





## Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program Update

The Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program is proud to acknowledge the following high school graduates who have achieved their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) status as of December 31, 2016. These graduates were recognized at KKETS' graduation ceremony on March 22nd, 2017 at the Valhalla Inn.

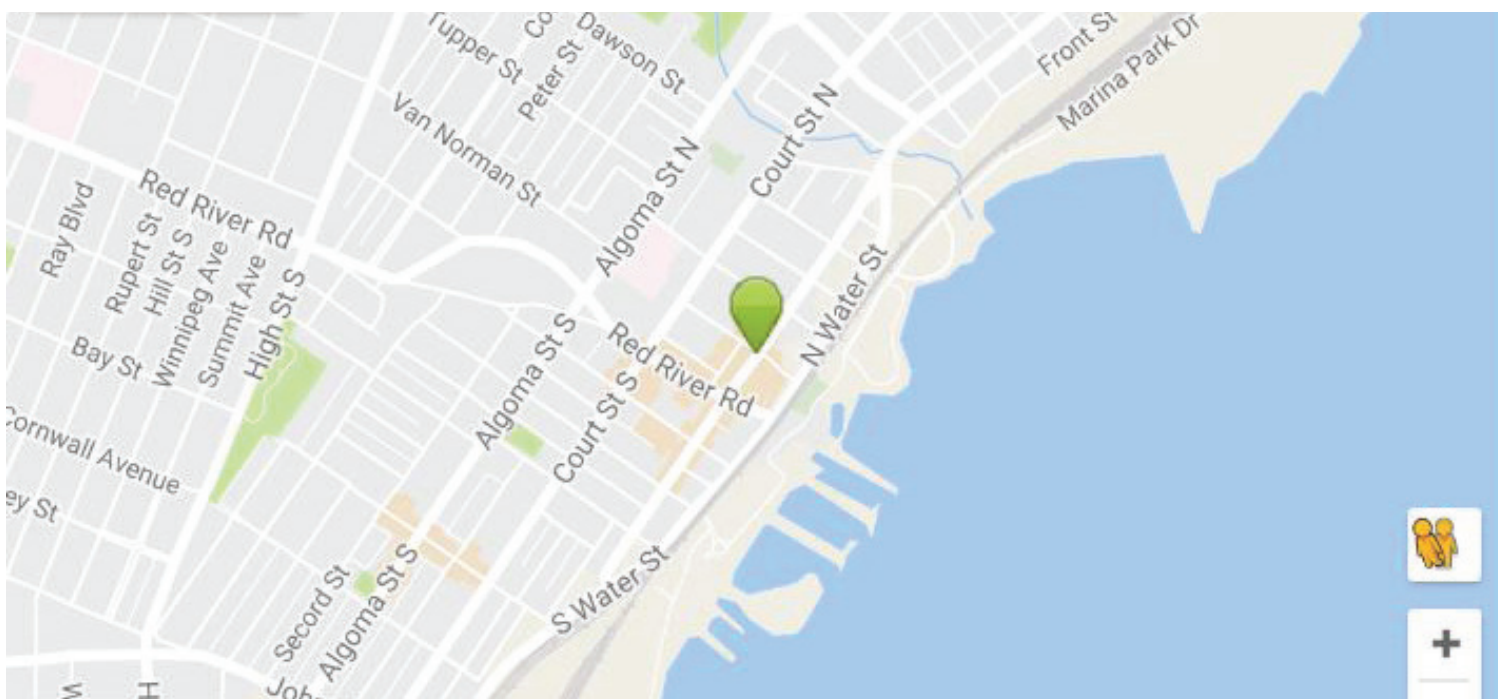
Student Name	First Nation	Student Name	First Nation
Magiskan, Caleb	Aroland	Labelle, Ashley	Ginoogaming
Magiskan, Denita	Aroland	Mazinakouskang, Kerrie	Ginoogaming
Magiskan, Jason	Aroland	Shaganash, Caleb	Ginoogaming
Magiskan, Jonah	Aroland	Taylor, Jenna Laine	Ginoogaming
Mendowegan, Valeri	Aroland	Taylor, Maurice Sandy	Ginoogaming
Towedo, Roger	Aroland	Towegejick, Chris	Ginoogaming
Mattinas, Cynthia	Constance Lake	Finlayson, Charlie	Long Lake #58
Mattinas, Diana	Constance Lake	Finlayson, Jake	Long Lake #58
Moore, Gary	Constance Lake	Patabon, Adam	Long Lake #58
Napash (Mattinas), Genevieve	Constance Lake	Shebagabow, Cheryl	Long Lake #58
Sutherland, Donny	Constance Lake	Waboose, Anita	Long Lake #58
Sutherland, Paige	Constance Lake	Achneepineskum, Sara	Marten Falls
Wesley, Cecile	Constance Lake	Baxter, Natasha	Marten Falls
Atlookan, Bethany	Eabametoong	Coaster, Carolyn	Marten Falls
Atlookan, Dorothy	Eabametoong	Paavola, Rebecca	Marten Falls
Atlookan, Maxine	Eabametoong	Sakanee Greta	Neskantaga
Atlookan, Sandra	Eabametoong	Moonias, Bradley	Neskantaga
Jacob, Ruby	Eabametoong	Yellowhead, Naomi	Nibinamik
Missewace, Alexandra	Eabametoong	Beaver, Michael	Webequie
Morris, Eleanor	Eabametoong	Jacob (Shewaybick), Charlene	Webequie
Okeese, Margaret	Eabametoong	Shoomin, Nicole	Webequie
Roe, Sharon	Eabametoong	Wabasse, Caitlyn	Webequie
Sagutch, Lorna	Eabametoong		
Wapoose, Sarah	Eabametoong		
Yellowhead, MaryAnn	Eabametoong		

