



2018 / 2019 Chiefs Council Report

Prepared for the Matawa 31st Annual General Meeting
July 30, 31 and August 1, 2019
Hosted by Constance Lake First Nation



CONSTANCE LAKE
FIRST NATION





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Last year, the Matawa Chiefs Council passed 42 Resolutions in total.

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MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

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Matawa Chiefs Council

VISION

We will do whatever is necessary in order to protect our land, our water and our resources for the future generations. We agree that we must stand together in order to ensure our nation is protected. Therefore, we assert our Aboriginal and Treaty rights to the land, water and resources by requiring written consent before any development activity may proceed. Failure to consult, accommodate and receive the consent of the First Nation(s) to proceed with any work or activity is an unjustified infringement upon our Aboriginal, Treaty and Custodial rights as First Nations.

MISSION

1. Protection of our land, our water and our resources.
2. Protection of our Rights as Peoples of the Land. We have Inherent, Aboriginal Title, Custodial and Treaty Rights.
3. We respect and trust the autonomy of each First Nation, respecting each other's priorities and paths to reach our common goals.
4. We want to maximize opportunities for our Peoples in any developments that they consent to, such as resource revenue and economic benefits.
5. We will achieve our goals through control and ownership of any development and activities in our territories.

CURRENT MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL

The Matawa Chiefs Council is comprised of nine (9) First Nations Chiefs of the Matawa First Nations. The Council provides overall strategic direction to the organization and broad governance on collective issues.



Chief Dorothy Towedo
Aroland First Nation



Chief Celia Echum
Ginoogaming First Nation



Chief Chris Moonias
Neskantaga First Nation



Chief Rick Allen
Constance Lake First Nation



Chief Veronica Waboose
Long Lake #58 First Nation



Chief Johnny Yellowhead
Nibinamik First Nation



Chief Harvey Yesno
Eabametoong First Nation



Chief Bruce Achneepineskum
Marten Falls First Nation



Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie First Nation

Note: Chiefs Elizabeth Atlookan (Eabametoong First Nation) and Chief Wayne Moonias (Neskantaga First Nation) sat on the Matawa Chiefs Council for a majority of the year (changes took place from April - June 2019).



Chiefs Council Support Services

STAFF:

Paul Capon, Political Advisor
Dorothy Valtierra, Chiefs Council Secretary

OVERVIEW:

The Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council consists of the nine (9) First Nations Chiefs who represent the Matawa First Nations communities and provide overall direction to the organization and broad decision making on collective issues. The mandate of the Chiefs Council Support Services is:

- To provide logistical, technical, policy and political advice to First Nations Chiefs both collectively and individually
- To support managers within Matawa First Nations Management
- To liaise with external organizations to support Matawa First Nation members

CHIEFS COUNCIL OFFICE KEY PRIORITY AREAS:

Jurisdiction

- Worked extensively with Watershed Partners to develop the basis of regional decision making at both the community and regional level. Efforts culminated in Standing Together Gathering in May 2019.
- First Nations Chiefs are still strong on the assertion of their jurisdiction with respect to decisions that affect their land and Peoples. The new provincial government has not sought to re-engage with the Matawa First Nations Chiefs on the Regional Framework, Statement of Commitment or any jurisdictional discussions.
- Worked with Four Rivers in community-based and regional environmental oversight programs.



Promote Social-Health Needs of Communities

- Provided ongoing support for newly established Matawa Health Co-operative to engage and meet unmet health needs in the First Nations.
- Supported proposal to Canada for Band Representative Program so First Nations can take more control over their children in or at risk of being in the child welfare system.
- Initiated an Environmental Health Program within Matawa Technical Services
- Worked with First Nations and Nishnawbe-Aski Nation to initiate activities under the health transformation initiative.

Promote Education and Training of First Nation Members

- Supported the Matawa Education Department and the Matawa Learning Centre to establish a student accommodations centre in Thunder Bay
- Supported Matawa education staff as an active participant in the Coroner's Inquest into Student Deaths in Thunder Bay in the Matawa Learning Centre and establish a Youth Safe Sobering Site.
- Supported KKETS in their overall restructuring, recruitment of new Board Members, lobbying for employment needs, apprenticeships, and community-based training.

Promote Safe Communities

- Lobbied the City of Thunder Bay Police Services and Nishnawbe Police Services Chiefs of Police for First Nations safety needs and to confront opiate issues.
- Continuing to work with the Crime Prevention Committee in Thunder Bay
- Worked with Thunder Bay and Area Victims Services to establish urban support for human trafficking and anti-violence.

Support Infrastructure to First Nations

- Supported First Nation Broadband Working Group and Matawa Broadband Proposal
- Supported community-based planning, engagement and capacity building on energy initiatives in the areas of transmission, distribution and generation (i.e.:solar)

Support Regional Economic Development

- Supported the initiation of community and regional discussions on regional economic development structures with Matawa Economic Development department and Enterprise Canada.
- Assisted on beginning discussions on a regional power authority.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Education

- Secured funding to Matawa Education and Care Centre for construction of student accommodations in 2020.
- Establishment of the Youth Safe-Sobering (Detox) site at the Matawa Education and Care Centre.
- Lobbying for Indigenous Languages Programs and other education programs
- Capacity building with First Nations on the new Federal Education Funding Formula.

Economic Development

- Initiated discussion with Enterprise Canada on wider regional economic development structures
- Began engagement at the community level with the First Nation Fiscal Management Board

Health

- On-going development of the Matawa Health Co-operative in the areas of: Inter-professional primary care, mental wellness, preparations for nursing transfer to First Nations, creation of electronic medical records system



- Expansion of the Remote First Nations Residency program with Eabametong, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to more Matawa First Nations

Infrastructure

- Ongoing lobbying for provincial support of Rapid Lynx high-speed broadband initiatives to Matawa First Nations communities

Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction

- Secured funding from the federal government for Standing Together Gathering which hosted over 100 hundred (100) community members to attend a regional gathering after visits to each First Nation on a decision making process

CHALLENGES:

Changing Government Policies

- Elections create delays in ongoing relationships with governments
- Changes in government create timing delays, lack of relationships and differing priorities in terms of First Nation engagement

Communications

- Reductions to funding to Matawa and the First Nations from Ontario created difficulty for ongoing engagement and information sharing with community members and their staff on important issues
- Communications within and between communities at all stages of initiatives

