



2012-2013
Annual Report
25th Anniversary

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT
The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference



Prepared for the 25th Annual General Meeting
July 30 to August 1, 2013 | Hosted by Long Lake #58 First Nation





**“We will do whatever is necessary in order to protect our land,
our water and our resources for the future generations.”**

- Unity Declaration, July 13, 2011



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MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Message

from the
President of the Board



ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND MYSELF, I would like to thank CEO David Paul for all his tireless efforts for our communities and for Matawa First Nation Management (MFNM). I would also like to thank our Board of Director members for their commitment to making sure MFNM is an effective organization with a culture of transparency and sound policy direction.

As we continue to make progress in our communities, and also here at Matawa First Nation Management, I believe our organization will grow stronger and will provide even better and more sophisticated advisory services to our First Nations. Challenges and opportunities are around every corner in this modern world. Our lives are being impacted daily by change that is coming in the form of resource development and also through modern techniques for communications, and ways of doing business.

I want to thank the Management and Staff at MFNM for all their hard work to achieve ISO Certification this year. We are now operating with top-notch management systems which are

known and recognized all over the world. We will continue to improve ourselves to ensure that Matawa Tribal Council is a non-profit corporation that our First Nation members will continue to look towards for advisory services, and can take pride in. We will continue to strive to do business with the highest standards in a spirit of respect for our government and industry partners, and with the same spirit of respect for all our co-workers and colleagues.

The family teaches us about the importance of knowledge, education, hard work and effort. It teaches us about enjoying ourselves, having fun, keeping fit and healthy.

Work hard, but also enjoy family time with friends and loved ones as each passing moment counts.

Thank you,

Darius Ferris,
President of the Board of Directors



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT Board of Directors

President

Darius Ferris

Constance Lake First Nation

Vice President

Maurice Waboose

Ginoogaming First Nation

Secretary / Treasurer

Charlie O'Keese

Eabametoong First Nation

Robinson Meshake

Aroland First Nation

Frank Onabigon

Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Wayne Moonias

Neskantaga First Nation

Stanley Oskineegish

Nibinamik First Nation

Randy Jacob

Webequie First Nation

Paul Achneepineskum

Marten Falls First Nation





Message

from the
CEO



The Power Of Unity, The Dignity In Difference

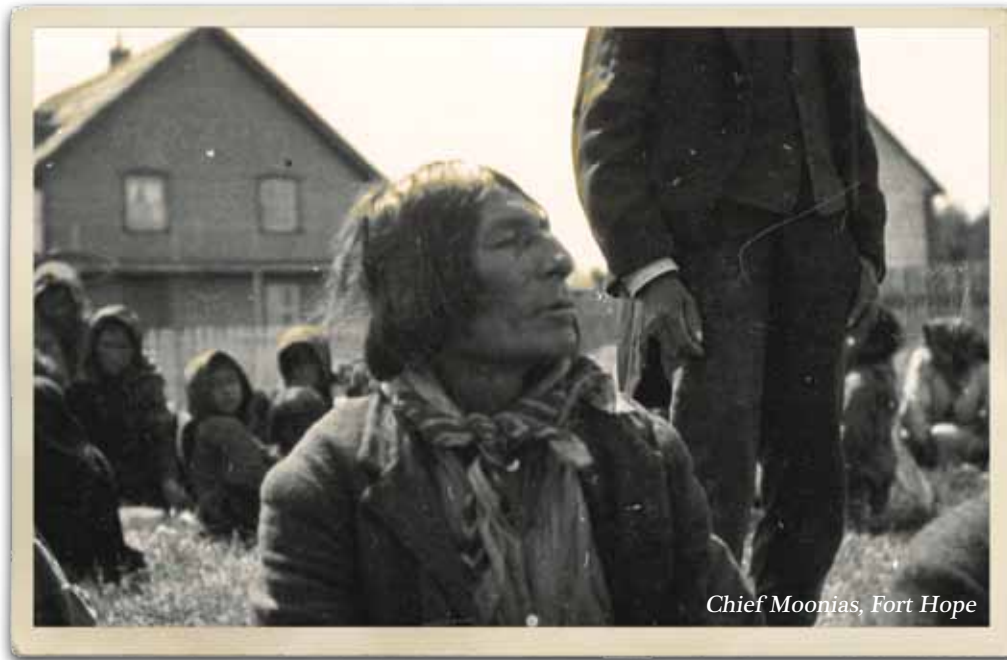
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT'S BEEN 25 YEARS since our Chiefs made a decision to form a group of nine First Nations that would become Matawa First Nations Management. At first it was just meant to meet DIAND's (AANDC) criteria under the Tribal Council Funding Policy. Matawa was meant to provide the five basic advisory services. I don't think the Chiefs foresaw that this organization would grow into the political powerhouse it has become in Ontario, and take the lead on political issues within the Treaty No. Nine First Nations. But the Matawa Chiefs have always maintained close relationships since the early 1970s, during the First Nation's revolutionary days which saw the creation of regional and national organizations that would evolve to become Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). Back in those days leadership had more of a "devil may care" attitude when the party preceded working with the issues amongst themselves. Those were the days of the beagle boys, when issues were resolved by a fight between the governments and the "Indians," as First Nations were referred to at that time.

Since then First Nations leadership has become more sophisticated and educated. They have learned to fight their battles in boardrooms and, when necessary, in courts. They have amassed experts from their own communities rather than rely on outside consultants who, in the earlier

days, often took advantage of First Nations, overcharging with little accountability and work production.

I am glad I grew up from a teenager to this era of Nations reborn out of anger from surviving residential schools, and lucky enough to escape the clutches of the government's children aid societies. It was that, and the need to survive, that gave our fathers and grandfathers the strength and the drive to make a better future for their children and grandchildren. I grew up in that era and that is what has made me who I am today, a very determined Anishinabai who never wants to see those dark days for my own children and grandchildren. Our people should never have to live under that kind of genocide and apartheid policies of governments again. We are emerging from the darkness into the light.

Today I look back at what we as First Nations and the Peoples of the Land have accomplished. We have come a long way since the barroom days of the seventies. We have regained our pride as First Nations Peoples of the Land. Many of our people are now completing their post-secondary education. We know what we want for our future is to be self-sufficient and independent on our own lands and territories. This was the vision of our Chiefs and Councils in 1988 when they created Matawa First Nations Management. I believe we will achieve that goal, perhaps not for my generation, but my children's and grandchildren's generation will live that dream for our Nations.



Chief Moonias, Fort Hope

With that I encourage all of our Chiefs and Councils to continue to fight for that vision for our Peoples. I encourage our Peoples of the Land to continue to assert your rights and freedoms as the First Peoples of the Land. Do not be afraid to stand up for your rights. Do not be afraid to tell your leadership to continue our struggles for a better tomorrow so that our children and grandchildren will someday have a high standard of living. Continue the fight for our dream of healthy and prosperous communities, with good and reliable infrastructure. We have never lived on “handouts”. What governments and others consider handouts were monies extracted from our First Nations lands and resources. One day we will no longer receive those subsistence level monies for our survival. We will have what is rightfully ours; a full and fair share of all the benefits and revenues that will come from our resources. We will create our own wealth and future. I always remember the words of one of our ancestors (Moonias) during the James Bay Treaty Number Nine signing

He said, “...that ever since he was able to earn anything, and that was from the time he was very young, he had never been given something for nothing; that he always had to pay for everything that he got, even if it was only a paper of pins.”

Now, he said “you gentlemen come to us from the King offering to give us benefits for which we can make no return...”

He knew what was being promised was too good to be true, and he was right.

I believe we will one day tell the government again that we will govern ourselves and we will sustain our own communities with revenues from our own lands, and in addition, from the entitlements of full enforcement of benefits from our Treaties.

I want to thank everyone who has made a contribution to our work at MFNM for the past 25 years, and also in the early days when we first began to get organized. A new era of changes is coming to our First Nations and to Matawa First Nation Management. We will have new challenges, but also new opportunities. Our Managers and Staff will keep working to serve our communities with maximum effort.

Miiway,

David Paul Achneepineskum,
CEO, Matawa First Nation Management



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

Chiefs Council 2012-2013

Matawa Chiefs Council provides guidance and direction for the CEO and Board of Directors of Matawa First Nations Management Inc. The Chiefs Council also comes together to work on common issues that impact their communities.



Chief Sonny Gagnon
Aroland First Nation



Chief Celia Echum
Ginoogaming
First Nation



Chief Peter Moonias
Neskantaga
First Nation



Chief Roger Wesley
Constance Lake
First Nation
Chief Fred Sackaney
Elected June 15, 2013



Chief Allen Towegishig
Long Lake #58
First Nation



Chief Johnny Yellowhead
Nibinamik
First Nation



Chief Harry Papah
Eabametoong
First Nation
Chief Elizabeth Atlookan
Elected June 20, 2013



Chief Elijah K. Moonias
Marten Falls
First Nation



Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie
First Nation



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference

VISION

Matawa First Nations will be prosperous and enriched First Nations both individually and collectively. By creating enhanced social and economic opportunities for everyone, the Matawa First Nations will reach their maximum potential and have confidence in the future.

MISSION

Matawa First Nations are committed to supporting each other and focusing our collective efforts on core strategic priorities. By working together as a regional community, we will use our combined knowledge and resources in order to champion the social and economic vitality of our First Nations and invest in community and people building.

VALUES

Matawa First Nations Work Together

We have the opportunities to grow and reach our maximum potential as a regional group. The diversity within our regional communities is valued and a source of local and regional pride. We are proactively involved in the economic, cultural and political development of the Matawa territory.

Matawa First Nations are Dynamic and Sustainable Communities

We integrate modern social and economic development practices with our traditional culture and heritage. We build capacity and economic wealth for present and future generations and are well positioned to succeed in the national economy.

Matawa First Nations Uphold Quality of Life

We invest and protect our quality of life – socially, economically, culturally and environmentally – and ensure that the Matawa First Nations are prosperous and healthy communities in which to live, work and raise a family.



