

December 2016

"Living With Us" ... *page 16*

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The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference

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2016

On September 9, 2016, Gord Downie, lead singer and lyricist of the iconic Canadian rock band the Tragically Hip, announced that a multimedia project that included an album, graphic novel (by Jeff Lemire) and animated film would be released depicting the short life of 12-year-old Charlie “Chanie” Wenjack, who died in 1966 while trying to return home to Ogoki Post after fleeing Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School. Just three months before, on May 24, 2016, Downie announced he had terminal brain cancer. The Secret Path was broadcast by CBC on October 23, 2016. Shortly after, the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund was established.



It was not the first time Chanie Wenjack had been in the news or had music written about him. On February 6, 1967, Maclean's magazine published writer Ian Adam's story, "The Lonely Death of Charlie Wenjack." In his 1978 album, the late Willie Dunn, Canadian singer-songwriter produced a song called "Charlie Wenjack" on his album, Akwesasne Notes.

Downie has provided the needed tools to educate on Indian residential schools which will last for years to come. For Chanie's sister, Pearl Achneepineskum, it fulfilled the promise she made the day her little brother's body arrived home from residential school in a coffin. For everyone involved in the Secret Path, and for Chanie Wenjack, First Nations owe a great deal of gratitude.

MLC and Gladue Reports

UAV Demonstration in Constance Lake

New Gold Mine Tour

Chiefs Council/RFA Happenings

Unity Walk/Symposium Addressing Racism

Welcome New Staff and more....



12-year old Charlie "Chanie" Wenjack Marten Falls First Nation Chief Bruce Achneepineskum
thanking and gifting Gord Downie



Matawa Learning Centre Students Delve into Gladue Reports



By: Trevor Workman, Teacher at the Matawa Learning Centre

Throughout the first term of the 2016/2017 school year, students at the Matawa Learning Centre had the unique opportunity to learn about Canada's legal system through a project involving Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services, Wawatay Radio, Atwood Labine LLP, Falconers LLP, and the Ontario Justice Education Network. To initiate the project, students were asked to select a specific topic within Canada's legal system that had potential implications for Aboriginals that were accused of committing a crime.

After some thought provoking discussion and research, students unanimously decided they would focus their attention on Gladue Reports. Gladue Reports are a type of pre-sentencing and bail hearing report that a Canadian court can request when considering sentencing an offender of Aboriginal background under Section 718.2(e) of the Criminal Code. Gladue was the first case to challenge section 718.2(e) of the Criminal Code. The process derives its name from "R. v. Gladue," a 1999 Supreme Court of Canada decision.

Representatives from NAN Legal Services and Atwood Labine Law Office presented students with a history of Gladue Reports, its use in Canada's criminal justice system, potential benefits in terms of sentencing, and case studies in which Gladue Reports could have been applied.



Equipped with this new knowledge, students collaboratively prepared a set of interview questions, which were presented to Jennifer MacKenzie, a Gladue Worker with NAN Legal Services.

The interview was recorded and aired on Wawatay Radio on November 10, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. EST. By participating in this project, students at the Matawa Learning Centre were able to address expectations within the Ontario curriculum, across several subject areas, in a fun and engaging way.

Matawa Learning Centre would like to thank Jennifer MacKenzie (NAN Legal), George Edwards (NAN Legal), Martha Loon (NAN Legal), Neil McCartney (Atwood Labine LLP), Meaghan Daniel (Falconers LLP), Elder Isabelle Mercier, Hannah Fisher (Ontario Justice Education Network) and Bryn Bamber (Ontario Justice Education Network) for all their help with the project.