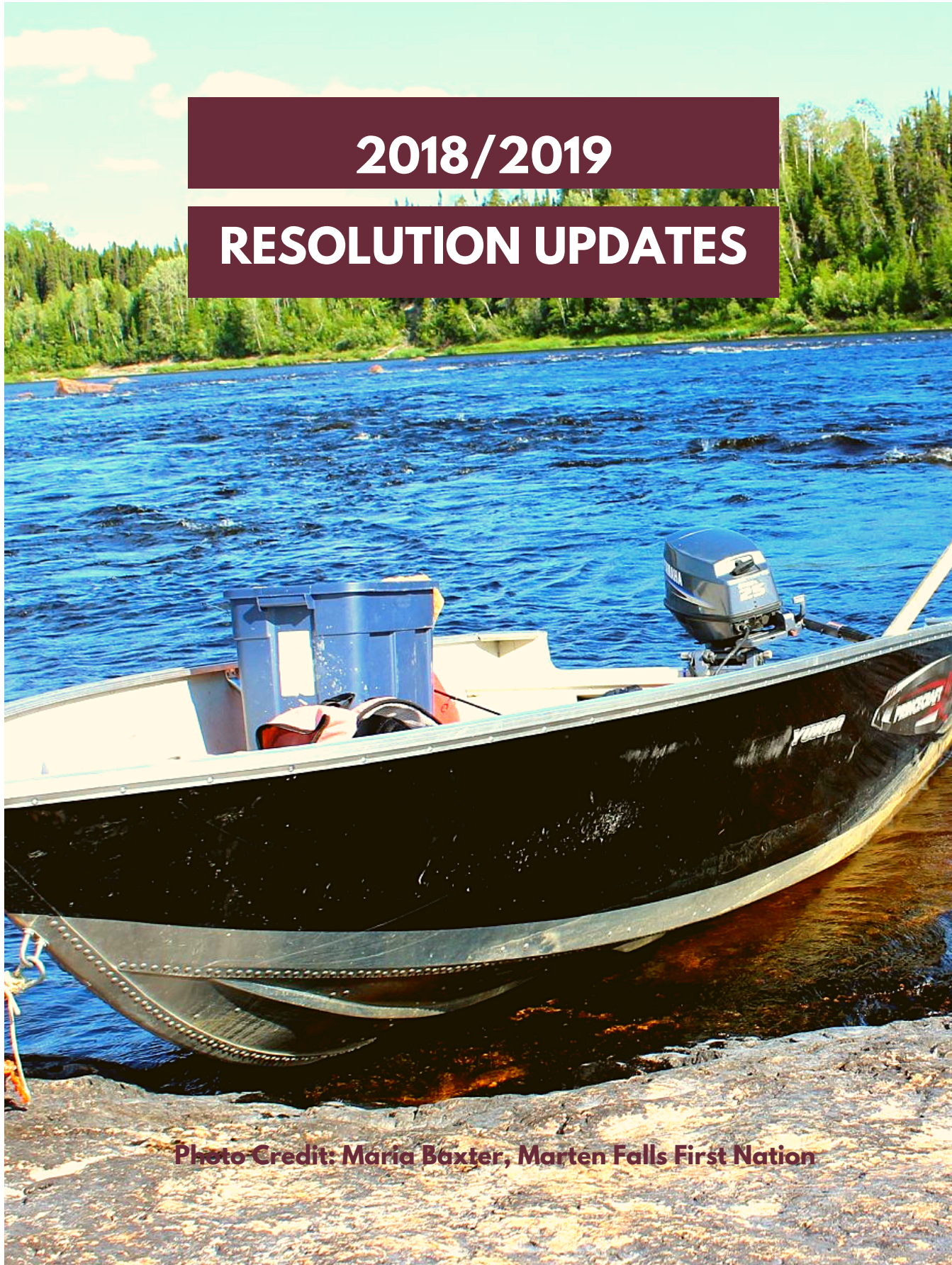
Multiple Ministries and Departments

- Difficulty in coordinating between the different provincial ministries and federal departments and little to no consultation with First Nations

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Creation of economic structures that are owned and operated by First Nations that build collective momentum and First Nation accomplishments
- Increased infrastructure and communications to First Nations
- Increased financial capacity for First Nations
- Regional decision making structures for environmental oversight in Matawa traditional territories







30th Annual General Meeting

July 31, August 1 and 2, 2018 - Nibinamik First Nation

1	Acceptance of 30th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly Agenda	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
01-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council of the 30th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly accept the agenda as presented.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p>			

2	Acceptance of the 2017/2018 Chiefs Council Report	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation
02-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 30th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly accept, in-principle, the 2017/2018 Chiefs Council Report as presented.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p>			

3	Report on the Implementation of Inquest Recommendations	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
03-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly accept the Annual Report to the Office of the Chief Coroner, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct MFNM and MLC to continue to work with identified partner organizations and government departments and agencies to implement community-based recommendations, conditional upon the availability of human and financial resources, and;</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct MFNM and MLC to continue to provide updates with action plans, including proposed timelines for meeting the community-based sections of the Jury recommendations</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>No government funding has been provided to assist in the implementation of the community-based Jury recommendations. We continued to advocate for funding at the Seven Youth Inquest Political Table being held in Ottawa on May 28, 2019, and will do so again at the next one to be held this coming fall. Where and whenever possible, MLC continues to work with/support identified partner organizations and government departments and agencies to implement community-based recommendations.</p>			

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4	Interim Education Funding Formula	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
04-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the Matawa Education proposal that was submitted to COO for Interim Education Funding, and;</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to work with INAC and COO to ensure funding is provided for this critical work and to extend the deadlines to ensure meaningful and comprehensive consultations can occur and agreements developed to guarantee sufficient funding for Matawa students and schools.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Education's Community Liaison Officer worked with COO Community Facilitators to schedule community discussions to help explain the Interim Funding Formula and its process. At the outset, two visits to each community were to be planned. Some communities received an initial visit while others did not due to scheduling challenges in the short timeframe available following delays by INAC (ISC) in meeting deadlines for COO review. Due to time constraints, ISC made a decision to hold regional information sessions: one in Thunder Bay on November 26-27, 2018 and the other in Toronto on November 29-30, 2018. During these sessions, each applicable First Nation was provided with a side-by-side comparison of the funding generated through the First Nations Student Success Program (FNSSP) and New Paths for Education Program (New Paths) proposal-based funding and that being generated by the Interim Funding Formula.</p> <p>On April 1, 2019, the Interim Funding Formula took effect. Funding levels for 2019-2020 remained at or above the amounts allocated in 2017-2018 through the FNSSP and New Paths funding received by Matawa Education for communities and each community's nominal roll generated funding.</p> <p>On April 30 – May 1, 2019, COO held an Education Transformation Support Session in Toronto to provide support to First Nations with the education transformation process and share best practices. Matawa Education Staff attended this. Another such session will be held on August 7-8, 2019 in Niagara Falls.</p> <p>On May 23-24, 2019, AFN held an Education Transformation Forum in Toronto during which First Nations were provided with information related to various aspects of the Interim Funding Formula and ISC's Education Transformation. Matawa Education staff, along with various representatives from Matawa communities, attended this forum. A follow up forum will be held October 8-9, 2019 in Calgary.</p> <p>The Community Liaison Officer along with applicable Matawa Education staff will continue to gather information regarding the Interim Funding Formula and communicate it with Matawa First Nations.</p>		