Communications



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

- Provides media and communications support to Matawa First Nation Management Departments and Chiefs Council
- Develops multimedia information materials and reports
- Maintains website and social media
- Ensures brand compliance on public documents and information materials
- Develops media releases and advisories and liaises with media and public as required
- Supports community communication liaison officers within the limits of its funding allocations
- Has two employees, Communications Manager and Communications Assistant

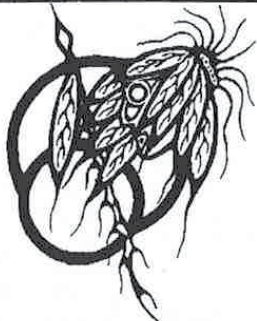
PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES JULY 2012 - JULY 2013

- CCLO support and training
- Coordination of new website and intranet development
- Coordination of brand development

- Media relations
- Gathering of Matawa Communities
- Video project: Gathering of Matawa Communities English and Ojicree 25th anniversary video
- Community cultural portal
- Information materials development

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

- Website in development
- Branding, surveys and research completed, approvals re: colours and logo
- Conduct CCLO pilot project with Long Lake # 58 and help develop resource development community website
- Combined grand opening (Four Rivers and Communications sharing responsibility) of new Community Resources Center and Lounge



MATAWA NEWSLETTER

6th Annual Matawa First Nations General Assembly July 19, 20, 21, 1994 Marten Falls First Nation

In 1989, the first ever Matawa General Assembly, was held in Thunder Bay; Matawa was only one year old. It was at this meetings that the delegates decided that future Annual Assemblies will be held at Matawa First Nations communities.

Since that time we have held our Annual Assemblies in the following communities;

1990 - Eabametoong First Nation
1991 - Ginoogaming First Nation
1992 - Lansdowne House First Nation
1993 - Constance Lake First Nation

This summer the 1994, Annual Assembly will be held in Marten Falls First Nation.

The Annual Assembly brings together Chiefs, Councillors and Board of Directors from our member communities. Each First Nations chooses at least four (4) delegates, to discuss common issues that are prevalent in our communities. It is actually an annual gathering of the Ojibway and the Cree people of the RIVERS THAT MEET.

It is not only a time to discuss the issues that concern our people, it is a time to meet new people, the delegates want to meet the community members. Community members are encouraged to come in and listen on the discussions.

It is also a time to enjoy what the community has to offer, whether it's fishing or just going for a scenic ride on the lakes and rivers or even along the highways.

What have we accomplished?

- We have established several economic ventures which including a computer consulting company. We are also looking at an airline business, forestry development, hospitality and tourism development.
- On the social and health issues, we support the establishment of social and health service programs. We have made recommendations in regard to the social reforms initiated by province of Ontario.

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Communications



- Develop and deliver media releases and advisories for Chiefs Council, Matawa Departments and First Nations as required
- Support preliminary work with Regional Strategy
- Streaming and recording of Gatherings and AGM in English and Oji-Cree

CHALLENGES

- SPI funding was reduced 2012-2013 and we were only able to have 3 sessions with CCLOs and could not support them adequately. SPI funding has been further reduced 2013-2014 translating into reduced service to the First Nation CCLOs
- Communications Manager spent a large percentage of time developing funding proposals but was only able to secure funds for an intern and for a website expansion project (Community Cultural Portal Project)
- Communications Officer/Assistant position was vacated twice in an 8-month period
- Increase in the scope of work due to expansion of MFNM activities and the development of the Regional Strategy

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity with persistent funding proposal follow-up to secure more resources, including human resources, from Ontario to meet the growing need for communications support and capacity building at the community level
- Opportunity to train an intern, and a shared employee (shared with Four Rivers), to take on some of the communication responsibilities
- Opportunity to develop structures and protocols

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES AUGUST 2012- JULY 2013

- Produced and delivered to communities:
Four Matawa Messenger newsletters with information about the Ring of Fire and mining, including a Ring of Fire Chronology 2012 and update; Information on the Environmental Assessment Process and information from all Matawa Departments as well as KKETS; also developed 16 page Four Rivers newsletter for communities re: land based issues, and Four Rivers services

- Produced power point presentations for CEO presentations, departments, and for the broadband preliminary initiative
- Produced 70,000 centre spread ads for Mining Solutions on behalf of Matawa and First Nations
- Hosted 16 Wawatay radio broadcasts, including updates for Four Rivers, Matawa Education Health PDAM, ROF information and KKETS skills and training
- Held three CCLO training sessions, including media training and basic communications training and provided templates, resources tools, information materials and mini resource centres for Matawa communities
- Conducted CCLO Pilot Project with Long Lac #58, which included one-on-one training, website development, communications survey development to assist CCLOs in determining best methods for sharing information in their communities, and strategic plans
- Participated in Matawa strategic planning process
- Participated in Eabametoong television broadcast re: mining and ROF
- Participated in Quality Management preparations for certification
- Assisted Eabametoong to set up new resource development centre
- Attended two trade shows
- Organized six media events and multiple media releases and advisories for Chiefs and MFNM departments
- Traveled to Ottawa to support Matawa Chiefs re: Idle No More and environmental legislation
- Posted information on Matawa website and Facebook
- Participated in Matawa Gathering 2013, supported Chiefs and delegates, coordinated information materials, developed and designed Gathering Report and video
- Developed AGM and Chiefs report 2013 and 25th anniversary video.
- Wrote funding proposals
- Developed work plans
- Coordinated delivery of content for new Matawa website and coordinated design and navigations of same
- Soft launch of Website
- Completed branding process with Agency of Record
- Supported preliminary work on Regional Strategy re: communications
- Attended meetings



Health and Social Meno Biimadeswin



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Health and Social Meno Biimadeswin provides advisory, advocacy and technical support services in all areas of health and wellness programming to Matawa First Nations. The HSMB oversees the management and administration of regional funded projects, coordinates specific programs to reduce the impact of suicide and family/domestic violence, offers limited services in crisis management and intervention, and assists in the promotion and delivery of education awareness on wellness and healthy lifestyles.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

JULY 2012- JULY 2013

HEALTH CONSULTATION AND LIAISON

This program provides the overall coordination, administration and management of all health related programs. The three main objectives are: 1) to provide coordination and support to First Nation Programs in Eabametoong, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie; 2) to raise the level of health and healthy lifestyles of community members through community awareness/ promotion and prevention activities; 3) to oversee the development, management and

administrative practices of health programs and services. This program also provides opportunities to liaise, collaborate and network with other Matawa First Nation communities, agencies and organizations. This past year, the main focus and activities have been dealing with the issues of prescription drug abuse and/or misuse.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING & SUPPORT PROGRAM (FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT)

This program provides the overall management, administration and client supports in Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie. The main objectives are: 1) to provide transitional and housing supports for women, and their children, who are experiencing/have experienced abuse; 2) to support the development of a transitional support plan and a safety plan for women and their children. This program specifically serves any woman age 16 or older, who resides in the community, and who identifies herself or is identified as having been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused by her partner and/or significant other. The THSP Community Workers assist by helping them connect with community supports, find (referrals to women's shelters) and/or maintain housing and providing options for on-going healing/treatment/ counselling. This program also offers education awareness on family violence prevention and assists with community-based support healing programs.

Matawa Messenger

Volume 1 Issue 1 Supporting the Development of our First Nations Communities Spring, 2002

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About Matawa

Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) is a one hundred percent aboriginally owned company that was formed in 1988 to provide a tribal council for First Nations communities located north and northeast of Thunder Bay.

As many First Nations communities are remotely located, it was decided that a Tribal Council be formed to represent these communities and assist in bridging cultural and distance gaps.

A Tribal Council is an organization that represents First Nations who affiliate and decide to be members.

Matawa First Nations Management represents ten First Nation communities providing advisory and technical services.

Our mission is to support Matawa First Nations membership regain and refocus strong, healthy, self-sufficient communities, Socially, Economically, Recreationally, Spiritually, Politically, and



Matawa Office in Thunder Bay

Educationally by providing advisory Services through program resources and communication. Matawa's priorities come from community consultation rather than government initiatives.

Matawa believes that our member communities have great potential in becoming competitive in today's global economy, and we are here to assist your community realize that potential, all without compromising tradition, values and culture

'Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day, teach him how to fish and he'll eat forever.'

Our First Issue!

Welcome to the premier issue of Matawa Messenger! The staff here at Matawa want to produce a newsletter that will inform our member communities of our services, provide contact information, and inform our members and let our readers know why we're here, and how we can be of assistance.

We hope that this newsletter will become an informative and entertaining source of what's happening here at Matawa in relation to you, our

member communities.

Future issues of Matawa Messenger will contain articles and information on upcoming events and projects coordinated by Matawa First Nations Management and its associated organizations, as well as any new developments within our member communities.

The staff at Matawa want to hear from you! We are looking for articles, photographs, and any important community-related news that you would like to share with our readers. Perhaps there is an upcoming event, or a successful workshop that was held in

your community. This newsletter can help advertise events to other First Nation communities in your area. Contact us, and you could have your submission published in the next issue of the Matawa Messenger!

You can submit articles by fax at (807) 344-2977 by e-mail to our general address at info@matawa.on.ca, directly to bharris@matawa.on.ca, or by mail at Matawa's address in Thunder Bay, listed on the back of this newsletter.

Enjoy!
MFNM.