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

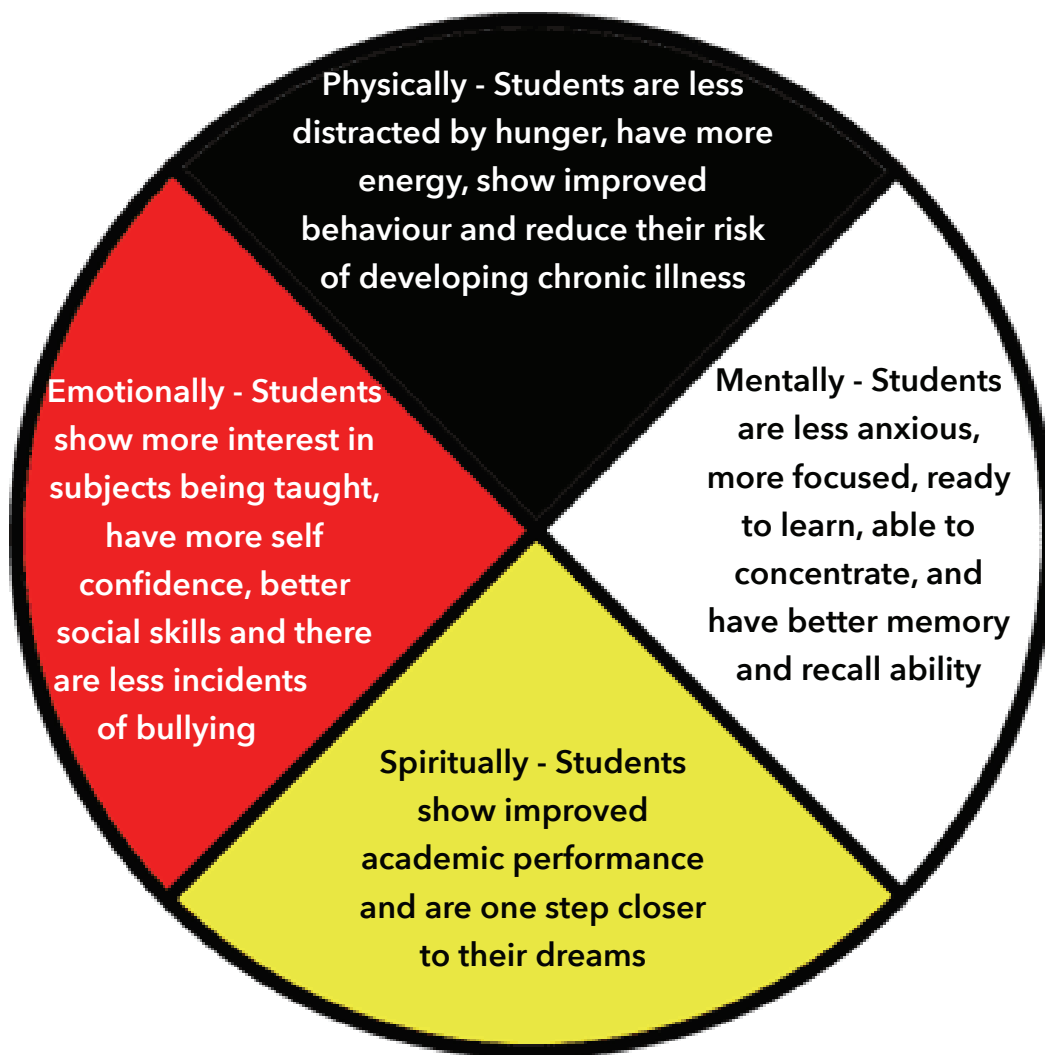
www.wawataynews.ca/radio
89.9 FM in Sioux Lookout
106.7 FM in Timmins
BellTV Channel 962

UPCOMING SHOWS

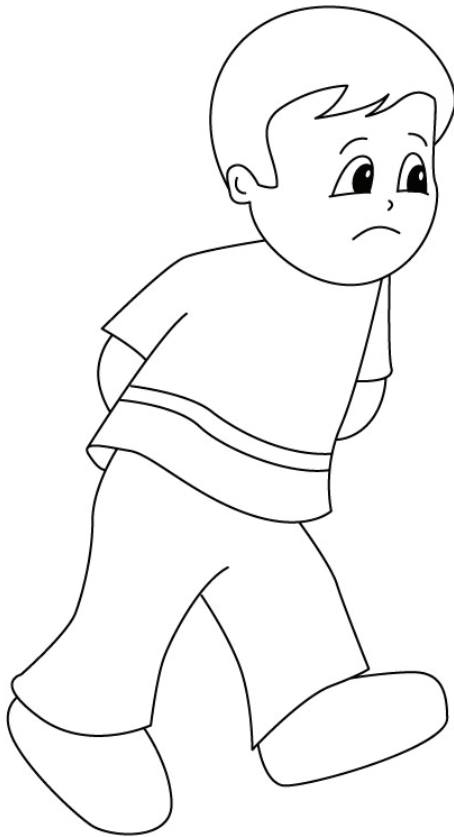
January 17 and 31
February 14 and 28
March 14 and 28