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5	Matawa Student Assessment Analysis	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation
05-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to partner with a university to conduct this analysis and to identify possible funding to support this work, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to include Matawa or other First Nation graduate students in this project in order to build capacity in this area, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to ensure that the OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession) principles are followed and the Matawa Education Advisory Services approve any proposed agreement with a university partner to conduct this work, and;</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to provide regular updates on this work to the Matawa Education Advisory Services and Matawa leadership.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Due to the demands on the department's human resources to address other education related activities, this resolution is still at a beginning stage.</p> <p>Matawa Education will pursue a partnership with an accredited researcher from a university to analyze the applicable data (e.g., EQAO and CAT-4 student assessments). This analysis may produce identification of trends and their causes and identification of areas of strength and areas needing improvement along with recommendations, amongst other outcomes. We will ensure that OCAP principles are followed and provide regular updates to Matawa Education Advisory Services and Matawa leadership.</p> <p>Through our Post Secondary Department, we will identify possible Matawa student candidates to assist with this research in order to build capacity in this area.</p> <p>Limited funding is available through Interim Funding Formula allocations that would have fallen under Student Learning Assessment funding from the FNSSP. Once the relationship with a researcher is established, other avenues for funding can be identified.</p>		

6	Approval of Matawa Learning Institute Strategic Plan	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
06-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly approve and endorse the Matawa Learning Institute 3-year strategic plan, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department, Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS), and Health and Social Meno Biimadeswin to work together to implement the Learning Institute 3-year strategic plan.</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that MFNM annual reports to the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly on the implementation of the Matawa Learning Institute 3-year strategic plan.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Education staff are working with language revitalization consultants toward accreditation of 1-year certificate, 2-year diploma, and 3-year degree programs in Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway through Six Nations Polytechnic (SNP). A meeting with SNP was held in Brantford on July 15-16, from which more information will be provided at a later date, as it could not be ready for submission for the AGM report.</p> <p>These programs will eventually shift to the Matawa Learning Institute pending set up of the Matawa Learning Institute.</p>		

7	Approval of Certificate, Diploma and Degree Programs in Matawa Indigenous Languages	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
07-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly approve and endorse the formal accreditation, in partnership with Six Nations Polytechnic Institute, for 1-year certificate, 2-year diploma and 3-year degree programs in Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Education Department provide ongoing quarterly reports to the Matawa First Nations on the implementation of this initiative, and;</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to provide annual reports to the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly on the status of this language retention and renewal initiative.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Education has provided regular updates to the Matawa First Nations Education Authority Board of Directors (typically Education Directors of their respective communities) since this project began. A formal update was delivered to Education Directors and some Band Council members at the Matawa Education Conference held March 5-7, 2019 in Thunder Bay.</p> <p>A meeting with SNP will be held in Brantford on July 15-16 during which more information will be provided, as it could not be ready for submission for the AGM report.</p>		

8	Funding for Language Initiatives	Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation
08-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MFNM report to the Matawa Chiefs and leadership on an on-going basis on the progress of this work, and;</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct that MFNM report to the secure the necessary supports and resources rom NIBTF and ALI for MFNM and Matawa First Nations.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Education submitted a proposal to the Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI) through the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres (FNCCEC) in December 2018. We did not receive funding for this proposal. An application for funding through the National Research Council submitted in April 2019 also did not receive funding. We have also pursued funding through applicable federal ministries for which we are awaiting response. We continue to lobby these ministries and seek funding through other means.</p> <p>A meeting with ISC bureaucrats was held on June 24, 2019 during which the Matawa Waka Tere proposal was presented. The response suggested that, although their current funding programs cannot provide additional funding, the Indigenous Languages Act received royal assent on June 21, 2019 and may result in funding or supports becoming available.</p>		

9	Support for Schooling Options for Students in Matawa First Nation Communities	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
09-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly approve and endorse a proposed pilot project to examine the potential for secondary students in remote Matawa First Nation communities to attend other first Nation schools, private schools, and or/ other education institutions of their choice, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to report on the progress of this proposed pilot project at the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Matawa Chiefs.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Education Department participates on a provincial-wide working group to help create legislation that will allow for Indigenous students to attend the First Nation/provincial school of their choice while receiving equitable funding from the applicable school board or Ministry of Education. The goal is to have the legislation and applicable regulations in effect for September 2019.</p>		

10 10-02-08-18	Climate Change Risk Assessment, Planning and Adaptation	Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake #58 First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Management will seek opportunities and applicable funding for our member First Nations to increase capacity in climate change issues and to carry out climate change risk assessment, planning and adaptation projects, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that climate change assessment projects should provide opportunities to engage our Elders and other appropriate members to obtain Traditional Knowledge and to build capacity through in-community meetings, gatherings, interviews and other engagement activities, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the ownership of any Traditional Knowledge data collected through climate change assessment projects will be retained by the associated First Nation, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Traditional Knowledge data collected through climate change assessment projects that is deemed confidential by the First Nation will not be directly or indirectly disclosed or published without the consent of the First Nation, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa First Nations Management will established and maintain effective security measures to safeguard all confidential data from unauthorized access, use, copying or disclosure, and;</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that funding applications by Matawa First Nations Management for climate change risk assessment, planning and adaptation projects are intended to support and advance community stewardship initiatives and will not supersede any community application to the same funding authority.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The "Matawa Climate Change Assessment Planning, & Adaptation Project Proposal, Phase I: Vulnerability Assessment" was submitted to CIRNAC on August 28, 2018 and amended and resubmitted on September 28, 2018. MFNM received notice of funding award for 2018-2021 in October 2018. A gathering was hosted in December 2018 in Thunder Bay with over 60 delegates, including those from all Matawa member First Nations to discuss Climate Change and get preliminary direction from member First Nations on Climate Change concerns and priorities. These discussions has allowed Four Rivers to focus development on community priorities. Follow-up discussions to develop project procedures were held with community focus groups in January 2019 and June 2019. Research and data sharing protocols are in development based on community direction and in consideration of ethics protocols. In-community field work is expected to commence in August 2019, pending approval of research and data procedures and protocols.</p> <p>Four Rivers has also supported proposal development and submitting for Climate Change funding for member First Nations. Proposals were developed, upon request for Webequie First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation and Nibinamik First Nation for funds through ISC. Notice that Webequie First Nation and Eabametoong First Nation will be successful and receive funding in 2020-2021.</p>			