With these OSSD graduates, the program is anticipating another 17 students with their high school diploma so long as attendance and progress is maintained. It is expected to acknowledge 63 students at the March 22 graduation ceremony.

**Next Start:** The upcoming start dates for new students will be March 14th and May 2nd, 2017. Orientation week will occur March 14-17th and May 2nd – 5th, 2017 respectively in Thunder Bay for new students. Returning students will commence academic classes on March 20th, 2017.

**If you have applied please contact our office to update your contact information. If you don't have your grade 12 diploma, please fill out an application with our Intake Referral Officer, Mellissa Gagnon at KKETS' office or with your First Nation Employment Community Coordinator.**

Miigwetch - Carolyn Zadnik, ASAP Project Coordinator.



### Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services

28 Cumberland Street North, Suite 300  
3rd Floor  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
P7A 4K9  
Tel: (807) 768-4470  
Toll-Free: 1-888-688-4652



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# Moving Forward with Broadband by Establishing a Teleco

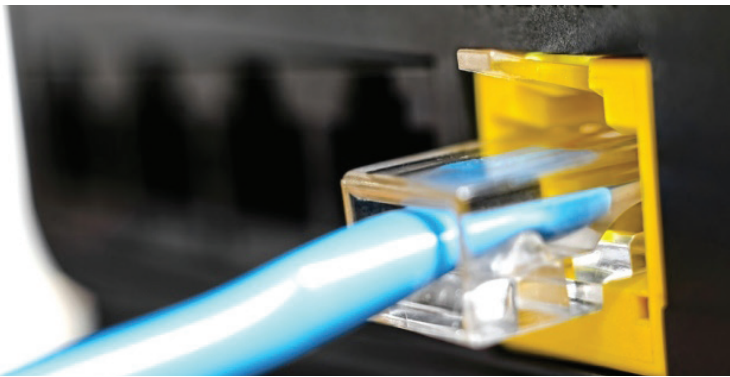


Photo: Denis Rozhnovsky/Shutterstock

On December 21, 2016, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) declared broadband internet a basic telecommunications service. At the same time, they set new targets for download speed targets of at least 50 megabits per second (Mbps) and a 10-Mbps upload speed. They also committed to a \$750-million, industry-sponsored fund, through which it hopes to reduce the number of Canadian households and businesses without broadband access almost in half by 2021 -- from 18 per cent to 10 per cent.

Prior to the CRTC ruling, the federal government announced it is investing up to \$500 million to bring high-speed, broadband internet access to 200 rural and remote communities by 2021 through a new program called "Connect to Innovate."