Food is Medicine

Healthy food helps our children and youth learn and succeed!



When Students Go To School Hungry Their...



**...energy levels,
memory,
problem-solving skills,
creativity,
concentration
and
behaviour....**

...Are All Negatively Impacted!

Help Our Children and Youth Succeed!
Volunteer at your local school's..

tudent utrition rogram!

Matawa Health Co-operative Initiative Update

The Matawa Health Co-operative Initiative is a two-year, from the ground up, planning process to create a plan for an alternate health and social services delivery system for Matawa communities. From the planning will rise a Matawa owned and directed health co-operative.

The Matawa Health Co-operative will include primary care (elder, nursing, physician, mental health and public health to start), medication (western and traditional), capital investment (facilities, housing and equipment), Non-Insured Health Benefits, BlueCross-like dental and health insurance, and service agreements that will fund community land-based programming.

A framework has been developed for primary care delivery to communities that can receive funding from provincial and federal health authorities. That framework addresses gaps in health care for remote Matawa communities, road-accessed Matawa communities and Matawa community members located in Thunder Bay.

We have developed support and working relationships (partnerships) with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Canada, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Northern Ontario School of Medicine, North West Linked Health Integrated Networks (NWLHIN), Thunder Bay Regional Health Services Centre, Saint Joseph Care Group, Lakehead Psychiatric Institute, Anishnawbe Mushkiki, and the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.

We are still visiting communities to introduce, update and consult on parts of the developing health co-operative. Currently, we are focussed on the co-operative governance structure, training physicians for Matawa communities and creating a mental wellness service team model that will empower the support workers in each community, engage regional professionals, and fund each community's land-based programs. Our first medical resident will go into training this December or January in the first of its kind in the world training program; our mental wellness team model is ground-breaking, and our First Nations health co-operative is the first of its kind in Canada.

While working on these three areas, all other aspects of Matawa health care needs are also being advanced in their planning. If we have not been to your community, please contact us so we can schedule a visit to listen and answer questions. For information contact your local Health Director or Richard Herbert at 807-346-3675.

Employment Integration Services/Career Focus & Northern Policy Institute Social Media Campaign



The Employment Integration Services (EISO) with Career Focus (CFP) is working with Northern Policy Institute's Charmaine McCraw, Labour Force Researcher on a Social Media Campaign. They travelled to Webequie in the middle of November to showcase a couple of former RoFATA graduates who are working in the skilled trades they have been certified in. Stay tuned for upcoming videos and dialogue.

The Employment Integration Services (EISO) and Career Focus Program provides support services to RoFATA graduates as well as all Matawa band members who are looking for full-time employment and/or apprenticeship opportunities.

The EISO and CFP work together to increase client's skills development and network with employers, groups and associations to create employment and apprenticeship opportunities.

MMTC Tours New Gold Mine and Surrounding First Nations



On September 27, 2016, the Matawa Mineral Technical Committee (MMTC) members – and other interested community members – departed Thunder Bay for Fort Frances, Ontario. They remained in the area until September 29, 2016. While in the Rainy River area, community members had the opportunity to tour New Gold Inc.'s developing mine, and meet with several of the First Nations in the area to discuss their involvement and experience with the mine.