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11	Watershed Stewardship Capacity Building	Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake #59 First Nation	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation
11-02-08-18			
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa First Nation Management will seek opportunities and applicable funding for our First Nations to increase to actively steward our community watersheds, and;			
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that watershed stewardship projects provide opportunities to engage our Elders and other appropriate community members to obtain Traditional Knowledge and build capacity, and;			
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all watershed stewardship initiatives will be guided by and centered in community values, priorities, and processes, and;			
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the ownership of any Traditional Knowledge data collected through watershed stewardship initiatives will be retained by the associated First Nation, and;			
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Traditional Knowledge data collected through water stewardship initiatives that is deemed confidential by the First Nation will not be directly or indirectly disclosed or published without consent of the First Nation, and;			
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa First Nations Management will establish and maintain effective security measures to safeguard all confidential data from unauthorized access, use, copying or disclosure, and;			
FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that any researchers involved in this project, or others, will seek consent/approval and will respect the protocols of each First Nations before conducting research related to their First Nation's ancestral lands.			
<u>UPDATE:</u>			
Four Rivers prepared and submitted the “Matawa Water Futures (MWF): Developing an Indigenous-Informed Framework for Watershed Stewardship & Monitoring” proposal on September 21, 2018 to Global Water Futures and received notice of funding award in October 2018. Numerous meetings with partner universities Laurier, Lakehead and Laurentian have been hosted since to plan project activities, and build critical project partnerships. In December 2018, a gathering with over 60 delegates, including members from all nine Matawa member First Nation communities was hosted to introduce this project. Community concerns, values and priorities concerning water was workshopped, and this feedback, summarized in the “Water is Life” report, which was developed in January 2019, and has yet to be finalized will be integrated into project design. The results of this report were further discussed but by an environmental technical focus group consisting of community based monitors and lands and resource staff from Webequie First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation and Ginoogaming First Nation in January 2019; and these discussions will further guide project roll out. A Co-Training event was hosted in Thunder Bay in June 2019 to discuss and advance project methodology, and protocols. Three Matawa members have been recruited for post secondary capacity building opportunities that is supported through the project and on-the job training/paid internships. Water stories collection is expected to be kicked-off at the Matawa AGM.			

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17	Direction for Renewed Regional Process for Development in Matawa First Nations Traditional Territories	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation
17-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council insist that Ontario continue to work within a regional process that must recognize and incorporate the work, achievements and progress to date on the Matawa Regional Framework Agreement and Matawa Jurisdiction Table, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that a regional process in collaboration with Ontario must include the Matawa Chiefs Council dialogue process and the continued participation of community member representatives in the information gathering, planning, and communications as per the Regional Framework Agreement RFWG and Matawa Jurisdiction Table MJWG processes, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that discussions related to development in the traditional territories of the Matawa First Nations will require the fair and informed participation of the Matawa Chiefs Council that includes fully supported workplans and supporting initiatives.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Chiefs have sent letters to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of ENDM to clarify their position on the Regional Framework Agreement and the Jurisdiction tables. The response has continued to be deferred to the Minister of which he has not scheduled a meeting of the Matawa Chiefs to date. Ontario continues to respond that they have not received direction from the new government. The Matawa Chiefs are not pleased with the lack of government response and priority given to date. The Matawa Chiefs stand by their regional unity while respecting individual communities' priorities. We have made progress with the Federal government with funding to assist with meeting costs, core MFNM staff costs and travel and accommodation costs for our communities to utilize in order to create a new plan and continue the important work to date. In addition, the Federal government is supporting the Matawa First Nations communities on a collaborative decision-making process with the Watershed Partners group. This work is in progress and is targeted to be completed this fiscal.</p>		

18	Support for Indigenous Certificate in Geological Studies	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
18-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the development and implementation of the Lakehead University and Partner Agencies Indigenous Certificate in Geological Studies.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A planning group was established with representation from Four Rivers, KKETS and Marten Falls First Nation. Funding however did not come through for the full program. A more scaled back program is being planned and the committee will be activated upon the next phase of this project.</p>		

19	Support for 5 Year Renewal Agreement of the Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program	Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
19-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the renewal of ASAP for a 5-year period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2024 by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Replaced by Resolution 01-22-03-19.</p>		

20	Support for the Delivery of First Nation Adult Education Pilot Program	Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
20-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct KKETS to pursue the implementation and delivery of a First Nation Adult Education Pilot Program for Matawa First Nations members, and;</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the additional updates will be provided to Matawa First Nations Chiefs and communities on the progress of this initiative.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>KKETS and Lakehead Adult Education Centre developed a proposal and submitted it to MTCU in 2018. KKETS proposed to deliver a First Nation Adult Education Pilot Program to the 2 largest populated Matawa communities which are Constance Lake and Eabametoong First Nation. During the initial planning it was found these communities had similar programs already established.</p>			

21	Support for Student Residence for KKETS Programs	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
21-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support KKETS in securing its own residence for its students and trainees in Thunder Bay.</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that a report on progress of a KKETS students/trainees residence be provided to the Matawa Chiefs on an ongoing basis.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>In progress and to be deferred as work into the 2019/2020 fiscal year to due to KKETS restructuring.</p>			