Health and Social Meno Biimadeswin



REGIONAL CRISIS INTERVENTION WORKER PROGRAM

HSMB oversees the administration and management of the RCIW Program. This program works in collaboration with eight (8) First Nation Crisis Team Programs – Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Ginoogaming, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie. It is intended to increase community capacity to respond to crisis and emergency through maintaining well organized, well trained, well equipped crisis teams that can intervene efficiently and effectively to traumatic incidents. The program is primarily focused on incidents related to suicides and family violence. Minimal supports are provided for individuals/families experiencing family/domestic violence, sudden deaths, and occasionally provide supports in court. Also, the program assists in administrative functions such as proposal writing, reporting, program development, training front line workers, coordinating of events, and representing Matawa in various committees.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE-PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE/MISUSE

This initiative provides opportunities for Health and Social Programs in Matawa and First Nations to be active participants in the overall Ring of Fire Strategic planning. It provides all First Nations Health and Social sectors; with

a collective voice to address issues related to economic development in the area, as well as the technical supports for community-based initiatives, coordination and collaborative planning for the on going development of a regional strategy. The overall goal is to develop a local and regional plan addressing the implementation supports required to improve services and to prepare Matawa First Nations members to receive equal opportunities and benefits from future economic developments. Supports provided under this initiative including assisting individual First Nations in proposal development, facilitating and establishing community-based programming, coordinating educational awareness and capacity building activities, building new relationships and partnerships with other organizations and Government sectors for the development of a long-term sustainable Regional PDA Strategy.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

MOVING FORWARD TO OVERCOME PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE/MISUSE

Matawa First Nations have reached many milestones since the issue of prescription drug abuse and misuse was identified in early 2000. In 2004-5, a short-term strategy was developed primarily to raise awareness, to seek community

solutions and to develop a strategy for resourcing the gaps. Despite the actions taken, the increase of abuse/misuse continued to move into epidemic proportions that led our Chiefs to call for a resolution declaring a “Medical State of Emergency” (May 2009). In 2011, a document, “Back to Our Roots: Chii Kee Way Meno Biimadeseyung” Strategy that addresses a regional plan of action was completed. To date, all Matawa First Nations continue to move forward and all have community-based programs (although insufficiently funded) to support their members struggling with the drug abuse/misuse and addiction. Recognizing the successes, strengths, dedication and commitment of everyone involved, HSMB staff and colleagues acknowledges, commends and recognizes the truest successors are the individuals who are moving forward to overcome their challenges and continuing to pursue healthy living - “FREE from drug addiction”. Their willingness, courage, ability and strength to keep Moving Forward provide the strength in all of us and in our work.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

To increase the health and social capacity and provision of staff development and training is a priority. The HSMB staff continue to seek opportunities for increased resourcing in personnel enhancement and skills training. Through the SPI-PDA Initiative and Regional Crisis Intervention Program, several presentations and information sessions were conducted in the communities and partner agencies. As well, an Annual Regional PDAM Gathering/Workshop was organized, coordinated and held in Neskantaga. This Gathering brought over 60 people from all sectors. HSMB Staff along with some First Nation Staff participated in the Safe Talk Training, Life Skills Coaching, Red Cross-Family Violence Prevention, CTC Program Reporting, Duluth Domestic Abuse Model, Restorative Practices



and Personal Development & Healing-Munsey Program. Our plan is to train with the Community Health and Social staff so that extra supports and assistance are provided at the community level.

OTHER SUCCESSES:

- The ongoing engagement, collaboration, networking and building new partners brings in new initiatives, opportunities, growth and development. Our health team sits at various boards and committees, advisory and working groups.
- Community “Champs” – recognizing and acknowledging that every community has their own successes, has their own champions. This year there has been an increased number of requests for communities to share their PDA programs outside of Matawa, e.g. presentations to government sectors, conferences, and agencies.

CHALLENGES

Lack of resources is a major challenge both in the communities and in Matawa. Matawa communities do not have ongoing access to a full spectrum of community-based services for prevention, assessment, early intervention, active treatment



Health and Social Meno Biimadeswin



and healing, relapse prevention, aftercare, professional/specialized mental health services and program resources to ensure a wholistic response in all areas.

Inconsistent, globally oriented, silo approached guidelines and program criteria in government-funded programs continue to come down with minimal First Nation consultation and quite often do not reflect the unique needs of our people and our communities. In health, we promote a wholistic approach, a community driven process and cultural appropriate programming. Applying this model is challenging within the existing system. Every community is different and we cannot be put in a “one box fits all” model. We need to have flexible programs, controlled and managed by our own people.

Lack of adequate resources in crisis response and management is an on going challenge. Immediate access and availability of crisis teams and/or trauma counsellors has hindered immediate crisis response and continues to put our communities and members at further risk. We often encounter a shortage of volunteers for crisis teams, incur high cost of expenses related to basic needs (food, water and supplies) and travel, as well as funeral cost. MSMB and MHSSTG are in the process of developing a Regional Crisis Response Management Plan that

will require extra resources and support.

The overall impact from these challenges is that our communities continue to be at risk, continue to operate and manage in crisis mode and continue to provide services in “do what we can with what we have” mode. The results are unmet long-term goals and taking longer to achieve our goals.

OPPORTUNITIES

The opportunities or possibilities rest with our continued dedication, commitment and attaining adequate resources. In HSMB, we are currently assisting First Nations with community-based treatment and aftercare proposals and awaiting responses to two regional proposals submitted – one specifically focused on PDA post-aftercare and the other establishing/enhancing victim services. HSMB’s overall long-term goal is to assist and support our communities to attain, manage and operate their own health and social services and health care. Our vision is “Chii Kee Way Meno Biimaadeseyung” – restoration of good life. We are working together for wellness and good health for our people, families and children.

Matawa Messenger

Volume 2 Issue 1

Supporting the Development of our First Nations Communities

Fall, 2003

MATAWA CHIEFS CELEBRATE 15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION



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16-MEMBERSHIP

Matawa's 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place this past month on August 12, 13 and 14, 2003 at Constance Lake First Nation. Among the delegates were Matawa Chiefs who attended to discuss issues affecting their First Nations.

Chief Veronica Waboose of Long Lake #58 First Nation was one of the Chiefs that was in attendance during the annual meeting and says that it's important to meet with other Matawa communities.

"This is a time when we get together once a year to come and listen to what Matawa tribal council is doing and also to share. It's good to listen to what they have to say and what they have to share in this AGM," said Chief Waboose. She believes that this gathering is a great place to discuss topics like economic development and social issues.

For Chief Charlie O'Keese of Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope), he sees the AGM as a forum to move ahead on concerns and issues at the community level. "This is a place where you get your policy and direction from for the year as a Matawa tribal council," says Chief O'Keese.

"This is an organization that has been through thick and thin, things that we've gone through. You know we've been through some very deep valleys and we've come out of them. We're still here as a Matawa First Nations and we're going to continue to be here," also added Chief O'Keese.

Chief Gordon Wabasse of Webequie First Nation says that Matawa First Nations Management is going in the right direction but provides a word of advice. "One of the areas that we need to start looking at is working with the community at the community level. I think if we started doing that we'd be more effective and create a lasting relationship," said Chief Wabasse. He also added that the Matawa organization is being more productive and is providing better services.

Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) was developed in 1988 as a Tribal Council for First Nations communities located in central Northern Ontario to provide advisory services to its members.

Currently, Matawa represents 10 First Nations and employs approximately 30 people.



Education



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Matawa Education Department provides support and advisory services to Matawa First Nation community schools and Education Authorities that result in school improvements and positively impact the quality of students' learning. The Education Department staff supports local education authorities, schools and teachers, as well as networking with Aboriginal organizations, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Provincial Ministry of Education, School Boards, and Post Secondary and Secondary/Elementary institutions. The Department continues to develop its capacity to provide second level services to schools, including limited IT support, under the Pathways to Achieve Student Success (PASS!) program. In addition, the Department operates the Matawa Learning Centre, an alternative secondary school approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education. Through the Matawa Learning Centre, a pilot GED/adult upgrading program was initiated in the fall of 2012. The Matawa Post Secondary Program has responsibility for post secondary administration for five Matawa First Nations; Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake # 58, Neskantaga, and Webequie. Support Services are available to other Matawa First Nation students upon request. The use of new technologies in education continues to

be a focus for the department in order to enhance the quality of educational programs and services and to increase learning opportunities for all Matawa community members.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES JULY 2012- JULY 2013

ADVISORY SERVICES

• LOCATION/FACILITY

To accommodate growth in programs, staff and student numbers, the Education Department offices and classrooms relocated to a larger facility at 28 Cumberland Street N. in Thunder Bay. An open house was held to celebrate our new facility in December 2012. The new facility includes four classrooms, two meeting rooms, and increased office space to meet both current programs and anticipated growth over the next two years.

• SPECIAL PROJECTS INITIATIVE (SPI)

Matawa Education Department, through the Matawa Learning Centre, piloted a new GED/ GED preparation program with a small cohort of five adult students between November 2012 and June 2013. An instructor and assistant instructor delivered the new program, with regular monitoring and feedback from the curriculum developer. One student was successful in obtaining

the GED certificate during the initial examinations in April. Other students successfully completed some parts of the exam in April and will have an opportunity to take their outstanding GED examinations in June 2013.

Community Learning Centre studies have been completed, and two First Nations have been identified for pilot projects in 2013-2014. These community learning centres will support adult upgrading and GED programming in the community, as well as other future education and training programs. To assist in identifying and better quantifying the education needs within the Matawa First Nation communities, a researcher was contracted to complete a Matawa Education Academic Skills Analysis. This work will be completed in 2013.

Broadband connectivity is a critical element in the growth and development of any community. With the growing need for improved connectivity in Matawa schools, and in the communities as well, the Education Department has been working with a consultant to prepare a review of current IT connectivity in Matawa First Nations and make recommendations for next steps. This work will be completed, and follow-up initiated, in 2013-2014.

MATAWA LEARNING CENTRE

The Matawa Learning Centre provides a unique learning environment to support students and assist them to move toward the successful completion of their secondary education. The Centre offers flexible schedules to meet the specific academic and personal needs of our students. We are able to support our students in ways for which provincial schools are neither equipped nor able. This unique student-centred programming enables our students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to continue their pathways to work, training, or post secondary education programs. The Learning Centre is an inspected and approved private secondary school by the Ministry of Education, with authority to grant Ontario secondary school credits and the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

The Matawa Learning Centre has completed its third year of operation. In the Fall of 2012, we moved to a new location at 28 Cumberland Street N. Since relocating, the student retention rate has risen above 80 percent. Our new location also provides the space needed to pilot an Adult Education Program, offering GED test preparation and high school courses for adult students wishing to complete their OSSD requirements.