Together, these two announcements are being seen as an opportunity for Matawa First Nations to receive broadband and meet targets set by the CRTC. Specifically, targets for Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie First Nations who were left off the grid from the Nishnawbe Aski Nation broadband project when funding fell short in 2014.

On January 18, 2017, the members of Matawa Broadband Working Group (BWG) met with Assistant Deputy Ministers offices of the provincial and federal governments to discuss the Connect to Innovate program with respect to their project exceeding \$60 million to connect Matawa First Nations without broadband internet. It was the first time new players from government were around the table. The revised deadline for applications is April 20, 2017. Matawa will be submitting an application and hopes to hear back by June/July 2017.

On January 19, 2017, the members of the Matawa BWG met to move forward with their plan to establish their own teleco (telecommunications company) including making decisions about design and securing a private partnership with partial funding in the amount of \$1.2 million received from Indigenous Affairs Canada.

On January 18, 2017, the World Economic Forum released a White Paper entitled "**Digital Transformation Initiative Mining and Metals Industry**" which will have implications for the Matawa region. The White Paper said:

*"Within the mining and metals industry, digitalization will be a force that changes the nature of companies and their interaction with employees, communities, government and the environment at every step of the value chain. From mineral exploration and valuation, through mining, ore processing and metals production, to downstream sales and distribution, digitalization is blurring traditional industry lines and challenging the business models of the past."*

The White Paper also said that digital technologies have tremendous potential to move beyond stagnant growth and deliver exceptional shareholder, customer and environmental value in the following ways:



## Automation, robotics and operational hardware.

Deploying digitally enabled hardware tools to perform or improve activities that have traditionally been carried out manually or with human-controlled machinery. Key initiatives in scope are sensors, robots and 3D printing.



## Digitally enabled workforce.

Using connected mobility, and virtual and augmented reality to empower field, remote and centralized workers in real time. Key initiatives in scope are connected workers and remote operating centres.



## Integrated enterprise, platforms and ecosystems.

Linking operations, IT layers and devices or systems that are currently separate. Key initiatives in scope are information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) integration, asset cybersecurity and integrated sourcing, data exchange and commerce.



## Next-generation analytics and decision support.

Leveraging algorithms and artificial intelligence to process data from sources within and beyond the traditional value chain to provide real-time decision support and future projections. Key initiatives in scope are advanced analytics, simulation modelling and artificial intelligence.



## Catching the Sun

Prepared by: Jonathan Neegan & Laura Prior



For thousands of years, the people of Matawa First Nations have lived sustainably on the land using only renewable resources. Mother Nature continues to provide for and protect our people in so many ways. To name a few, our uses include wood for fire, tools and shelter, water for bathing and transportation, and the sun for warmth and guidance.

With this in mind, Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) feels that energy can be a strong support for economic security in Matawa member communities. MFNM moved ahead with an opportunity to be part of the MicroFIT program and had a 10kW solar panel system installed on the roof of our South Court Street building. Three Matawa members were employed as trainees to assist in the installation of the panels. This on-the-job training provided insight into future opportunities in solar installations. Here at MFNM, research is underway on the desire and feasibility for solar panels in each one of our 9 member-ship communities. The hope is to lower our carbon footprint, step away from fossil fuels and build economic prosperity.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Jonathan Neegan, Project Coordinator in the Economic Development Department.



### 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

## Aroland First Nation Students Exceed Fundraising Goal for Homeless Youth



Beginning in December 2016, the Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 students at Johnny Therriault School located in Aroland First Nation first learned about the “Push for Change” Fundraising Campaign from OPP Constable Eric Corbin and NAPS Officer Trent Abernot. The “Push for Change” Awareness Campaign is a 517 day trek across Canada by Joe Roberts, a former homeless youth, to raise awareness and funds to end youth homelessness. Upon learning about this, the students at Johnny Therriault School were particularly interested and eager to fundraise for this national cause.

The students were challenged by the classroom teachers (Ms. Natasha Davey, Ms. Melinda Rody and Mr. Steve St. Jean) and Principal, Mr. Bill Beaucage to raise \$10 each by volunteering their time and service in any way they choose such as helping a family member, community member or a group fundraiser. Throughout the month of December and January students brought in change that they had earned by shoveling driveways, carrying in wood for elders, hosting community and school fundraising events such as a movie night and a cafe day, created a prize raffle, sold joker boards, held a family game night and organized a hat day.