22	Support for the Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program to Service Matawa First Nation Members ages 18 years and older	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
22-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the ASAP to change its age requirements to 18 years and older from 22 years and older to all Matawa First Nation members to access adult education where these services may not be readily available.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The last intake for ASAP was September 4, 2018, shortly after the last AGM. The students had already been selected for the September 4th start. In the past ten months there has been two applications from someone under the age of 22. KKETS will need to explore further the implications of the Matawa Education and Care Centre not receiving funding for students over the age of 18 per the recent changes in government policy. ASAP is geared for the adult learner where Prior Learning Assessments and Senior Equivalency credits are granted which can greatly reduce the amount of time it will take to achieve their OSSD.</p>			

23	Support for KKETS to Explore Urban/Non-Affiliated Indigenous Funding Streams	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation
23-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support KKETS in exploring funding streams to allow for the provision of service to Urban/Non-Affiliated Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>In progress and to be deferred as work into the 2019/2020 fiscal year to due to KKETS restructuring.</p>			

17	Direction for Renewed Regional Process for Development in Matawa First Nations Traditional Territories	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation
17-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council insist that Ontario continue to work within a regional process that must recognize and incorporate the work, achievements and progress to date on the Matawa Regional Framework Agreement and Matawa Jurisdiction Table, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that a regional process in collaboration with Ontario must include the Matawa Chiefs Council dialogue process and the continued participation of community member representatives in the information gathering, planning, and communications as per the Regional Framework Agreement RFWG and Matawa Jurisdiction Table MJWG processes, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that discussions related to development in the traditional territories of the Matawa First Nations will require the fair and informed participation of the Matawa Chiefs Council that includes fully supported workplans and supporting initiatives.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Chiefs have sent letters to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of ENDM to clarify their position on the Regional Framework Agreement and the Jurisdiction tables. The response has continued to be deferred to the Minister of which he has not scheduled a meeting of the Matawa Chiefs to date. Ontario continues to respond that they have not received direction from the new government. The Matawa Chiefs are not pleased with the lack of government response and priority given to date. The Matawa Chiefs stand by their regional unity while respecting individual communities' priorities. We have made progress with the Federal government with funding to assist with meeting costs, core MFNM staff costs and travel and accommodation costs for our communities to utilize in order to create a new plan and continue the important work to date. In addition, the Federal government is supporting the Matawa First Nations communities on a collaborative decision-making process with the Watershed Partners group. This work is in progress and is targeted to be completed this fiscal.</p>		

18	Support for Indigenous Certificate in Geological Studies	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
18-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the development and implementation of the Lakehead University and Partner Agencies Indigenous Certificate in Geological Studies.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A planning group was established with representation from Four Rivers, KKETS and Marten Falls First Nation. Funding however did not come through for the full program. A more scaled back program is being planned and the committee will be activated upon the next phase of this project.</p>		

19	Support for 5 Year Renewal Agreement of the Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program	Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
19-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the renewal of ASAP for a 5-year period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2024 by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Replaced by Resolution 01-22-03-19.</p>		

20	Support for the Delivery of First Nation Adult Education Pilot Program	Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
20-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct KKETS to pursue the implementation and delivery of a First Nation Adult Education Pilot Program for Matawa First Nations members, and;</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the additional updates will be provided to Matawa First Nations Chiefs and communities on the progress of this initiative.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>KKETS and Lakehead Adult Education Centre developed a proposal and submitted it to MTCU in 2018. KKETS proposed to deliver a First Nation Adult Education Pilot Program to the 2 largest populated Matawa communities which are Constance Lake and Eabametoong First Nation. During the initial planning it was found these communities had similar programs already established.</p>			

21	Support for Student Residence for KKETS Programs	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
21-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support KKETS in securing its own residence for its students and trainees in Thunder Bay.</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that a report on progress of a KKETS students/trainees residence be provided to the Matawa Chiefs on an ongoing basis.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>In progress and to be deferred as work into the 2019/2020 fiscal year to due to KKETS restructuring.</p>			

22	Support for the Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program to Service Matawa First Nation Members ages 18 years and older	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
22-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the ASAP to change its age requirements to 18 years and older from 22 years and older to all Matawa First Nation members to access adult education where these services may not be readily available.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The last intake for ASAP was September 4, 2018, shortly after the last AGM. The students had already been selected for the September 4th start. In the past ten months there has been two applications from someone under the age of 22. KKETS will need to explore further the implications of the Matawa Education and Care Centre not receiving funding for students over the age of 18 per the recent changes in government policy. ASAP is geared for the adult learner where Prior Learning Assessments and Senior Equivalency credits are granted which can greatly reduce the amount of time it will take to achieve their OSSD.</p>			

23	Support for KKETS to Explore Urban/Non-Affiliated Indigenous Funding Streams	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation
23-02-08-18			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support KKETS in exploring funding streams to allow for the provision of service to Urban/Non-Affiliated Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>In progress and to be deferred as work into the 2019/2020 fiscal year to due to KKETS restructuring.</p>			

24	Northern Ranger Program	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
24-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa First Nation Chiefs direct Matawa First Nations Management to lobby the Canadian Military to initiate the Northern Ranger Program in all Matawa First Nations, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa First Nation Management lobby the Canadian Military and other funders for additional resources to support existing programs in the areas of supplies, equipment, further training and supervision.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Department of National Defence are currently in an expansion program and setting up a group program for Aroland, Ginoogaming and Long Lake #58 First Nations. Marten Falls First Nation is also in the developmental stage. Once completed, all nine Matawa First Nations will have Canadian Ranger Programs.</p>		

25	Approval of Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS) Indigenous Skills and Employment Strategy 10-year Agreement	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
25-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly approve and endorse the KKETS negotiation developments for a new 10-year ISETA with ESDC, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct KKETS to work towards finalizing a 10-year ISETA with ESDC, and;</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that KKETS provide annual to the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly on the negotiation and implementations of the new 10-year ISETA with ESDC.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>KKETS has entered the transition into the 10-year agreement with ESDC. KKETS will provide service delivery directly to our members to improve their skill set and gain meaningful employment.</p>		

26	Call for Re-Instatement of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot	Proxy Maurice Waboose, Ginoogaming First Nation	Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake #58 First Nation
26-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs call on the new provincial government to re-instate the basic income pilot project as community members have signed agreements in good faith that it would continue for three years and be evaluated.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa First Nations, along with other groups in Thunder Bay did voice their opposition to cancelling this pilot project which would have impacted Matawa members in Thunder Bay who signed up for the program. A coalition of groups has gone forward with a class action law suit against the provincial government on cancelling this project. However, it did not stop the Provincial government from cancelling the program and any outcome will have to work its way through the courts which could be years after the actual pilot was intended to end anyway.</p>		