PATHWAYS TO ACHIEVE STUDENT SUCCESS – PASS!

With funding provided through the federal First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP), the Education Department provides support services and resources for Matawa schools and Education Authorities, primarily in the areas of literacy, numeracy, performance measures and early learning. This program also supports school evaluations and annual school success planning. A key component of this initiative is the implementation of a database in each school, and at the regional level, to track student information and assist teachers, principals, education authorities and the Matawa Education Department in their short- and long-range planning. Servers and other IT infrastructure have been installed in the eight participating Matawa First Nation schools to support the use of technology for both administrative purposes and classroom instruction. Regular feedback is received from on-site visits of PASS! staff, and from the Regional Advisory Committee on Education. On-going communication ensures students, parents and community members are informed and have opportunities to provide feedback to the PASS! staff.

Matawa has just completed its first three-year cycle under the federal FNSSP initiative, and has been approved in principle for three more years of funding (2013-2016). Upon reviewing the first three year start-up phase of the program, and considering the direction and activities planned over the next three years, staff positions within the program have been restructured. It is anticipated that this restructuring will enable the Education Department to better deliver program and support services to Matawa First Nation teachers and schools.



Education



POST SECONDARY

The Post Secondary Assistance Program provides services for Aroland, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58, Neskantaga and Webequie First Nations. These services include financial administration for post secondary funding, counselling support services, liaison for MPS Advisory Committee members and post secondary institutes. The 2012-2013 academic year began with 104 post secondary students from the five Matawa First Nations, with 92 completing the year and 21 graduating from a variety of college and university programs. September 2012 also had the highest number to date of Matawa Grade 12 graduates who moved directly from high school into post secondary programs. Because of their age, these younger students often require additional supports in order to make a successful transition into college or university. In response to this need for additional support services, the Matawa Post Secondary Program has created a new pilot position, Post Secondary Assistant, to provide direct, on-site support to students at Confederation College and Lakehead University.

MATAWA ROTARY BURSARY PROGRAM

2012-2013 marks the 5th year of the Matawa Rotary Bursary Program. With \$10,000 contributed by the Bowmanville Rotary Club,

awards are provided to students in elementary, secondary, college, university and continuing education programs. The number of applicants grows with each year. This year's awards were presented at the annual Matawa Post Secondary Graduation and Awards Banquet held in Thunder Bay on May 10, 2013.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

The new Education Department facility has provided space for the new GED program for Matawa members residing in Thunder Bay who require academic upgrading in order to proceed into post-secondary education or training programs. The facility has also provided room to support increased enrolment and programming for students in the Matawa Learning Centre.

The continuing success of students attending the Matawa Learning Centre and the success of participants in the pilot GED/academic upgrading program have demonstrated the effectiveness of the innovative programming developed and delivered by the Matawa Education Department.

In the late fall of 2012, additional funding was provided through the First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP) in the area of Early Literacy which enabled the PASS! program to

expand programming to include early learning and literacy. A new position, Early Learning Coordinator, was created and staffed in January 2013 to undertake this new work. At the same time, the position of Student Success Coordinator was created and staffed to provide additional supports to Matawa First Nation schools.

CHALLENGES

A federal Education Act is scheduled for implementation in September 2014. The only information related to the pending legislation is contained in a consultation guide on the AANDC website which suggests what may be included in this new legislation. There are outstanding questions and concerns regarding the government's lack of consultation in the development of this legislation, for example the anticipated content of the federal First Nation Education Act, particularly in the areas of funding and governance, and the implementation of the new legislation. Consequently, the planned review and revision of the 5-year Regional Education Strategic Plan has been delayed, and planning for future development of the Education Department has been revisited to ensure it is able to effectively respond to any regulatory changes that may be introduced in the coming year.

The need for broadband connectivity to support classroom instruction and administrative functions in Matawa First Nation schools continues to grow. Furthermore, schools will soon be required to use the federal Education Information System (EIS) to submit all proposals and reports, which will require secure, stable, and adequate broadband connectivity. The Matawa Education Department has provided on-site and helpdesk IT support to Matawa First Nation schools, however there is a need for these services to be expanded.



OPPORTUNITIES

As indicated, additional funding was accessed through the First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP) for activities related to early literacy. With the new Early Learning and Literacy Coordinator in place, new initiatives can be implemented to better support learning opportunities in the Primary grades.

Though numbers were small, individuals did achieve success in the pilot GED/adult upgrading program. Utilizing this model of delivery and the unique curriculum developed for the program, a framework has been established for future GED/adult upgrading initiatives for Matawa First Nation members in Thunder Bay and in the Matawa communities.

For 2013-2014, AANDC has provided additional funding under the FNSSP initiative to support organizational "structural readiness" activities. An organizational review of the Education Department was completed in December 2013 and the information was used to support Matawa's proposal for this additional funding. Funding under this initiative has been approved and, if accepted, will contribute to the further development of regional and community capacity, including a review of the Regional Education Strategic Plan.



Financial Advisory Services



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

Matawa First Nations Management's (MFNM) Financial Advisory Services Department (FAD) is available to help enhance member First Nations' management, administration and quality of life by delivering governance, management and financial advisory services.

These services may include working with the Band, Finance and Program Managers along with various administrative staff members to address financial and personnel management issues and capacity development. FAD is available to work with the community finance personnel in the areas of computerized accounting, bookkeeping, financial planning, policy development, reporting and audit preparation. Member communities can also access support for preparation of funding proposals for a variety of community driven initiatives.

The department supports the Matawa First Nations (MFN) Band Managers Committee (BMC). The BMC was formally established in July 2011 at the MFN Annual General Meeting to build and maintain unified interaction between managers from the Matawa First Nations and to build capacity and network, thereby enhancing quality of life and community spirit.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

JULY 2012- JULY 2013:

2012/2013 – DEPT. WORK PLAN:

- Community Governance and Management Development through development of First Nation Codes, Policies, Procedures and Management Systems
- Band Manager Committee maintenance and development
- Advocacy for member First Nations
- Professional Development
- FAD-Band Managers Committee:
 - Ensured continuity of the Band Managers Committee by securing ongoing funding and improving meeting logistics. Improved First Nation operations by sharing and exchanging community best practices to enhance governance and management systems, for example health & safety, labour laws, emergency plan, elections codes, drug testing policy, office procedures.
- Prepared and submitted funding proposals for additional funding beyond March 31, 2013
- Promoted the committee to industry and explored financial support for BMC
- Coordinated regional training to build capacity in communities to prepare for future growth

MATAWA

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WE'RE BACK!

16 pages of the latest News
from Matawa First Nations.

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Webequie Gripped by Suicide Crisis
Chief Demands Government Action

What TV Star Bob Izumi
Really Thinks of our Fishing?

National Aboriginal Day Celebrations
At Old Fort William Historical Park

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
Find out what's been going on
In & Around Matawa First Nations

PLUS
LifeStyle News
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Competitions
Staff Profiles
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www.matawa.on.ca



Financial Advisory Services



and succession, for example Band manager orientation, office procedures such as minute taking, telephone etiquette, council orientation, training support staff to assume Band Manager duties in their absence, and CAPA/CAFM training in the region

- Increased the visibility of the Band Managers Committee to enhance communications with Matawa First Nations and others

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

- Ongoing support for Band Managers through timely completion of requests for various samples, templates and drafts, such as job descriptions, committee terms of references, interview formats/questions for job interviews, policy development and more
- Moving the Band Managers Committee forward through the implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan for Governance and Management Development and on-going training for the Committee members
- Training and networking during the Aboriginal Finance Officers Association's 2013 National Conference. This was attended by Financial Advisory and Finance Administration Staff

along with member First Nations Managers

CHALLENGES

- Finding the financial resources in a timely manner from SPI (AANDC) has been an on-going challenge, which has escalated in the current fiscal year with a delayed commitment for SPI Funding
- Finding time for Band Managers to implement action items recorded in the BMC Minutes will always be a challenge – the Band Managers are trying to work on regional activities while maintaining their respective duties at home

OPPORTUNITIES

- Potential for formal post-secondary courses through AFOA towards Certified Aboriginal Professional Administrators and Certified Aboriginal Finance Managers designations. FAD is hoping to run two cohorts and facilitate this great opportunity to 20 First Nations members. Funding has been requested through SPI and other avenues are being sought.
- BMC forums/minutes are a great opportunity for peer-to-peer mentoring along with disseminating best practices from MNFM's QMS. Funds to host these forums are part of MFNM's SPI request for 2013/2014



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS
MANAGEMENT

SPRING EDITION
2005

MATAWA

M E S S E N G E R

For The People, About The People

A New for Future Long Lake #58 First Nation



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To Build a Combined Cycle Power Plant on Reserve*

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YOUTH CORNER

COVER STORY

**Long Lake #58 First Nation
Partners with Private Sector
To Build a Combined Cycle
Power Plant on Reserve**

see page 8 for details



Quality Assurance



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

In the interest of quality assurance, Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) has embraced a quality management system (QMS), which will be implemented, monitored and continually enhanced. MFNM QMS promises quality, accountability and transparency through enhanced planning, policies, procedures and processes along with appropriate documentation and resources.

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT ACHIEVED ISO CERTIFICATION IN NOVEMBER 2012.