With the support of the community, all of the fundraising efforts were successful! The students exceeded the challenge set by the staff and raised more than expected. The students were very proud of their success in fundraising for the “Push for Change” campaign. The students at Johnny Therriault School were able to raise and donate \$1200. As a way of thanking the students

for their efforts, Greenstone OPP Community Safety Officer (CSO) Eric Corbin invited the Johnny Therriault School students to participate in a curling bonspiel in Geraldton along with other students from the district that participated in their own fundraising events. The curling bonspiel was a success! The 32 participating Johnny Therriault school students were able to learn the sport of curling alongside Constable Corbin, other OPP Officers and with the help of Geraldton Curling Club volunteers.

On Monday, March 6th the students and staff from this school may have the opportunity to meet Joe Roberts. He is a former homeless youth, an advocate, author and the Executive Director of “The Push for Change.” Roberts has indicated that he may be able to change his route and come into Geraldton in order to meet the students from Johnny Therriault School along with students from neighbouring schools to thank them for their outstanding efforts in raising funds and awareness for this cause.

More information and opportunities to donate to this cause can be done through the “Push for Change” website - [www.pushforchange.com](http://www.pushforchange.com).





## Johnny Therriault School "Stuff a Cruiser"



*Students at Johnny Therriault School with Constable Corbin and Constable Abernot*

On Wednesday, December 14th, the students at Johnny Therriault School located in Aroland First Nation, participated in the "Stuff a Cruiser" campaign which was kicked off by local OPP officer Constable Eric Corbin at the beginning of December. The students were challenged to bring in as many non-perishable food items in order to help the officer fill one cruiser. Well, the students surpassed this challenge and ended up stuffing TWO cruisers. With a school of just 93 students, the number of non-perishable items brought in totalled 556. Each day the students would bring in a small item to place around a Christmas tree in the front foyer of the school. Each classroom had their own personal challenge of bringing in items and this year, Mr. Steve St. Jean's Grade 3/4 class won this challenge with 224 donated items. The students also participated in a "crazy hat" day

where they were allowed to wear one of their craziest winter or Christmas creations for the entire day as long as they brought an item to put into the collection of food.

Our students will continue their relationship with Constable Corbin as they focus their attention towards raising money for the "Push for Change" challenge taking place across Canada right now. As a result of their efforts, these students in our school, who help raise money for this worthwhile cause will be participating in a curling bonspiel that will be taking place on January 17th, 2018 in Nakina. The students, staff and community members of Aroland First Nation are always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. For a very small community, they continue to prove time and time again that they have very giving hearts.

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

[www.wawataynews.ca/radio](http://www.wawataynews.ca/radio)  
89.9 FM in Sioux Lookout  
106.7 FM in Timmins  
BellTV Channel 962

### **UPCOMING SHOWS**

April 11 and 25  
May 9 and 23  
June 6 and 20







## Hockey for Development



Early this fall, the MLC submitted an application to host a *Right To Play* Hockey clinic and was successful in receiving the program.

The *PLAY* Hockey clinic integrates professional hockey players and clinicians into the school and arena setting. The goal being to inspire local coaches, children, and youth to make hockey a part of their daily lives. Safe and inclusive hockey-based activities are designed to build a sense of confidence, leadership and teamwork as opposed to emphasizing skill development or competition. The *PLAY Hockey Clinic* also involves a donation of a full set of equipment that is facilitated through the *Canadian Tire Jump Start Program*.

The *Matawa Learning Centre* was lucky to team up with former NHL player and coach John Chabot on January 30th to February 2nd for their clinic. Chabot, an Anishinabeg Algonquin from Kitigan Zibi First Nation played center for Montreal, Pittsburgh and Detroit. Chabot and *Right To Play* staff delivered multiple on-ice sessions with the youth at the Port Arthur Arena, and helped facilitate a Family Skate Night and a Learn to Skate Night at the *Kinsmen Centre*, which the City of Thunder Bay generously donated the use of throughout the week. The week also involved a Ball Hockey Tournament held at the McKellar school gym, a one day coaching clinic, and afternoon activities hosted by the MLC's new Cultural Education coordinator and Social Counsellor.