27	Implementation of Mandate to Create Matawa Youth, Women and Elders Councils	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
27-02-08-18	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly mandate Matawa First Nations Management to fulfill the mandates provided in previous Resolutions indicated above to create Matawa Youth, Women and Elder Councils through assigning personnel, workplans, proposals and resources, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that ongoing reports on progress be provided at Matawa Chiefs Council meetings throughout the year with a goal for implementation Matawa Youth, Women and Elders Councils by the Matawa 31st AGM in 2019.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A proposal has been developed. It was submitted to CIRNAC in September 2018. No response on outcome of proposal has been received to date. Other funding opportunities get reviewed for applicability as they are announced.</p>		

2018/2019 Chiefs Meetings

SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28, 2018 - MATAWA OFFICE - THUNDER BAY

28 01-28-09-18	Matawa Chiefs Position on Unity and Regional Issues	Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council maintains its position of unity, and that all major regional resource development and land management issues must be negotiated at our regional table, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED failure to consult, accommodate and receive the consent of the First Nation(s) to proceed with any work or activity is an unjustified infringement upon our Aboriginal, Treaty and Custodial rights as First Nations.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Chiefs continue to assert their unity and reassure community members that any regional resource development and land management issues must be negotiated and provide free, prior and informed consent before any development occurs. The Matawa Chiefs continue to be unified on regional planning, as directed by their community members. The Matawa Chiefs require resources to further internal discussions on how decisions will be made by their communities with regards to regional issues.</p>			

29 02-28-09-18	Chiefs Council Sub-Committee on Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Matawa	Proxy Lawrence Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs support the creation of a Chiefs Council Sub-Committee on addressing the crisis that will develop a <i>Matawa Chiefs Opioid Strategy</i> that will focus on the priority areas of: combatting opioid drug distribution in the Matawa communities, assisting communities prevent and decrease its impacts—including lobbying for better data collection and improved resources for community-based program delivery and treatment facilities, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that this Sub-Committee will work with law enforcement agencies, lawyers, mental health and addictions workers, affiliated organizations, federal and provincial agencies as part of their efforts, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that resources be sought to support the work of this Chiefs Council Sub-Committee.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A broad plan was created and sent to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care / Northwest Local Health Integration Network as a proposal. No formal indication has been provided to date on funding. A regional steering committee has been established however with Long Lake # 58, Ginoogaming, Aroland, Pays Plat and other highway communities with NAPS, APS, OPP and other law enforcement groups to help confront this issue.</p>			

30 01-23-11-18	Support for Matawa Learning Centre Pre-Design Study and Project Approval Request	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council and endorse the scope of the project including the completion of emergency work required at the future site of the Matawa Student Education and Care Centre, located in the former Grandview Lodge Long Term Care Facility in Thunder Bay, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs support the current PAR submission which is the next stage of the project, which includes the complete development of the education and care centre required to deliver complete range of education needs, counselling, accommodation and related services.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The PAR submission is complete, a funding announcement by federal government, represented by Minister Patty Hajdu and MP Don Rusnak, was held on April 17, 2019. Renovations will continue this summer until anticipated completion some time in 2021.</p>			

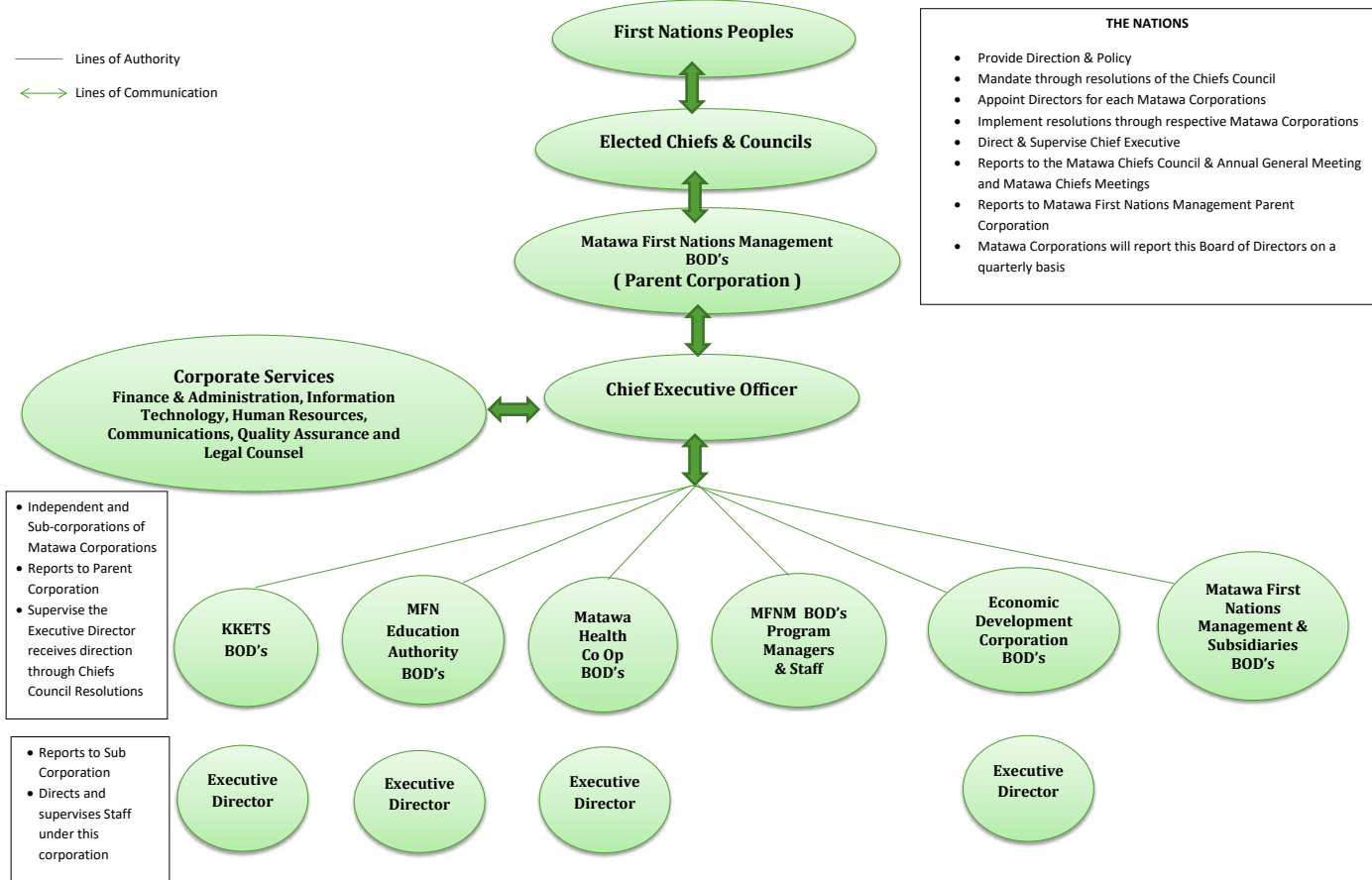
DECEMBER 11 - 13, 2018 - MATAWA OFFICE - THUNDER BAY