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES JULY 2012- JULY 2013

DEVELOP MFN QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO ISO 9001:2008 AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE

- Orientation and education of Matawa's QMS to current and new staff
- Assisted departments with developing documentation/processes required for implementation of QMS
- Prepared departments for ISO certification process
- ISO 9001:2008 Certification Process / Certification Audit
- Internal orientation and education of the QMS for all personnel, management, board members and the member First Nations Chiefs
- Assisted and guided departments through ongoing implementation of QMS
- Prepared organization and departments for the ISO 9001:2008 Surveillance Audit (November 2013)
- Assisted and guided departments that will be added to scope of ISO 9001:2008 registration
- Ensured all documentation is complete, compliant and continually developed
- Coordinated all preparation for November 2013 Surveillance/Registration Audit
- Goal: Ensure Quality Management System (QMS) is properly implemented and continually developed as per ISO 9001:2008 compliance

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

- Matawa First Nations Management is now formally registered by QMI Global under the International Organization for Standardization's ISO 9001:2008 – Quality Management standards
- We have nine MFNM departments under the current scope of our ISO 9001:2008 registration

- We now have the following four departments in final stages of the documentation phase (to be added to the registration scope in November 2013 (Surveillance/Registration Audit):

- Education – Information Technology
- Communications
- Economic Development
- KKETS

CHALLENGES

- Each department continues to adjust to the added responsibilities and activity associated with implementing MFNM's Quality Management System
- Logbook Activity, which is a critical record of continual improvement and QMS implementation, has slowed since our November 2012 ISO Audit, and efforts to revive logbook activity are underway from QA Department
- Documentation phase is challenging to departments being added to the scope of our ISO registration as much time is required from each staff member to develop forms, work instructions, templates and more while maintaining quality of service to member First Nations and community members

OPPORTUNITIES

- QA is working towards enhanced services through formal coursework and ongoing training for QA staff along with QA reps from each department, program managers and other stakeholders
- QA has allowed for Financial Advisory services to utilize effective documentation within MFNM's QMS and to enhance documentation and management at the community-level
- Financial Advisory Services will extend courses and training to First Nation management and staff where possible



Technical Advisory Services



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

Matawa Technical Services assist member communities in the development and maintenance of community infrastructure. This includes assisting communities with all aspects, including the environmental component and Aboriginal Affairs capital approvals process.

When Matawa First Nations respond to First Nation requests, services provided vary according to individual community needs, levels of individual capacity, technical proficiency, and management expertise. Consequently, the services we provide may vary and could include:

- Project planning, development and reporting
- Operation and maintenance of water and wastewater infrastructure
- Coordination of water and wastewater operator training
- Environmental Remediation Project support
- Housing inspection and programming
- Fire safety and protection
- ACRS and CAIS reporting
- Additional programs as available (i.e. Fuel Tank Registration, Go Green, LEAF, etc)

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

JULY 2012- JULY 2013

ALL MATAWA COMMUNITIES:

- Assisted with the development of infrastructure projects
- Assisted with the mitigation of infrastructure related emergencies
- Assisted with the operations and maintenance of water and wastewater systems
- Assisted with First Nations Infrastructure Investment Plan (FNIIP) annual reports
- Assisted in First Nation Housing Internship Initiative, Section 95, and CEAP application processes (INAC & CMHC)
- Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS) Data Collection & Reporting
- Assisted communities with environmental aspects related to infrastructure development; both on and adjacent to communities
- Assisted communities with coordination of the annual inspection of water and wastewater facilities
- Communicated regularly with operators regarding operations and training



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS
MANAGEMENT

FALL EDITION
2005

MATAWA

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100 YEARS
OF HISTORY

TREATY 9
CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION
2005

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100th Anniversary Treaty 9 Special Edition

see Page 8 for details of Matawa First Nations
Treaty 9 Commemorative Events

FALL EDITION 2005



Technical Advisory Services



AROLAND FIRST NATION

- Assisted with community centre project development
- Assisted with landfill project development
- Submitted O&M plans with Band Administration
- Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) inspections/ reports
- CMHC Section 95 inspections/ reports

CONSTANCE LAKE FIRST NATION

- RRAP inspections/ reports
- CMHC Section 95 inspections/ reports
- CMHC Physical Condition Report (PCR) inspections/reports
- Assisted with the development of the terms of reference for the engineering design of the community's water treatment plant.
- Technical advisor on water supply project
- Technical advisor on the Water Treatment Plant Upgrades project

EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

- Technical advisory for Load Forecast Study
- RRAP inspections/ reports
- Technical advisor on the Capital Planning Study project team
- Technical advisor on the Water Treatability Study

GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

- Technical advisor on Capital Planning Study project development
- Technical advisor on infrastructure related issues
- RRAP inspections/ reports
- Canadian Economic Action Plan (CEAP) inspection/reports

LONG LAKE 58 FIRST NATION

- Technical advisor on First Nations project team regarding potential impacts related to development adjacent to the First Nation
- RRAP inspections/ reports

MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION

- Technical advisor for water treatability study
- Assisted with the development of housing plans for the community
- RRAP inspections/ reports

NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

- Technical advisor on the water treatability study.
- Project team member on the Capital Planning Study
- RRAP inspections/ reports

NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION

- Assisted with diesel generating station emergency
- RRAP inspections/ reports
- Misc inspections / reports

WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION

- Technical advisor regarding the Capital Planning Study
- Coordinated water plant deficiency list upgrades, communicated regularly with operators regarding operations and training
- RRAP inspections/ reports
- Misc Inspections / reports

CHALLENGES

With AANDC's major capital budget overcommitted, it will be extremely difficult for First Nations to advance any infrastructure growth projects. It is further complicated by the organizational changes at AANDC making it difficult to have meetings with senior management. Previous quarterly meetings by previous ARDG's seem to have been discontinued. A direct meeting with the RDG, if available, in Toronto may be required to ensure that chief and councils issues are heard.

OPPORTUNITIES

With the upcoming funding cuts to Tribal Councils April 1, 2014, there more than likely will be an opportunity to sell some technical services to other First Nations to supplement the tech budget. However, it is unclear when these opportunities will present themselves.

Liability insurance and a certificate of authorization will be required if a for-profit venture is started.



Four Rivers



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION:

Four Rivers provides assistance and support to the Matawa member First Nations as they actively manage their land and water resources and get involved with environmental planning and resource development activities affecting their lands and waters. The Four Rivers team of environmental and technical staff deliver environmental planning and resource development capacity building activities.

Individual First Nations have their own distinct environmental planning and resource development support needs and priorities. For this reason, Four Rivers services respond to First Nation requests. This way, services are targeted to the individual lands and resource support needs of each community, as defined by each community.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES JULY 2012- JULY 2013:

Between July 2012 and July 2013, capacity building activities provided information, training, coordination, and support services to member First Nations in the areas of:

- Mineral development awareness

- Mineral development communications
- Environmental assessments
- Mapping
- Ecosystem awareness
- Environmental protection
- Environmental monitoring

Special projects and initiatives during this period were numerous, award winning, and targeted to the far-reaching goals of member First Nations in both the short and long term.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROJECTS

Over the past year, Long Lake #58 First Nation and Ginoogaming First Nation underwent Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) projects focused on Premier Gold Mines Ltd.'s proposed Advanced Exploration activities at the Hardrock Site near Geraldton. Capacity building at the community level was at the core of these projects, with the ultimate goal being to ensure that the lands and waters in their traditional homelands were protected for future generations. The CIA process included a number of methods for community capacity building (through gaining knowledge on



MATAWA

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FALL 2006

For The People, About The People

Matawa First Nations Bids Farewell to Former Board of Director

Considered one of Long Lake #58 First Nation's most committed and valued community members, working loyally to help his First Nation to achieve its vision. He was best known for his achievements and dedication as a Long Lake #58 First Nation councilor.

more on pg.03

CMHC Monthly Home Maintenance Tips

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Eabametoong First Nation Sports & Recreation Coming Events

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Nibinamik First Nation Hosts Matawa 18th Annual General Meeting

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Four Rivers



the mining process and Premier Hardrock Project plans) and participation (through discussions and knowledge sharing). The goal of this multi-faceted approach was to allow every community member to have input into the process and have ownership in the final decisions that arise.

Four Rivers has been an integral part of these CIA projects from the start, including proposal generation, funding applications, community presentations, training, interpreting technical reports, and budgeting. As a result of dedication at all levels, the CIA projects have been a successful community engagement initiative. Long Lake #58 First Nation and Ginoogaming First Nation have increased their capacity to monitor potential environmental concerns and conduct future CIA projects through their Community Coordinator/Environmental Monitor (CCEM). The CCEM is employed by the Band with support from Premier, ensuring that they are accountable to the community and a valuable asset to community members. The CCEMs successfully completed the BEAHR Environmental Monitor training program, delivered in full by Four Rivers staff. Four Rivers also ensured that the CCEMs received multiple opportunities for value-added training, including environmental monitor training provided by Laurentian University in Sudbury, hands-on environmental training by Four Rivers staff (including training

in GIS/GPS, water/soil/plant sampling, and water bug monitoring), and through attending multiple environmental conferences. These training initiatives have prepared the CCEMs for environmental monitoring activities at the Hardrock Site and throughout the traditional homelands of their communities.

Long Lake #58 First Nation and Ginoogaming First Nation have also collected values within their homelands, focused in and around the Hardrock Project area. These values have been collected electronically (i.e. video, audio, photographs and GPS coordinates) and maps have been generated summarizing the values collected to date. The cultural values collected are of immense importance to the heritage of the communities, and the electronic collection methods ensure that these values can be maintained and updated for years to come and shared with future generations. Through the training and support provided by Four Rivers, the CCEMs are now fluent with the collection and maintenance of these electronic files, and are skilled in generating maps (using GIS technology) to communicate these values.

By having the communities of Long Lake #58 First Nation and Ginoogaming First Nation progress through the CIA and Advanced Exploration permitting processes, they are better able to handle new natural resource development projects

within their traditional homelands. The challenges encountered throughout the process allow for better processes to be developed for future projects, and will allow those challenges to be overcome. The knowledge that the communities have gained on the mining sequence and on mining projects in general will be applied to all future projects, further increasing their capacity to respond to development projects within their homelands.

YOUTH OUTREACH AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

In the summer of 2012, the Four Rivers team went to the Nibinamik First Nation Youth Retreat situated at the Breathing Grounds. The purpose of this trip was to provide environment and training workshops and activities for the youth. Over 80 youth participated in environmental workshops which were delivered over a period of three days. Workshops focused on providing hands-on training relating to environmental monitoring. Training seminars were provided on orienteering, water bug sampling, water quality, and plant identification. The Four Rivers group also coordinated a “Predator-Prey” game, which demonstrated to the youth the concept of food chains, ecosystem imbalances, and how ecosystems can be impacted by resource development.