The group arrived in the afternoon on September 27, so the only item on the agenda was a dinner meeting with James Comegan of Big Grassy First Nation and Chris Reeves of New Gold Inc. The presentation and discussion revolved around how Big Grassy First Nation became involved with the mine, and what benefits New Gold Inc. is offering to area First Nations. James Comegan told how the relationship with New Gold was not always so positive, and that it took constant communication to become positive. His community did not buy into the agreement with New Gold right away, either, and that took persistence and a willingness to talk to his own community members, particularly the ones who were opposed to the mine. Now, Big Grassy First Nation has first dibs on many contracts that New Gold tenders; presently, they have a long-term contract providing fuel and trucking, as well as many others.

The next morning (September 28, 2016) New Gold Inc. hosted a mining project tour of their Rainy River Project guided by Stacy Jack. The project is currently at its development stage with an open pit under construction. Upon purchase of the property, and further exploration work, some species at risk mitigation had to take place to accommodate whip-poor-wills and barn swallows in the area. New Gold Inc. set aside some land for the species at risk to use, have put barriers around known nesting sites, and have put up nests specifically suited to use by barn swallows. New Gold Inc. currently has 36 employees working on the pit, with a total of 877 workers employed, including outside contracts. Following the mine tour, the group was given a tour of the Atkinson Road Camp, and a presentation by Chief Jim Lenard of Rainy River First Nation and Dean Bethune of Onikaajigan LP. Onikaajigan LP was developed by Rainy River First Nation and Naicatchewenin First Nation as a partnership with Saulteaux Construction Engineering. They work together to deal with environmental impacts, economic gains, jobs, and social wellbeing for their communities. The two communities also have a partnership with Morris Group to own and operate Atkinson Road Camp.



On the final day (September 29), the MMTC and other community members met with Chief Brian Perrault and Ron Archie of Couchiching First Nation, and later Chief Will Windigo of Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation. Both meetings included a lot of discussion around job readiness and advice for the Matawa First Nations. Some of this advice included:

- Prepare your traditional connection to the land beforehand (compile traditional values)
- Acquire community support on project involvement
- Work with other First Nations: working together is strength
- Take control and don't let outsiders take over
- Be proactive with job training for your community members and identify economic opportunities
- Choose good business partners that want to help your community, and make agreements proactively
- Know the environmental and social impacts
- Keep politics and business separate

Afterwards the group began the journey home. Overall, it was a very educational and fun experience. The MMTC members attended the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association Conference in Ottawa from November 6-9 after this tour.



Northern Ontario First Nations Environmental Conference 2016



From October 4-6, 2016 the 7th annual Northern Ontario First Nations Environment Conference (NOFNEC) was held at the Best Western PLUS Nor'Wester Hotel & Conference Centre in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Lindsey Jupp of Technical Services and Hayley King of Four Rivers were both on the planning committee for the event, and there were many Matawa First Nations community members in attendance.

The event included both training and conference sessions on a variety of topics, all surrounding the main theme of "Adapting Our Knowledge to Empower Change." The aim is to integrate environmental stewardship with new technology and ingenuity with the hopes of balancing economic development.

Several Four Rivers staff presented on various topics throughout the 3-day conference. Hayley King presented on environmental monitoring training opportunities and discussed some of the work that Four Rivers has done in the past. Gord Parker presented with Aroland First Nation community member Mark Bell on baseline sampling, all while discussing the sturgeon sampling projects that Four Rivers is currently working on with Aroland First Nation for species at risk. Hayley King and Gord Parker presented together on benthic invertebrate sampling, including an interactive demonstration. Finally, Geomatics Technicians Jennifer Duncan and Charlene Wagenaar presented a workshop on data collection techniques, which included a demonstration of a smartphone GPS application that can be used for detailed data collection and a demonstration of the UAV (drone), showing how it works to capture aerial imagery.



Is Searching for Stories!



Would you be willing to speak with members of Four Rivers in an interview about Indigenous cultures? Four Rivers, in partnership with Dillon Consulting Ltd. is bidding for a project to develop and provide training courses to government employees to educate on Indigenous culture, the sacred importance of water, and the history of Indigenous peoples, particularly Ojibway and Cree communities in the remote North. The course will also discuss some of the modern challenges in remote communities, particularly surrounding access to clean water, and offer some ideas on how to better engage with communities, how to make strong, trusting, and mutually beneficial relationships between communities and government.