31	KKETS Restructuring	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
01-13-12-18			
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Matawa First Nations Management to oversee the restructuring of KKETS, and;			
FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that during the period of restructuring the following recommendations will take place:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Matawa Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will oversee the restructuring process;• The Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) Board of Directors would take over the legal and governance responsibility of KKETS;• The current Board of Directors of KKETS will temporarily put into abeyance until the restructuring and training is completed;• The restructuring process will look at how other Matawa corporations will be working under the Matawa First Nations Management umbrella in terms of structure and communications;• That current Policies and Procedures will be reviewed in terms of their internal financial and administrative policy as well as a consolidation of legal, accounting, and other services;• A report will be provided by the MFNM to the Matawa Chiefs not later than March 31, 2019 and any further recommendation by the next Matawa AGM.			
<u>UPDATE:</u>			
<p>Upon passing the Matawa Chiefs Council resolution, the CEO advised the KKETS Board of Directors that they were temporarily placed in abeyance until the restructuring and training was completed. The Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors met in January to review the resolution. The Directors confirmed and ratified the direction from the Matawa Chiefs Council as per resolution with the advice of legal counsel. Work was immediately started to develop a structure that would have all Matawa corporations working under the MFNM umbrella (see structure on the next page). A template resolution on board appointments was sent out to all the member First Nations under KKETS as not all First Nations had a Director. Unfortunately, the appointment of the directors took some time from January to June. As of July 2, 2019, all 8 directors have been appointed. Training is being planned immediately following the Matawa AGM. KKETS policies and procedures will be revised to reflect Matawa corporate policies. As per further direction from the February Chiefs meeting, the Matawa Management Executive Board and the KKETS Board have been meeting jointly to govern the KKETS organization. This has been very effective as part of initiating training for the KKETS Board. This will continue until as such time the KKETS Directors have been fully trained. It is expected that KKETS Directors will stand alone again by fall of 2019. As per restructuring, it is recommended that a Matawa Corporate Services division be established under the MFNM which will provide all corporate services including, finance and administration, IT, communications, legal, human resources, training and orientation for new directors and employees, and quality assurance. The next step is to for Matawa Chiefs to consider approving the concept and implement the new structure. If approved, all Directors of all Matawa corporations will meet to ensure everyone understands the new structure, reporting and accountability for both Directors and each of the Managers of each corporation.</p>			

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MATAWA FIRST NATIONS ORGANIZATION CHART - January 2019 DRAFT

QMS #: MFN-FOR-035
Department: CEO
Issue Date: March 28, 2019
Revision Number & Date:
Approved by: CEO



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JANUARY 22 - 24, 2019 - MATAWA OFFICE - THUNDER BAY

32	Greenstone Solid Waste Management Site Planning	Proxy Tony Sakanee, Neskantaga First Nation	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
01-24-01-19	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council approves Technical Services to seek funding for participation on the Steering Committee for Greenstone Waste Management Planning, and any other related funding applications that may arise through the life of the project(s).</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Aroland, Ginoogaming & Long Lake #58 First Nation have been participating in regional monthly meetings with AZA, BNA, BZA, Municipality of Greenstone, Matawa, Nokiwin, ISC, MECP, and MNRF to discuss waste management activities. Currently all parties are facing waste management challenges. Several landfills are reaching capacity while others are facing permanent closure. The group has come together to look for future options to waste management as a region, but more importantly to find appropriate sites for future landfill(s). Community engagement activities are planned for the fall and winter of 2019/2020.</p>		

33	Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen (KKETS) Special General Members Meeting	Proxy Tony Sakanee, Neskantaga First Nation	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
02-24-01-19	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council call for Special General Members Meeting of KKETS as per By-Law Number 1, Section (9) of the KKETS Corporation as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A Special General Members Meeting of the KKETS Board and the Matawa First Nations Chiefs was held on February 15, 2019 and Chiefs have been apprised of outcomes.</p>		

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34	Matawa Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction – Next Steps	Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation
03-24-01-19	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council directs the following next steps for the Matawa Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of a nine (9) member Matawa Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction Working Group – including the formal written (letter or email) appointment of one (1) representative per First Nation, development of an updated Terms of Reference, Conflict of Interest Policy and signing of a Confidentiality Agreement and Conflict of Interest form. [Same procedure that was part of the Jurisdiction Table.] 2. The Matawa Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction Working Group will work on the further development of the possible concepts or structures outlined for the Matawa Chiefs Council continued consideration and direction. 3. The Matawa Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction staff will also coordinate the process of obtaining independent preliminary legal advice on the structure concepts, including the topics of permits, taxation and revenue. 4. The Matawa Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction staff will continue to draft and prepare for funding proposal submissions for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The draft funding proposal submission will be prepared for the Matawa Chiefs Council review and comment. <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction Working Group and staff will continue to work through this transition period and ensure reporting and updates are provided to the Matawa Chiefs Council.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Work has proceeded to establish the Matawa Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction Working Group with two (2) meetings held on February 19-20-21, 2019 and March 19-20-21 2019. Both of these meetings included review and revisions of the updated Terms of Reference, Conflict of Interest Policy and Confidentiality Policy. It would be expected that with funding for 2019-20 and the RP&JWG reconvenes that the Terms of Reference, and Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality forms will be finalized and signed. The RP&JWG has had significant and intensive discussions on possible concepts and structures for the Matawa Chiefs Council consideration, including the outlining of regional and negotiation type issues that may be anticipated. The work to date of the RP&JWG has provided assistance in the drafting of response to the <i>Far North Act, 2010</i> repeal and the changing approach of the Ontario government. Preliminary legal advice will have to be conducted in this new fiscal year, as the preliminary scope of concepts have yet to be further defined. A funding proposal for the 2019-2020 fiscal year has also been submitted to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada – Nation Rebuilding Program; current status is that Matawa First Nations Management is awaiting funding confirmation. In addition, RP&JWG staff are also preparing the activity and financial reporting for the funds received for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.</p>		