In the summer of 2012, Four Rivers also developed and delivered a “train the teacher” GIS and GPS workshop to Matawa First Nation teachers at Lakehead University. The purpose of this pilot training program was to provide Matawa teachers with information and training on GIS and GPS so that they could make this information accessible to the youth in their schools.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND USE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Throughout the year, Four Rivers provided environmental training opportunities to member First Nation communities. Hands-on community specific GPS and GIS training or support was provided in the communities of Nibinamik First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, and Ginoogaming First



Nation in accordance with community requests. In addition, Four Rivers hosted environmental training workshops and water bug collection workshops at the Northern Ontario First Nation Environment Conference in October of 2012, and a Mineral Development Environmental Planning Workshop during the NADF Strategic Mineral Exploration and Mining Training Course in April of 2013.

Four Rivers also hosted Environment and Land Use Planning Conferences, including the most recent conference in May of 2013. This conference brought together lands and resource staff from Matawa communities as well as people from academic institutions, government, and other environmental groups. The two-day event, hosted at Lakehead University, featured hands-on training and field trip workshops on GIS and 3-D imagery, geology, and biodiversity. The event also provided opportunities for delegates to both learn and share knowledge, including a sharing circle and table talk sessions with a wide variety of specialists. Over 60 people participated in this event.



Four Rivers



COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS

In the spring of 2013, Four Rivers and Matawa communications travelled to Eabametoong First Nation to assist the community with setting up their new resource development resource centre. A number of maps, mineral development and environmental factsheets, and resource centre equipment, including information carousel, were set up in a new space within the community's band office.

Since the summer of 2012, Four Rivers has been engaged in supporting a number of other First Nations with establishing their resource centres and delivering mineral development communications. Other Mineral Development communication highlights include the distribution of information carousels to member First Nation communities and assisting some member First Nation communities with developing their mining and resource development communication processes.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR GRADUATIONS

In February of 2013, Four Rivers was pleased to announce the graduation of three Environmental Monitors from the BEAHR Environmental Training Program, delivered by Four Rivers. The Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR) Environmental Monitoring

Training program is a seven-week training program that provides successful students with a certificate in environmental monitoring from ECO Canada. After participating in all seven weeks of BEAHR training, attending an additional three to five weeks of environmental monitoring, GIS and GPS, benthic invertebrate, environmental field program training, and learning and building their skills over a period of a year with support from Four Rivers staff, community members from Aroland First Nation and Ginoogaming First Nation successfully achieved their Environmental Monitoring Certification. All Environmental Monitors are currently employed by their communities as Environmental Monitors.

FOUR RIVERS AND MATAWA COMMUNICATIONS GRAND OPENING

In March of 2013, Matawa First Nations Management celebrated its grand opening of the new Four Rivers and Matawa Communications offices and community resource rooms within the Matawa Office Building on Court Street. Over 125 people were guided through the newly decorated space and given demonstrations on the services provided by Four Rivers and Matawa Communications. Information seminars and demonstrations at the event included an information workshop on the Ring of Fire and Environmental Assessments, demonstrations

on GIS Mapping Technology, demonstrations on Environmental Monitoring with Water Bugs, a presentation series on Northern Ontario Fish and Aquatic Ecosystems, and demonstrations of species from Northern Ontario. The academic institutions of Lakehead University and Laurentian University participated at the event by bringing in animal specimens and hosting the presentation series through Matawa communication and video conferencing capabilities in the new community rooms.

AWARDS WINNING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In the spring of 2013, Matawa First Nations Management received two awards for the programs delivered by Four Rivers. The first, the Environmental Stewardship Award from the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce celebrated the achievements of all environmental initiatives undertaken in 2012. This award recognized the work and dedication of Four Rivers staff in responding to over 300 community requests, and delivering over 16 outreach and 24 hands-on training events to over 1,300 participants, in addition to providing day-to-day and ongoing support to member First Nations.

The second award, the Excellence Award from ESRI Canada, recognized Matawa First Nations Management's mapping and mapping support services. ESRI Canada is the industry leader of GIS in the world. This award recognized the Four Rivers mapping program as a leading Aboriginal program in Canada, and provides Matawa with national recognition.

CHALLENGES

As in previous years, initiative timelines, resources, resource uncertainty and changing legislation, challenged program delivery.

TIMELINES

The success of environmental planning is dependent upon the processes used to support it. Many member communities are currently



working on developing their individual community environmental planning, mining, or resource communication, and community information sharing and collection processes and the committees and activities that will support these processes. Communities are, in the meantime, being asked to participate in things like mineral development plans and permitting activities, environmental assessments, land use planning, regional planning, and other related land and resource planning and management related activities without having these processes fully developed. For those communities who do have established individual processes to participate in resource development related activities, community process timelines are often longer than government or industry timelines for approvals. This results in many member First Nations, and by extension many environmental programs that support member First Nation communities, being at odds with resource development timelines.



Four Rivers



RESOURCES

The availability of environmental program funding is relatively scarce in Ontario, and the situation has only worsened with major cuts to environmental legislation at the federal level. For member First Nation communities who need more dedicated lands and resource staff, including individuals who can support mineral development communication and awareness activities, coordinate community environmental committees, undertake ecological and community values collection, and engage in environmental monitoring activities, the resource needs far outstrip the supply. Resource inadequacy is compounded by the need to develop new processes to handle the unprecedented amount of activity within community traditional territories.

At the tribal council level, community support requests outstrip available departmental resources. Areas of program services gaps are in the areas of mapping support, expert advisory services, certificate training program resources and field program resources. Additional administrative resources are also required to support all existing initiatives and associated reporting. Additional resources are required to hire additional staff specializing in the above areas, and support their activities, including training initiatives or field programs as required.

RESOURCE UNCERTAINTY

Many member First Nations, in addition to Matawa First Nations Management, encountered a great deal of resource uncertainty between July 2012 and July 2013. In many cases it was unknown if environmental projects or programs would be funded, or the extent they would be funded, making it difficult to carry out these projects and programs. This uncertainty contributed to moral issues, delayed timelines, and in some cases the cancellation of some project or program activities.

CHANGING ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

In the midst of having to respond to an unprecedented amount of activity within their traditional territories, member First Nation communities were also faced with having to navigate a rapidly changing legislative environment. In 2012, Canada saw major changes to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, National Energy Board Act, Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act, Fisheries Act, Species at Risk Act, and Navigable Waters Protection Act. At the provincial level the learning curve associated with changes to the Mining Act, and other ongoing provincial policy changes made participating in environmental planning and resource development activities all the more challenging.

OPPORTUNITIES

Matawa First Nations Management's recognition of providing excellent environmental programming through its acceptance of the Environmental Stewardship award from the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Excellence Award from ESRI Canada for mapping programs and services will help leverage future opportunities. This external recognition, combined with the increased awareness of Four Rivers capabilities; puts Matawa First Nations Management in a good position to build unique and strategic partnerships that will bring more environmental planning and resource development related services to member First Nation communities. In the upcoming years, Four Rivers hopes to use this recognition to leverage partnerships that will bring more science and environmental youth outreach programming, baseline environmental information collection, mapping and expert advisory services to member First Nation communities.

The Government is currently looking at how environmental monitoring will be conducted in Northern Ontario in the future. The mineral development and environmental capacity building activities being undertaken in member First Nation communities will allow First Nations to take active and potentially leading roles in future



environmental planning and monitoring initiatives. Capacity building, community process development, and regional process development activities will need to continue to take place to take advantage of these potential opportunities.





Ring of Fire



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the Ring of Fire Coordinator's office is to develop a comprehensive strategy on the Ring of Fire that will respond to short, medium and long term goals and will include detailed work plans and budgets, staff responsibilities, coordination between Matawa First Nations and collaboration with government and industry. The Coordinator's office will also play a supporting role for the negotiator, the Chiefs and Matawa-wide mining technical committee. The supporting role includes advisory services, logistical and administrative support.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

JULY 2012- JULY 2013

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1. To ensure the communities have a process which includes mitigation measures for their concerns.
2. To ensure studies are conducted – socio-economic, health, education, housing, community infrastructure, etc...
3. Regional Environmental Studies – air, water, land, animals, plants, insects, fish, people, etc...

RESULT

To negotiate an environmental process that will have full participation of our First Nation members.

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Ownership
2. All weather road access
3. Transmission grid, broadband, roads, railway, etc...
4. Maintenance and management

RESULT

- To conduct feasibility studies that will include the positive/negative impacts of infrastructure
- Control of decision making, capacity building, etc...
- Investor confidence

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

MAMOW-WECHEEKAPAWETAHTEEWIIN (STANDING TOGETHER) REGIONAL PROCESS

The Matawa Chiefs gathered together in Marten Falls First Nation on January 21-23, 2013 to discuss the need to work together on the Ring of Fire. A "Regional Strategy for the Ring of Fire" was presented to the chiefs. The chiefs discussed and debated the presentation and came up with amendments and agreed in principle to support the strategy. (see regional strategy appendix a)



MATAWA

M E S S E N G E R

For The People, About The People

JOHNNY THERRIAULT SCHOOL



**AROLAND FIRST NATION IS PLEASED TO
ANNOUNCE THE GRAND OPENING OF THEIR
NEW SCHOOL**

**Wednesday June 13th, 2007
Aroland First Nation, Johnny Therriault School
1:00p.m**

Matawa First Nations Join First Nations Energy Alliance

After 3 years of research, consultation and regional communication with respect to the Ontario-Manitoba transmission line, a group of 19 First Nations from various Tribal Councils, including Matawa First Nations, has announced the formation of the First Nations Energy Alliance.

more on pg.07



The First Nations Energy Alliance announced their intent to proceed to the next phase of the project which includes a study of their Far North territory

Protecting Rights in Kenogami Forest: First Nations file to protect rights in Kenogami Forest

The Matawa First Nations have just commenced legal proceedings in the form of a Judicial Review Application against Minister of Natural Resources, David Ramsey. The Director of Industry Relations at the MNR, Terrace Bay Pulp Inc. (owned by Buchanan Forest Products) and Neenah paper Company of Canada are also named respondents.