The week was a great success with over 40 students from Matawa communities coming out to participate and over 15 youth successfully completing their coaching certification.

Right To Play offers a number of different Sport for Development opportunities to the over 50 First Nation communities it partners with including Soccer, Baseball, Basketball and Lacrosse opportunities. For information on opportunities for your community, you can visit their website at: <http://www.righttoplay.ca>

## MLC's Outdoor Leadership Credit



*MLC students participate in team-building activity at Marina Park as part of their Outdoor-Leadership Course*

On February 27th students from the Matawa Learning Centre headed out to Quetico Provincial Park for a week-long intensive Outdoor Education field-school.

As a major component of a new Outdoor Leadership credit, this week of field school will be focusing on both traditional land-based and outdoor leadership skills. The students participated in an exciting week having fun and learning with one another in the outdoors. We stayed at Quetico College School, a former conference centre that has recently changed ownership and is in the process of becoming an Outdoor School.

The week included a daily focus on traditional skills and land based programming, a wilderness first-aid course and certification, and finished with a culminating ice fishing adventure.

We were really excited to get out of the classroom and spend the week on the land learning as part of the Matawa community.

## Matawa Staffer Receives Distinction in Canadian Minerals Industry at 2017 PDAC Conference



Matawa Chiefs, Board of Directors, and Staff are extremely proud to relay the news of Peter Moses receiving a major award in the mining industry. On March 7, 2017 he received the esteemed 'Skookum Jim' award by the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC).

Each year, PDAC introduces recipients top international and domestic performers honoring them with prestigious awards in recognition of their excellence and contributions to the mineral exploration and mining industry. The PDAC Board of Directors selects recipients based on recommendations of the Awards Committee. Peter was nominated by Dr. John Mason, P.Geo. D.Sc. His nomination was supported by Dr. Pete Hollings of the Lakehead University Geology Department and Matawa First Nations Management as well as many other individuals, organizations or groups.

Peter, a member of the Biigtong Nishnaabeg (Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation), was recognized for his significant contribution to Canada's mineral exploration and mining industry through his work with companies, government, and Aboriginal communities over a career of more than 50 years.

Peter's work as a prospector started early in life when he worked on the family's trapline. Learning from his father and grandfather, his interest in geology became a lifetime career.

The industry is in Peter's blood. He is a fourth generation family member connected to exploration and mining, dating back to his great-grandfather in 1860. In 1964, Peter became one of the first members of his community to succeed in completing a post-secondary education. He began prospecting on his own and also partnering with local team members in the Pic River and Marathon region. Often, he led a prospecting team on extremely rugged terrain, including the North Shore of Lake Superior.

Over 35 years as a part-time prospector, Peter successfully promoted, negotiated and executed 34 option agreements. Additionally, he provided prospector training, staking and geoscience (exploration) information workshops to 123 of the 134 First Nation communities in Ontario, as well as the Métis Nation of Ontario. He developed the entire curriculum with the support of other industry associations. Peter is credited with fostering positive relationships between industry and Aboriginal communities.

Currently, Peter is the Mineral Development & Information Support Officer for Matawa First Nations Management. Here he continues to build on the relationships and accomplishments of the past 50 years, providing perspective and advice on mineral development to the nine member Matawa First Nations, including projects such as the Ring of Fire, Hard Rock Mine Project and the Albany Graphite Deposit.

Peter maintains membership and is an active participant in various industry associations. Past achievements include the Lifetime Achievement Award from Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association in 2008, Ontario's Amethyst Award for Outstanding Achievements by Ontario Public Servants in 2009, team recipient of MNM Group Award, and a Certificate of Appreciation by PDAC in 2009.

Peter has maintained an intimate and respectful relationship with the land and the resources provided throughout his life. For that, we couldn't be more prouder! Congratulations!