Four Rivers believes that this material would be best coming directly from concerned community members. To make that possible, Four Rivers would like to conduct a series of video interviews that we can use to help develop the training courses. Four Rivers is looking for women, youth, Elders and men who are interested in being interviewed to share their stories, concerns and hopes that will help the government to be better able to connect and communicate on a Nation to Nation level.

Please contact Hayley King (hking@matawa.on.ca | 807-346-6528) at Four Rivers Matawa if you are interested in sharing your stories. We would love to hear from you!

Note: the project is not confirmed at this time, all interested community members will be contacted if/when we receive the funding to undertake the project.

UAV Equipment Demonstration in Constance Lake First Nation

In October 2016, as part of Community Based Land Use Planning (CBLUP) Initiatives, Four Rivers Group Geomatics Technician Jennifer Duncan visited Constance Lake First Nation to do some GIS training with the members of the CBLUP team. While in the community Jennifer had the opportunity to test Four Rivers' recently acquired UAV (drone) used to capture aerial imagery. The UAV is able to capture detailed photos and videos during flight, and because the UAV is GPS enabled, the photos can be processed and used on a map as a base layer. Capturing this type of imagery can be a really effective community planning tool.

While in Constance Lake the week of October 17th, 2016, Four Rivers was able to successfully deploy the drone 3 times, capturing imagery of the community hall, old water treatment plant, the band office and the cemetery.

The hope is that we are able to go back, not only to Constance Lake, but to all the Matawa communities to capture detailed aerial imagery of each Matawa community and specific areas where projects may be occurring, upon request or as work components of various types of funding proposals.

Below you can see two side by side images. On the left there is the Bing Search Engine Satellite Imagery that is free and publically available (similar to Google earth). On the right you can see the imagery that the UAV collected. Both images are of the community hall and band office in Constance Lake First Nation. Obviously the difference in the level of detail is remarkable. Four Rivers is excited to incorporate this new tool into many upcoming projects.



Matawa Chiefs Council and Regional Framework Happenings

In August 2016 Matawa's Regional Framework Team visited Aroland, Marten Falls and Nibinamik and held community meetings while they were there. Matawa Lead Negotiator Bob Rae and his colleague Bryce Edwards brought members and Chiefs and Councils up to date on the issues and challenges. Turnout for meetings was much appreciated and community hospitality was amazing!



Regional Framework team visits Aroland First Nation on August 24, 2016



Chief Johnny Yellowhead and Bob Rae in Nibinamik First Nation on August 23, 2016



Elder Elizabeth Achneepineskum provides transportation in Marten Falls First Nation on August 22, 2016

Matawa Chiefs Council and Regional Framework Happenings Cont'd

On October 6, 2016 the Matawa Chiefs met with Ontario Premier Wynne at Queen's Park in Toronto. The meeting was productive and positive and there will be a follow-up meeting with the Premier just after the New Year.



Bottom row (L to R): Chief Waboose, Chief Towedo, Chief Atlookan, Minister Zimmer

Top row (L to R) Minister Gravelle, Chief Wabasse, Chief Allen, Premier Wynne, Chief Achneepineskum, Chief Echum, Chief Moonias, Frank Iacobucci, Chief Yellowhead, Bob Rae

On October 13, 2016 the Matawa Chiefs met with Federal Minister Navdeep Bains (Minister of Innovation, Science, Economic Development and Fednor) to discuss economic development opportunities in the Matawa region and in particular, bringing broadband services to the remote communities. A broadband line would provide high speed, reliable internet to the Matawa communities, but full funding has not yet been committed to by this federal department. The Chiefs pressured the Minister, however no new commitments were made at the meeting. Also in attendance were Minister Patti Hadju, Minister Michael Gravelle and MP Don Rusnak.



Matawa Chiefs Council and Regional Framework Happenings Cont'd

From October 26 - 28, 2016 Matawa community reps took part in an international meeting of researchers to discuss Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Indigenous people from Chile, Peru, Nunavut and the NWT attended along with the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the Rights of Indigenous People to discuss their experiences and to share knowledge on development impacts on Indigenous people. Matawa Community EDOs also got certified in Shareholder Advocacy Leadership Training (SALT) during the workshop.