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MARCH 21 - 22, 2019 - MATAWA OFFICE - THUNDER BAY

35	01-22-03-19	Support for a 5-Year Renewal Agreement of the Aboriginal Skills Advancement	Proxy Chief Elect Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation	Proxy Tommy Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
<i>Abstention: Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation</i>				
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the renewal of ASAP for a 5-year period from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2024 by the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities, which could include additional non-Matawa members.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for a 5-year agreement for ASAP. The last correspondence with MTCU it was stated that the proposal was on its way to the Deputy Minister's Office from the Assistant Deputy Ministers Office. After the Deputy Minister has signed off it goes to the Minister's Office staff and then finally to the Minister for her signature. Matawa CEO sent a letter of correspondence and a copy of the proposal to Minister Fullerton to flag the proposal for further attention. As of this date, June 13, 2019 we have not received notice yet of the approval of the proposal.</p>				

APRIL 4 - 5, 2019 - MATAWA OFFICE - THUNDER BAY

36	01-04-04-19	Matawa Technical Services Trades and Apprenticeship Support	Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake #58 First Nation	Proxy Richard Roundhead, Nibinamik First Nation
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the proposal for Matawa First Nations Technical Services Trades and Apprenticeship to various funders.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Technical Services developed a Trades & Apprenticeship Proposal in April 2019. Having received little success at the provincial level (submission to the Ontario Ministry of Trades, Colleges and Universities), it was submitted and is currently under review at the federal level (Skills Canada). The project would allow First Nations in Matawa to be organized and be involved in repairs to electrical, plumbing, machinery and heating and cooling systems while providing full apprenticeships to individuals. Other benefits include having skilled trades people to address issues in First Nations immediately, improvement in quality of life, ongoing operation of equipment, ability to address important issue with fire suppression (ie. hydrants) and ability to prevent sewage back up into homes. The proposal will continue to be lobbied for support.</p>				

37	02-04-04-19	Matawa Social Services Framework	Proxy Bob Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs support the development of a Matawa First Nations Social Services Framework which is culturally-based and rooted in historic understanding of Anishnawbe way of life; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED First Nations initiate a community engagement initiative to start the process of building the Social Services Framework with a First Nations Social Services Committee that will focus on supporting individual response, risk intervention, prevention and social development; and</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa First Nations Chiefs seek on-going status and tracking reports on how this initiative is supporting First Nations children and families of the nine Matawa communities.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Chiefs Council Resolution, workplan and budget were forwarded to ISDC for funding. In late June 2019, Matawa was informed of the proposal's approval.</p>				

38	Matawa First Nations Reject Ontario Government Proposal to Repeal the Far North Act, 2010	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation	Proxy Bob Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation
03-05-04-19	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council is opposed to any unilateral legislative change that will have an impact on the Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of Matawa First Nations protected and affirmed under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982; that includes repealing the Far North Act, 2010 and proposed amendments process for the Public Land Act, 1990 as the basis of Land Use Planning and implementation of our Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council reject the Ontario government's proposal to repeal the Far North Act, 2010.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal will have a high-level of impact on the Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of Matawa First Nations and our members, and a permanent impact on our future generations. 2. The proposal will place the lands of James Bay Treaty # 9 under the control of the Public Lands Act, 1990 which is a significant piece of legislation that will enable other unmentioned land related legislation, regulations and policies. 3. The Public Lands Act, 1990 does not recognize the Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of any First Nations in Ontario. The Public Lands Act, 1990 was never intended to be applied in a fair, meaningful manner to First Nations. 4. The Ontario proposal to transfer existing or yet to be completed land use plans from the Far North Act to an 'amended' Public Lands Act that will have 'substantially the same effect as under the Far North Act' is not sufficient to address First Nations concerns. 5. Land Use Planning in Ontario requires the participation and joint-decision making between First Nations and Ontario. 6. If the FNA is to be replaced by some other legislation, then Matawa-member First Nations must be involved in co-developing a better decision-making framework that is based on our Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights. The stakes are increasingly high as we continue to put forward reasonable solutions in the spirit of the Treaty, and Ontario appears to be withdrawing from commitments and damaging relationships. 7. Matawa Chiefs expect direct engagement from MNRF Minister Yakabuski since our members hold rights in the far north and have some First Nations that are nearing the completion of their community-based plans, and this proposed unilateral change will have a serious impact on both our rights and planning relationships. <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council do not accept the Ontario position that the Public Lands Act will "continue to apply to the Far North if the Far North Act is repealed". The land is subject to the Spirit and Intent of the James Bay Treaty # 9, and First Nations have not been included in the issue to date.</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council require that Ontario abandon its approach to the Far North and unilateral imposition of legislation that impacts the Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of Matawa First Nations and our members.</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the James Bay Treaty # 9 is an agreement to share land and economic benefits. A government-to-government, nation-to-nation relationship will require equal decision making and revenue sharing positions for First Nations and Ontario.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Matawa Chiefs Council and Matawa First Nations Management represent nine (9) First Nations and respect the autonomy of each member First Nation.</i> • <i>This resolution is without prejudice to the positions Long Lake #58 First Nation takes, or may take, on the issue of whether Long Lake #58 First Nation is a party to any treaty.</i> • <i>Based on the limited amount of information provided in the Ontario proposal to repeal the Far North Act, 2010 – the Matawa Chiefs Council reserves the right to reassess and further its positions on this issue.</i> <p>UPDATE:</p> <p>The Matawa Chiefs Council Resolution # 03-05/04/2019 was submitted formally to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Hon. John Yakabuski and the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) on April 10, 2019. On April 11, 2019 the MNRF announced that the comment period would be extended further until May 10, 2019. As part of the standard government process, Matawa First Nations Management received a formal acknowledgment e-mail letter from the Minister on April 18, 2019. Matawa Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction has continued to follow up with the MNRF Minister's Office for any further details - but no response has been received to date. RP&J staff also continue to monitor the ERO website for any updates, publishing of comments received and/or decisions being posted to the ERO website. As part of the original resolution process, the resolution was formatted and distributed as a Media Statement and distributed to Chiefs of Ontario, Nishnawbe Aski Nation and media contacts.</p>		



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