End Note: This article is partially based on excerpts from PDAC's website at: [www.pdac.ca/awards/2017-award-recipients](http://www.pdac.ca/awards/2017-award-recipients)





**Matawa**  
EDUCATION



CS9.Δσ<sup>a,b</sup> bbPC.∇C┘.◁<sup>u</sup>



**Matawa**  
The Power of Unity. The Dignity of Difference.



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## **Dazhiikewining Kaakakiidawetaamoowaac: Community Heroes – Celebrating Our Communities**

This year, the Matawa Education Department was very excited to host our 10th annual Education Conference in partnership with Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO) Education, who work with six First Nation schools in the Northwest. Teachers from Matawa and KO schools engaged in workshops together as excellent opportunities to create new meaningful connections, share their successes, and celebrate their learning experiences.

This year's conference focused on building positive relationships with students in order to support their learning and provide professional learning opportunities for school staff in areas such as:

- Cultural Curriculum
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Early Learning
- First Nation Language/Immersion Programming
- Anti-Bullying
- Technology
- Effective Teaching Strategies for Literacy and Numeracy
- Post-Secondary Programming
- Mental Health
- Cultural Activities
- Nutrition

It is certainly an exciting time for the Matawa First Nations Education Department, as we continue to grow. Pictures of the event were not available at the time of printing but be sure to look out for them in the next Messenger!

## **Post Secondary Application Deadlines**

Matawa Post Secondary Program (MPSP) provides assistance to five First Nations: Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58, Neskantaga and Webequie.

Please note that the DEADLINE DATES to apply for Post Secondary Education Assistance are:

- June 1 - Fall Term (September to December)
- November 1 - Winter Term (January to April)
- March 31 - Spring/Summer Term (May to August)

For more information please contact the Matawa Post Secondary office at: 1-888-283-9747 or (807) 768-3300.

## **Quality Assurance Reps**



Pictured above are some of the Quality Assurance Representatives at Matawa. They have a vital role in keeping the Quality Management System running smoothly.

A representative from each department meets monthly to discuss issues, concerns and future plans concerning Matawa's Quality Assurance Program. In addition to acting as a resource for others in their Department, the assistance of the Quality Assurance Representatives is essential in conducting the Internal Audits each year.



## Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin

### Human Trafficking Workshop

From February 14 – 17, 2017 Matawa was able to bring together front-line workers from our First Nations to develop strategies for increasing community awareness on human trafficking. Front-line workers were able to learn what human trafficking was including: what it means, recognizing the signs, who and where victims are targeted, preventing it, what families can do, and where to get help. The workshop concluded with educational tools for community-wide awareness campaigns (see some on the right), including an audio recording of one First Nation woman sharing her story.

Presentations were provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (Detective Gilles Depratto - Human Trafficking), Kairos Community Resource Centre (Linda Dacre and Steve Fraser - Gang Prevention & Intervention Program), Native Women's Centre of Toronto (Laurie Heminston), Anti-Exploitation Task Force (Major Karen Peddicombe), Superior Points Harm Reduction and the Crime Prevention Council.

Participants received training on Naloxone which is an antidote for opioids which can include: Codeine, Dilaudid, Demerol, Morphine, Hydromorphone, Buprenorphine, Heroin, Fentanyl, Oxycodone, and Methadone. They were trained on how to recognize signs of an overdose, and the administration of Naloxone. A number of front-line workers received Naloxone Emergency Kits for their communities.

The workshop concluded with an Indigenous Victim Services Engagement Session coordinated by the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, Aboriginal Justice Division which is conducting an extensive engagement on the needs of Indigenous victims in Ontario, and on what form of Indigenous-specific victim services can be offered. The engagement is in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action. It will conclude with a Final Report. Front-line workers were able to provide information regarding gaps in victim services in their communities. Victim services in Ontario include:

- Victim's Justice Fund
- Domestic Violence Court Program
- Family Court Support Worker Program
- Child Victim/Witness Program
- Victim/Witness Assistance Program
- Partner Assault Response (PAR) Program
- Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centres
- Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) Program
- Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP)
- Vulnerable Victims and Family Fund





# Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin

## Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse



Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin Prescription Drug Abuse Working Group

### Matawa First Nations-“Back to our Roots: Chii Kee Way Meno Biimadeseyung”

This a strategy to overcome prescription drug abuse and misuse. Matawa Health & Social Services Task Group began working with issues of Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse in 2000 when detrimental outcomes of widespread abuse/misuse of prescribed narcotics was first being noticed in Matawa First Nations. The Matawa Regional PDA Strategy was then developed which identified eleven actions for moving forward and spoke of the urgent need for action, immediate support systems and support for community specific initiatives. It was not until 2012 that Health Canada provided specialized resources to support community-based services within Matawa First Nations communities and some regional projects.