Group Photo with Victoria Tauli-Corpez, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



L to R: Ruben Campusano - Huasco Altinos Pueblo, Chile; Matawa Board Member/Webequie FN Councillor Roy Spence, and; Grand Chief Sergio Campusano - Huasco Altinos Pueblo, Chile

On November 7, 2016 Neskantaga Chief Wayne Moonias and Ginoogaming Chief Celia Echum addressed a full house as part of a panel at the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association (CAMA) conference in Ottawa. The topic discussed was how development was affecting their communities. Both Chiefs spoke strongly on jurisdiction and community engagement with enthusiastic applause from the audience. CAMA puts on an annual conference that brings together First Nations, government and industry. Matawa is a regular sponsor for this event and had many members, staff and Chiefs in attendance.



Chiefs Wayne Moonias and Celia Echum participate in a panel with Metis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh

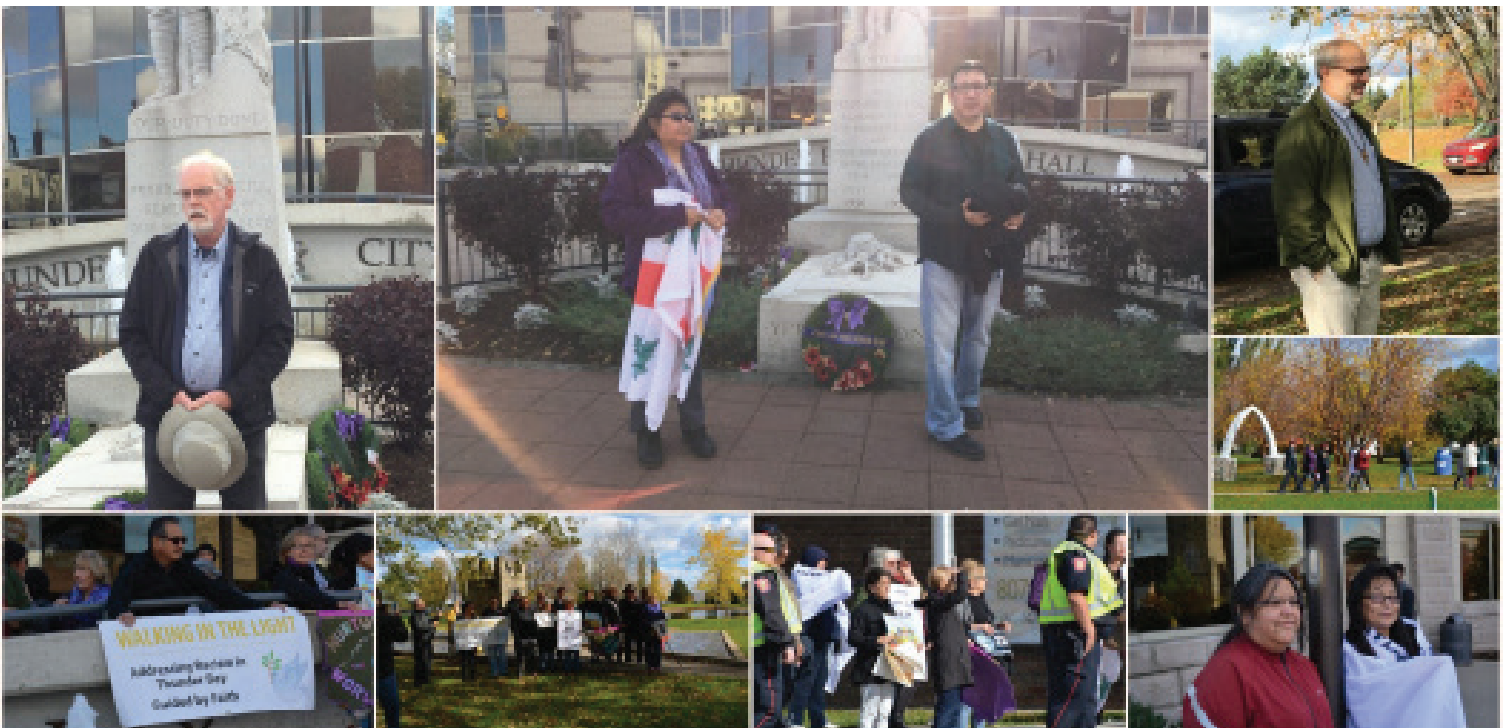


Merry Christmas from Matawa's Regional Framework Department: (L to R) Kathy Brady, Rosanna Peever, Holly Pyhtila and Brook Mainville.

Unity Walk & Symposium to Address Racism in Thunder Bay



On October 18, 2016 Matawa Board President Darius Ferris issued a call to leaders and people of diverse faiths and denominations to join him and the Matawa First Nations in an event called 'Walking in the Light.' It was attended by 70 people and representatives from 6+ faith groups, students from Matawa Learning Centre and Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS), and other organizations in Thunder Bay. A Consensus and Recommendations Report was produced. Another similar event will take place in the future.



Join us for the Matawa
Christmas...



Radio Show

Tuesday December 20, 2016

4:00 EST

Wawatay Radio Bell TV

Channel 962 or

www.wawataynews.ca/radio

Christmas cheer and more!

With Special Guests from

Matawa First Nations Management



Matawa First Nations Management Welcomes New Staff

Matawa Education

Intermediate Lead, Christine Avgeropoulos



Boozhoo! If you take a closer look at my name, you will notice that my ethnic background is Greek. I was born and raised in Thunder Bay. I have been teaching for 12 years. My first 3 years were spent in remote Northern Ontario fly-in communities teaching online to First Nations communities. Traveling has always been my passion, as well as becoming an educator.