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Ring of Fire



The key to the regional strategy is to focus on achieving an agreed regional framework with the Crown, specifically with Ontario. Ontario has both the powers that are relevant here and the incentives to work out a solution with the First Nations.

The specific goal of the regional strategy is to address the regional issues involved in the Ring of Fire developments for the benefit of the people, the lands and future generations.

The Ring of Fire affects the region, but it also affects each First Nation differently. An effective regional strategy ensures that both regional issues and local issues are dealt with appropriately. Both the local and regional issues can be grouped into 3 main “pillars”:

- Land management (decision-making & environmental protection)
- Revenue sharing
- Capacity building

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Honouring your inherent, Treaty and Aboriginal rights
- Respecting community autonomy and decision making
- Working together for your common benefit

- Responsibly managing lands and resources
- Using your strength in unity
- Caring for the future and protecting your way of life
- Building capacity, healthy communities and economies

For the regional strategy to work, the First Nations must set up their internal structures ie: communication, departments taking a lead internally to gather information to provide direction to the Chief and Council and then this direction is taken to the regional level.

PREMIER WYNNE RESPONDS

Premier Wynne sent a response dated May 10, 2013 agreeing to participate in a community-driven regional process of negotiation. The Premier's office also indicated the following:

- Their willingness to appoint a negotiator
- Commitment to regional infrastructure planning
- Commitment to regional environmental monitoring
- Commitment to regional processes while working with individual communities
- To working hard with communities to lay the framework for direct community benefits

- Approval of enhanced funding supports for capacity building in the processes above

RESULTS: COMMUNITY-DRIVEN TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NEGOTIATIONS

- Community visits with senior negotiator to conclude early July
- Ratification of terms of reference at Matawa AGM end of July

JUDICIAL REVIEW

The dates are:

- Staged approach to respondents' affidavits
 - Cliffs' factual affidavit was served on Friday, April 12. It is from Jason Aagenes.
 - Canada is serving (maximum) one consolidated affidavit on Friday, April 19, 2013
 - Cliffs will have (maximum) two expert affidavits, served on Friday, April 26, 2013
- Cross-examinations
 - All of the cross examinations must occur between Monday, April 29, 2013 and Friday, June 7, 2013.
- Written briefs
 - Our written materials will be due on July 8, 2013.
 - Cliffs and Canada will have their written materials due on August 6, 2013.
- The court set a hearing date for September 17-19, 2013, in Toronto.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of funding for local and regional processes
- Governments imposing their policies and regulations onto First Nations
- Paper-based Environmental Assessment still on going
- Slow responses from government
- No funding for translation of information

RESULT

Lack of funding and government cutbacks are resulting in poor decision making and slowing down progress

OPPORTUNITIES

Under a regional strategy and a negotiated EA process there will be opportunities to address health and social issues, economic development, education, environment, land use planning, infrastructure, and Resource Revenue Sharing (RRS) at both the local and regional level.





Membership

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The mandate for the Membership program is to provide an accurate and updated Indian Registry to the following First Nation communities:

Aroland, Eabametoong, Martin Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie. The Membership Services Administrator (IRA) manages functions required for Indian Registration Reporting in accordance with the Indian Act and federal and provincial statutes and policies of the Indian Registration System.

The membership department provides service for status card issuance (laminated Certificate of Indian Status) to the holder for reasons such as renewals, personal info change, first card, lost/stolen cards. The Certificate of Indian Status is designed to facilitate access to federal, provincial and First Nation programs and services, such as Non-insured health benefits and exemptions. Any changes occurring in the life of an individual registered as a status Indian are entered in the Indian Registration System (IRS).

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES JULY 2012- JULY 2013

HEALTHY BABIES/HEALTHY CHILDREN PROGRAM

The HBHC program is for expectant mothers and families with children up to six years old. This program is an avenue to promote awareness of birth registrations to mother(s) and caregivers to register their child. The HBHC coordinators monitor and update the child's process with registration.



NEW STATUS CARD IMPLEMENTATION

The new Secure Certificate of Indian (CIS) to replace the existing cards has become a reality. Effective November 2012 the AANDC Thunder Bay office now accepts applications for individuals. The paper laminated card is no longer issued at the AANDC Thunder Bay office. The implementation at the First Nation/Tribal units level is expected to commence this year and members will be notified accordingly.

ABORIGINAL BIRTH REGISTRATION INITIATIVE

Formed in 2009 between NAN and the federal and provincial governments, this new initiative was intended to improve access to birth registration services in the remote First Nations communities. The issues stemmed from births not registered after one year, difficulty in accessing services, etc. A Newborn Registration Ambassador Tool Kit was designed to promote to the First Nations.



MATAWA

M E S S E N G E R

SUMMER 2007

For The People, About The People

First Nations Day of Action



Matawa First Nations joined all First Nations including Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), and the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre on the National Day of Action. Friday, June 29th welcomed over 500 people peacefully marching to raise awareness and support closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians

[more on pg.05](#)



Eabametoong Demands Action from Health Canada

Imagine moldy carpets, asbestos filled ceilings with mushrooms growing on the walls, and a waterlogged basement. These conditions are reality for Eabametoong First Nation's nursing station that is still admitting patients. Since 2003, the community of Eabametoong has been petitioning demands that a new health care facility be built to accommodate their needs.



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Formation & Mandate of First Nations Energy Alliance Announced

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Chief & Council Election Results for 2007 - 2009

[more on Page 04](#)



Membership



HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

COMMUNITY VISITS

Matawa Membership Services provides an annual community visit to the six First Nations communities with visits lasting from 2 to 4 days. The services provided are to renew the Certificate of Indian Status cards (laminated card) and other related membership issues. The communities visited in 2012 were as follows:

Aroland FN	May 22 to 25
Eabametoan FN	July 19 to 13
Martin Falls FN	June 18 to 20
Neskantaga FN	Aug 29 to 31
Nibinamik FN	Aug 27 to 28
Webequie FN	May 7 to 10

SERVICE ONTARIO WEBSITE

This website offers a fast and easy Newborn Registration Service for parent(s) to register their child online and apply for a birth certificate and Social Insurance number all at once.

CHALLENGES

REGISTERING THE CHILD

This issue has been an ongoing concern within the First Nations level of a newborn/child not

registered before the one year mark. If more than one year has passed from the date of birth and the birth was not registered with Service Ontario, it must go through the Delayed Registration of Birth process. The delayed birth process is an additional cost and takes a little longer.

IDENTIFICATION ISSUES WITH INDIVIDUALS

We are now in the new phase of entering to receive the new secure status card and the requirement is to submit an “original” birth certificate with the new SCIS application. Many individuals/clients don’t have their original birth certificates and we’re promoting the individuals/clients to apply now for their birth certificate.

OPPORTUNITIES

BIRTH REGISTRATION

There are now more programs for new mothers/ caregivers to access programs within their communities such as Healthy Babies/Healthy Children program, Ontario Works, and Service Ontario Outreach visits.

SECURE CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS TRAINING (SCIS)

The Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada will notify the Membership/ Indian Registration Clerks for the New Secure card training this summer.



MATAWA

M E S S E N G E R

FALL 2009

For The People, About The People



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Matawa News:

Former Hockey Legend Empowers Matawa Youth



Matawa Staff Profile:

Meet Dawn Buswa-Youth Coordinator



Community News:

Construction Continues in Neskantaga First Nation

Watch for the NEW Matawa Messenger Newsletter this January!

We are currently accepting any news or announcement submissions.

They can be sent to Amanda Bay-Communications Officer: amanda@firedogpr.com



Economic Development



DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

Matawa Economic Development Advisory Services works with the member First Nations to develop, promote, support and encourage a diverse private sector and entrepreneurial culture within the First Nations communities. We work to help create the opportunity-ready Matawa member First Nations and to foster economic growth and success through economic and business development support. We work together to ensure that our peoples enjoy the same opportunities for employment, income, wealth creation and well-being as other Canadians. We offer services to our First Nations community members who are interested in owning their own business start-up companies and pursuing self-employment.

We offer the following services to respond to client and community needs:

- Provide information on business and economic conditions and planning support
- Identify development opportunities and potential funders, partners and investors
- Identify sectorial opportunities (Mining/Forestry/Tourism)
- Proposal writing and referral assistance
- Workshop and seminar coordination

MEMBER FIRST NATION BENEFITS:

- On-demand information, advice and training
- A coordinated approach to planning economic development initiatives
- Decreased consulting costs for member First Nations
- No waiting or delays in government approvals for funding towards economic development support
- Enhanced communications and information sharing among our communities
- Productive regional discussions between First Nations, investors and businesses

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES JULY 2012- JULY 2013

ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF MEMBER FIRST NATIONS

Matawa re-established the Economic Development Advisory Services Program to focus on local community economic development of the member First Nations. Matawa completed a preliminary economic assessment that examined community needs. The assessment guides the department's programs, services and evaluation. This process ensures that Matawa's quality service is most effective by reflecting community values and priorities to support grassroots development.

WINTER/SPRING 2010

Webequie Logistics Ltd.

A Matawa First Nations
Business Success Story



MATAWA

M E S S E N G E R

For The People, About The People



Chiefs Roger Ojikeengish, Cornelius Wabasse, Roy Moonias & Lewis Nite with Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry Michael Gravelle and Minister of Natural Resources Linda Jeffrey following the signing of the Statement of Relationship

Four Voices are Stronger than One: First Nation Communities Join Forces to Sign Ground Breaking Relationship

Four Matawa First Nations communities now have a unified voice when it comes to economic development in the Far North. Due to unprecedented levels of mining activity on lands associated with what is known as the Ring of Fire, Chiefs of Eabametoong First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation and Webequie First Nation signed a Statement of Relationship during their trip to the Prospectors Developers Association Convention (PDAC).

