, Matawa First Nations Management; Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean; and, Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation.

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is committed to the education of high quality physicians and health professionals, and to international recognition as a leader in distributed, learning-centered, community-engaged education and research.

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