The joy of discovery, new insights, experiences, people, cultures, and most of all the new perspectives that travel reveals has made me into the person that I am today. I have also been very fortunate to have a great educational experience. Up until this point I have earned a Master's in Education Degree and a Bachelors of Arts Degree from Lakehead University. My majors were in geography and history. I have also attained a Bachelors of Education Degree specializing in Junior, Intermediate and Senior grade levels. I hold a Geographical Information System (GIS) Diploma from Sir Sandford Fleming College. GIS is simply a tool for making maps using a computer. I am very excited about my new role as the Intermediate Lead look forward to working and learning from each and every one of you. Pictured above is my son Kallikrates and I. Kallikrates in Greek means "Beauty-Power".

Matawa Education

Mental Health Lead, Shirley Fiddler

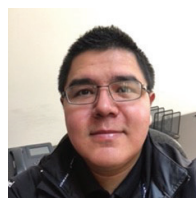


Greetings! My name is Shirley Fiddler and I work as the Mental Health Lead for Matawa Education. My role is to provide professional direction and support to the Matawa Education Department and Matawa First Nations schools to identify and Implement programs and strategies that support students and staff mental health and wellness. I was born and

raised in the Matawa territory of Eabametoong First Nation but have made my home in Muskrat Dam for the past 30 yrs. I have 5 children and 2 Step children who have all left the nest except for one. My educational background is in Chemical Addictions and also a Certified Indigenous Addictions Specialist-Level 111. I have many years experience in working with children and caregivers in our First Nations Territory. I look forward in meeting and working with all communities and staff. Meegwetch! +

Matawa Education

Community Liaison Officer, Michael Knapaysweet



Wachay! My name is Michael Knapaysweet, originally from Fort Albany First Nation. Recently moved to Thunder Bay in August. Along with my family, my wife, Shaylan, who is attending Lakehead University and of course, our children, Aiden, Madison and Lucas. It's been quite the journey and experience with

the move itself. And being hired on with Matawa Education shortly after arriving, it's been a blessing and quite the learning curve. I have a small background with Education as a Board of Director for my community's education authority, along with my experience as a board of director in the aviation and energy sector. I am looking forward to making my community visits and meeting as many of you as possible! Thank you and take care!