### Matawa PDA Evaluation Project

From February 8 - 9, 2017, members of the Matawa PDA Evaluation Working Group met to continue their work on the Regional and Community-based PDA program Evaluation. The Working Group provides input and feedback on the financial analysis and community-based PDA program, provides information on how current services are supporting the individuals and families of opioid addiction and to provide strategic direction. NOSM was contracted by Matawa to undertake this project and they will be making 2 site community visits –Constance Lake and Webequie. The Matawa PDA Working Group also provides advice and direction for the Mental Health Foundation Research Project that looks at the effectiveness of community-based prescription drug abuse recovery program.

### Mental Health Foundation Research on PDA Community-Based Treatment & Recovery

Upon approval by Matawa Chiefs in 2013, the Matawa Health & Social Services Task Group established a collaborative working partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Ontario Mental Health Foundation Research to explore the effectiveness of prescription drug abuse community-based and recovery programs. Due to experiencing some challenges, the project was on hold for a short period and is currently active and ready to move into the next phase that includes partnership meetings, community visits and conducting interviews.

### PDA-Back to our Roots Gatherings (Capacity & Knowledge Building)

The Working Group plays a pivotal role in planning and delivering the PDA-Back to Our Roots Gatherings. The 6th Gathering took place in Ginoogaming First Nation in November 2015. The next one is planned to take place in Eabametoong First Nation and is tentatively scheduled for the last week of May 2017. This Gathering will see more of our own Health Staff conducting workshops in the areas related to PDA and Healing & Wellness. Invited participants will be front-line staff and Health & Social Service Directors. Invitations will also be extended to other Band staff and Leadership.

### Oshki-Ni-Ta-Wee-kee-win Memo-piimatiziwin Model

- ❖ Memo-piimatiziwin is a model that the our ancestors used to teach, gave guidiness and direction.
- ❖ The model will have 4 of the aspects of life, the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical wellness.
- ❖ Land based teachings and connecting with nature
- ❖ Learning the 7 Natural laws
- ❖ Use the land to debrief, detox and begin a healing path





## 15TH ANNUAL FIRST NATIONS HOUSING CONFERENCE (FNHC)

From Feb 7-9, 2017, the FNHC completed another instalment of its ongoing effort to bring knowledge and networking opportunities to delegates involved in First Nations Housing.

This year, the event was at its largest with over 300 people in attendance during the 3-day event. Formerly known as the Northern Housing Conference, this year, delegates from across the nation were invited to share in this event. It attracted First Nation housing professionals from British Columbia, Manitoba, and all over Ontario – a first for FNHC. The shift allowed the Conference a national scope for the first time in its 15-year history. This monumental anniversary presented itself as a prime opportunity to showcase the enriching experiences gained at FNHC to all First Nations in Canada.

The theme for the conference, which included a trade show and the 9th Annual *Builders Challenge*, was “Building Our New Path”. Some of the workshops for this year’s even were:

Amber’s Fire Safety, Housing Policy toolkit, Enforcing Housing Policy, Home Maintenance, Roles and Responsibilities in Housing, Importance of Tenant Liaison, Building Elevation, Proposal Writing 101, Natural & Mechanical ventilation, Ministerial Loan Guarantee, Is Your Environment Healthy and Forging a New Path Together. Over 40 exhibitors also participated in a one day Tradeshow that featured consultants, housing suppliers and contractors from Northern Ontario and Manitoba.

During the tradeshow, the *Builders Challenge* took place. This year, it focused on Interior Finishing. It involved demonstrations by our special guest Jon Eakes followed by challenges where delegates competed against each other and were judged on accuracy, speed, and quality. The challenges included; Hanging Drywall, Mudding Drywall, Tub Surround Install and Trim, Caulk & Finishing.

Lac Seul First Nation was honoured at the awards banquet for their exceptional housing program and achievements.

This annual event was organized by representatives from 14 Tribal Councils from Northern Ontario. The main focus of the conference is to address issues and challenges in First Nations Housing. At the same time it is important for delegates to network with others and bring useful information back home to share.