The four Chiefs recognized the need for a coordinated approach and the Ontario Minister of Northern Development Mines and Forestry along with the Minister of Natural Resources witnessed the official signing.

"There is a tremendous economic opportunity for our communities in the Ring of Fire," and says Neskantaga First Nation Chief Roy Moonias. We need to work collectively to ensure we can capitalize on these benefits. Our First Nations all have the same issues, and the same expectations of industry. It is time we work together to ensure that we each receive our fair share of the social and economic benefits that will accrue from the development of this area."

The First Nations will be seeking provincial and federal assistance to support these and other community-based initiatives to address the intense demands being placed upon their communities. ■

Ring of Fire Blockade Extinguished

A two month long blockade in what is known as the Ring of Fire has come to an end.

Chief Cornelius Wabasse of Webequie First Nation and Chief Elijah Moonias of Marten Falls First Nation arrived at Koper Lake on Friday March 19th, to officially lift a blockade by taking down their community flags. The protest was set up on two air landing strips used by mining companies back in January, blocking access to the Ring of Fire, and putting a halt on any activity on traditional First Nations territory.

Chief Cornelius Wabasse said "Our First Nations were never against development. We just want to be a part of it. I now feel assured that we have sent a very powerful message to the Government and the mining and mineral industry. If there is going to be any business on our lands, we are going to play an active role throughout the entire process."

Both Webequie First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation have spent the last couple of months negotiating with mining and mineral companies who have been active in the Ring of Fire area, presenting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlining community issues and concerns that needed to be met before the blockade was resolved.

The Ring of Fire is known as an area that holds some of the wealthiest mineral potential in Canada. ■



IN THIS ISSUE:

Mineral Exploration Mining Symposium
Housing Conference
Business Success Story
Celebrating Three Years at PDAC
Matawa Education Conference
Upcoming Events



For The People, About The People



Economic Development



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER/CORPORATION OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

Matawa works directly with the member First Nations economic development staff and economic development corporations. We provide economic and business information and presentations, proposal writing and referral assistance, report and copywriting, and advice. The department plays a role in coordinating public and private referrals to member First Nations, reviewing and advising on First Nation's contracts and supporting on going initiatives.

REPORTS AND CUSTOMIZED TOOLS AND TEMPLATES TO SUPPORT LOCAL WORK NEEDS

Under the department's quality management system, several templates and tools were created to assist member First Nations economic development staff, economic development Corporations and potential entrepreneurs. These tools are customized to meet the needs of the First Nation staff and include templates for a consultation and accommodation protocol, business plan, and letter of intent to name a few.

ON GOING MEMBER FIRST NATION PROJECT SUPPORT

Some of the requested activities for project support include:

NATIVE CAMP OPERATORS ALLIANCE

Assisting several tourism camp outposts located throughout the remote Matawa member First Nations and assisting the camps in Webequie with research and procurement activities, including air transportation, fuel and supply distribution, and finance and administration.

MINAWSHYN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Assisting board of directors with research, planning and coordination.

NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

Assisting Neskantaga Development Corporation (NEDCORP) board of directors with review of economic development plan and identification of funding opportunities for initiatives.

EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION

Assisting with review of economic development plan, business survey development, and proposal writing for tourism-related initiatives.

GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

Assisting with the Aboriginal Workforce and Development Program (AWDMP) booklet project for training programs at the community level.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MATAWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

With enabling legislation passed by the Chiefs Council, a Matawa Economic Development Committee was formed consisting of one representative from each of the nine member First Nations and the Minawshyn Development Corporation. Several planning sessions and capacity building workshops were held in early 2013.

Vision: “Evolution & Prosperity”.

Mission statement: To leverage the economic development initiatives of our communities and our region by collaborating to:

- Identify and analyze opportunities
- Recommend options for sustainable growth and development
- Promote and foster an entrepreneurial culture
- Strengthen the importance of economic, environmental, cultural and social factors so that our communities and their members may prosper
- Measure and evaluate our progress

Values: We respect, and we are committed to:

- Collaboration as a proactive, resourceful and forward-thinking team of professionals
- Open, meaningful, non-political dialogue that results in common understanding and consistent messages
- Honoring our traditions and inviting ideas and alternatives from our people, our leaders and our partners

CHALLENGES

SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FOR EDOs AT THE FIRST NATION LEVEL:

- Time constraints due to other responsibilities (capital projects, infrastructure, mining sector, committees, etc.)

- Access to capital and funding for economic initiatives
- The Indian Act
- Poor or inadequate infrastructure
- Community communications and engagement
- Professional development for band administration staff
- Platform for discussions on regional opportunities
- Overwhelming potential opportunities with limited resources and capacity

AT THE TRIBAL COUNCIL LEVEL:

Scaling of services

- With limited human resources and increased demand for services it is difficult to scale service provision
- Lack of funding for travel to communities and staff has created an issue with capacity

Bureaucratic delays of federal government funding

- Although mandate has been secured from Chiefs Council, the government continues to delay funding for specific proposals and projects.
- Approximately eleven federal departments and agencies deliver 27 different economic development programs targeted to First Nations.
- This situation has resulted in a lack of coordination and duplication among federal programs, lost economic opportunities due to bureaucratic delays and fragmentation of program delivery.



Economic Development



OPPORTUNITIES

WAYS THAT MATAWA CAN HELP EDOs

- Expansion of human resources within department to meet the needs of the member First Nations in assisting to develop their private sectors
- Facilitate First Nations partnerships and joint ventures
- Assistance on regional economic and business opportunities by helping the Matawa communities on partnership approach
- EDO networking and strategic sessions on a regular basis
- Presentations on Exploring Entrepreneurship and Business Support and Training

PROJECT SPECIFIC:

- Researching energy generation and transmission opportunities
- supporting forestry initiatives with the Kenogami and Ogoki Forest Management Units
- Investment readiness project (Asset and Skills Inventory System, Market Study, Gap Analysis)
- Research on government tax revenue from the Ring of Fire for the First Nations
- A tourism development strategic plan
- Support for the Economic Development Committee and Minawshyn
- Broadband Fibre Optic Development Plan

2007 Christmas Gala



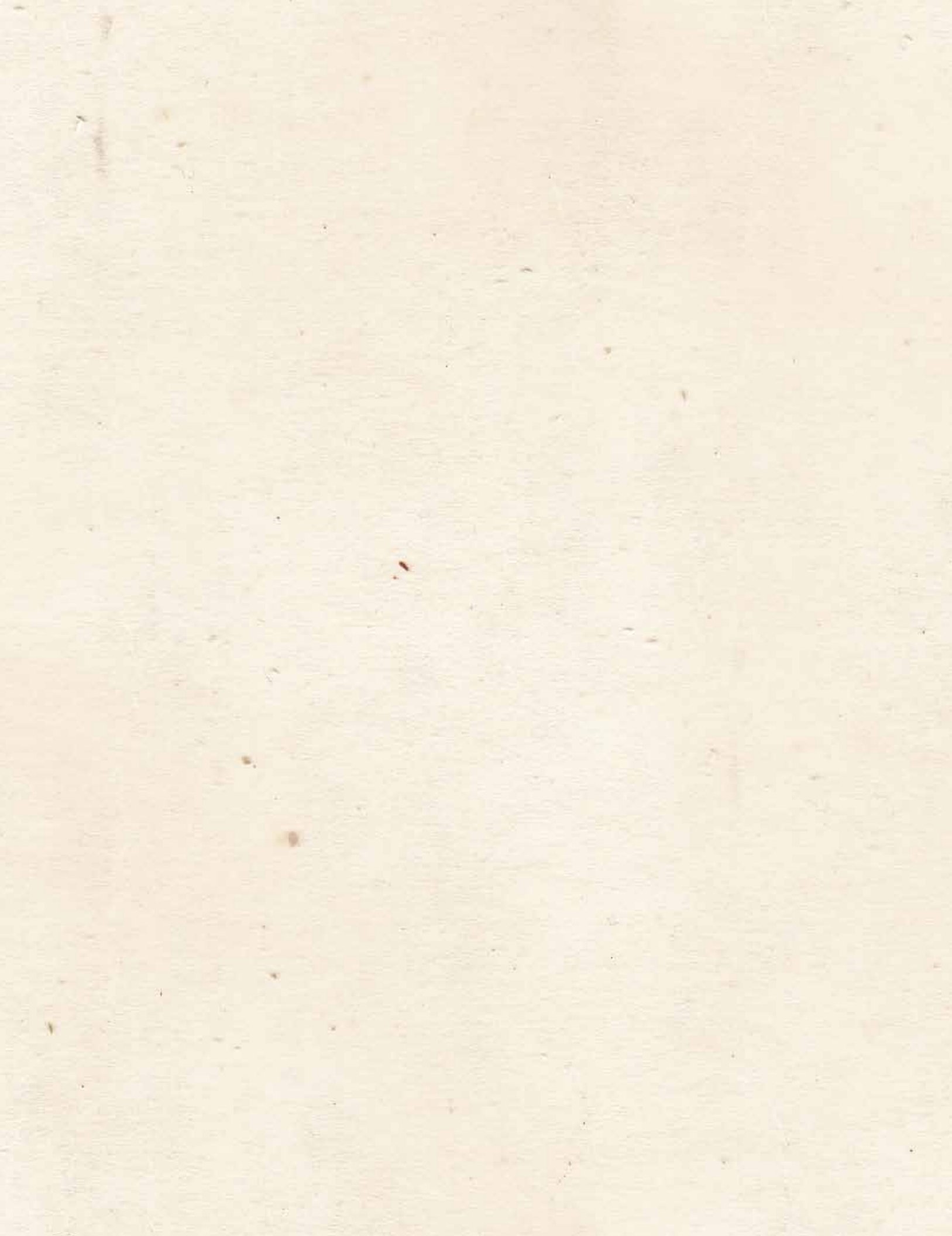


MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT
25TH ANNIVERSARY



2007 Christmas Gala





MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference



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Prepared for the 25th Annual General Meeting

July 30 to August 1, 2013 | Hosted by Long Lake #58 First Nation