Matawa Education

PASS Primary Lead, Susan Zgolak



Hello! My name is Susan Zgolak and I am the primary lead for the Pathways to Achieve Student Success program. I will be supporting our community schools and teachers in literacy, numeracy, and student success in kindergarten to grade three. I grew up in Thunder Bay, Ontario and then relocated to Calgary, Alberta where I was teaching for the last nine years. I

enjoy spending time with my family, camping, and am a huge fan of the Toronto Blue Jays! I am happy to be back in my hometown and look forward to my new adventures with Matawa!

Matawa Education

Junior Lead, Kelly Soulias OCT

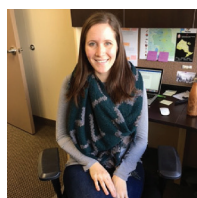


Boozhoo, Hello everyone. My name is Kelly Soulias. I am so thrilled to be embarking on this journey as a new member of the Matawa Education team, under the title of Junior Lead. I have always considered myself a lifelong learner and I feel so fortunate that I now have this opportunity to build my knowledge within the Matawa Education organization so that I

may continue to develop and share my skills and passions with our Educators and students. I am committed to doing my best to support the PASS Program initiative in the areas of Junior: Literacy, Numeracy, and Student Success.

Matawa Education

Parent-Student Engagement Lead, Danielle Gibson



Hi, my name is Danielle Gibson and I am the Parent-Student Engagement Lead for Matawa Education. This means that I support the families and schools in each of our communities to share knowledge and work together for the well-being of the children and community as a whole. I grew up in Fort Frances, attended

university in Guelph and Thunder Bay, and I have been teaching in Sioux Lookout for the last few years. I have had the opportunity to build great relationships with some really cool kids, families and community leaders along the way. I am honoured to have this role with Matawa, and I can't wait to see all of the communities and meet new people! I love travelling, crafting, reading, hanging out with my dog, and of course fishing!



MATAWA EDUCATION AND ROTARY CLUB BURSARY

Deadline for all applications: May 1, 2017

CRITERIA:

The Bursary Fund is for Matawa First Nations Members attending Elementary, Secondary, Post-secondary, Training, Apprenticeship, or Trades programs.

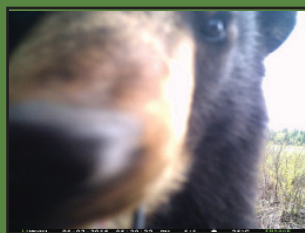
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION, CONTACT:

Matawa First Nations - Education Department
28 N. Cumberland St. 5th Floor
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4K9
1.888.283.9747 | t. 807.768.3300 | f. 807.768.3301

Living with Us... Makwa (Bear)

Season's Greetings! Hope your wood pile is stocked and you are ready for winter! In as early as September, bears across Northern Ontario started preparing for the snowy season too. The black bear works hard to find food to pack on the pounds before the snow arrives. Their body's metabolism and heart rate start to slow in preparation for their 5-6 month hibernation period. Bears don't eat, drink, urinate or defecate during this time. Bears will lose at least half of their body fat over the winter! In January, female bears will give birth, typically to one or two cubs. The cubs nurse while she continues with hibernation, and when they wake around April, the baby bears will be about 5 pounds each!

Four Rivers is ready for winter too! The winter months are a great time to do proposals, planning and preparation for projects starting as soon as the snow melts. Last winter we were busy organizing a sturgeon research project, a wolverine research project, and other field work that could only have been conducted during spring and summer. Find out how Four Rivers can help your community in field projects by giving us a call at 1-800-463-3349!



This "selfie" was taken by a "trail cam" deployed in Constance Lake. A human is required to set up the rugged camera outdoors. Once secured, you leave it unmanned to detect animals by heat & motion. The cam records photos of animals it detects. Once the camera is retrieved, you can view or download your photos for your environmental monitoring needs.

For more information visit us at:
www.fourriversmatawa.on.ca



Matawa First Nations | 233 S. Court Street | Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2X9 | Tel: 807.344.4575 | Fax: 807.344.2977 | Toll Free: 1.800.463.2249