This year's conference is deemed a success and we are already forward to the 2018 event!!!!

Further information is available online at the conference’s website. [www.northernhousingconference.com](http://www.northernhousingconference.com)

*For further information contact:*

Saverio Rizzo  
Housing Inspector / Coordinator  
Matawa First Nations Management  
\* FNHC Working Group Member

MATAWA PARTICIPANTS IN BUILDERS CHALLENGE



Irvin Taylor & Courtney Wesley (Constance Lake)



Ron Missewace (Eabametoong)



Irvin Taylor (Constance Lake) and Bernard Gagnon (Aroland)





# community

Facing life's challenges together.

## ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE THUNDER BAY

now offers outpatient support for those facing addiction and their families. Our model for recovery is based on Christian principles, accountability and love. Using curriculum and a small-group method developed by *Living Free Ministries*, the following groups are currently available to the community:

## STEPPING INTO FREEDOM WOMEN'S GROUP

For women struggling with a life-controlling problem like drugs, sex, gambling or alcoholism.

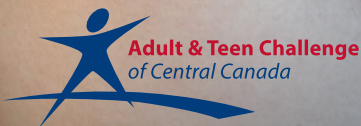
## CONCERNED PERSONS GROUP (9-WEEK COURSE)

For those who have a current or past relationship with someone who has a life-controlling problem. Whether you're a parent, friend, sibling or partner, this group is for you! We cover topics such as letting go and letting God, co-dependency and enabling. We also discuss practical ways to communicate more effectively with your loved one.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO JOIN A GROUP

Call 807-345-2277 or email [Jennifer@teenchallenge.tc](mailto:Jennifer@teenchallenge.tc).

**Tessa, 2016 grad** "Tessa grew up in a harmful environment, turning to alcohol and morphine to cope. Experiencing the love of God for the first time after a suicide attempt, Tessa sought help at Adult & Teen Challenge and today has a renewed passion and purpose for her life."



[teenchallenge.tc](http://teenchallenge.tc)

# Matawa First Nations Management Welcomes New Staff

## Economic Development Department

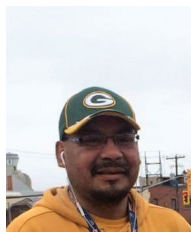
### Administrative Assistant, Suzanne John-George



Wachey, My name is Suzanne John-George and I am a member of Constance Lake First Nation. I have recently moved here to Thunder Bay for the opportunity to be employed with the Economic Development department as their new Administrative Assistant. I am honored to be here and am looking forward to having this chance to work for Matawa First Nations. I am looking forward to learning more and developing my skills with my fellow co-workers. I can't wait to visit all the communities and to meet the wonderful people. I'll also be working on furthering my education by taking business courses to keep on helping the department. Thank you.

## Matawa Education

### IT Technician, Wayne Slipperjack



Hi all, my name is Wayne Slipperjack. I have recently started as IT Technician with Matawa Education. I am a member of Eabametoong First Nation where I have resided most of my life. I have previously worked as Technician with Eabametoong Communications Inc. from 2004 to 2017 and as Manager from 2007 to 2017. I begin my new position with new challenges and look forward to these challenges. I also look forward to working with others and helping them with their needs as time goes. With that meeqwetch and hope to see you in the near

## Living with Us... Wapoos (Snowshoe Hare)



The snow is starting to melt and spring is near! As Easter weekend approaches, we have rabbits and hares on our mind. The Snowshoe Hare has long ears, long hind legs, and a short fluffy tail. Their feet resemble snowshoes, giving it its common name. With large furry feet, the hare can move easily on top of the snow, like you would wearing snowshoes. In winter the hare's coat is white and in the summer it changes to brown for camouflage. It takes about 10 weeks for the colour of their fur to fully change from white to brown. Around mid-march Snowshoe Hares start breeding, giving birth to as many as 13 little ones. While you are outside enjoying Spring, keep your eyes out in the forest for these creatures.

**Did You Know...** Four Rivers has a Youth On the Land Outreach (YOLO) program? If you would like Four Rivers staff to attend one of your community's events this Spring/Summer, please reach out to us! We would love to find out how we could bring interesting activities about the environment to youth in your community! Call us at 807-344-4575.



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