



2019 / 2020 Chiefs Council Report

Prepared for the Matawa 32nd Annual General Meeting





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The Matawa Chiefs Council passed 34 Resolutions in total in 2019/2020. This is down from 38 Resolutions the year before.

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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.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Chief Ashe Celina
(Celia) Echum*

DEC 15, 1952 - MAY 9, 2020



OUR COLLEAGUE, OUR FRIEND.
YOU WILL BE MISSED.

Love is how you stay alive. Even after you are gone.

An article from *Windspeaker*, May 12, 2020

The family announces with sorrow the sudden passing of Chief Ashe Celina (Celia) Echum at Geraldton District Hospital on Saturday May 9, 2020 at the age of 67 years.

Beloved wife of Gabriel Echum (passed August 26, 2013), and dearest mother of Vincent Echum (Sonia), Derek Echum (Lisa), Scott Echum (Krista-Lee), Myles Echum, and Troy Echum (Brittney) of Longlac, Ontario. She is survived by her mother, Sarah Jane McKay (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation), and also by five of her siblings: Robson McKay (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Stephanie McKay (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation), Esther Tait (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation), Keith McKay (Joyce) of Kasabonika First Nation, and Joe McKay (Elsie) of Sandy Lake First Nation. Celia was the second-oldest child of the eight children in the family, and she was the eldest of the four girls in the family. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Theresa Morin (Ron) of North Bay, Ontario.

Celia was predeceased by: her late husband Gabriel Echum, her father Cornelius McKay, her sister Eva Ostaman, and her brother Marlon (“Roland”) McKay. Celia was also predeceased by her sister-in-law Alvina Echum-Abernot, and by her brother-in-law George Abernot. After the passing of George in 2005 and Alvina in 2011, Celia took on their children as her own: Cheryl Imbeault (Edmonton), George Echum (Longlac), Clarine Echum (Longlac), and Ron Echum (Thunder Bay), as well as their children (her grandchildren). Celia will be sadly missed by not only her children, but also by her grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren. Celia also had numerous nieces and nephews, far too many to list.

Celia will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her, as she was a “people’s Chief” just as her husband Gabriel was. She sacrificed her life for the betterment of the people and of the community that she served. She was an intelligent, strategic, and powerful leader for the Ginoogaming First Nation people. Like her husband Gabriel, as a Chief, Celia put the peoples’ needs ahead of her own personal needs. In taking care of everyone as best she could, Celia possessed a drive to assist others that is rare, that most of us do not have.

Celia was born in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation (a.k.a. “Big Trout”), and as a child she attended the Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School in Kenora. She would tell stories of how she witnessed abuse that the other children were facing. In her later years, Celia spoke of running away from the residential school at times, so that she could endure the pain of punishment with her fellow students, so they would not have to face suffering alone.

Celia later arrived at Geraldton High School, 33 km west of Longlac, in the 1960’s in search of Ontario Secondary School educational attainment. It was during those years, at the age 14-15, when she met the love of her life: Gabriel Echum of Ginoogaming First Nation, who she would later marry in 1970 after she completed her secondary school studies. Gabriel would become Ginoogaming First Nation Chief in 1973, and this commenced their family’s political life of dedication to the Ginoogaming First Nation people, which would continue on for the following five decades.

After the birth of her first four sons in 1970-1975, Celia attended Laurentian University via distance education to attain her Community Health Representative (CHR) certification. She excelled at this role in her assistance to the Ginoogaming First Nation community members. She built strong relationships with the local people.

While living in Ginoogaming First Nation with her husband Gabriel and their five sons (Troy Echum born later on, in 1982), Celia cultivated very close relationships with local community Elders, and especially Gabriel’s father David Echum (“Omie”) who passed on in 2001 at the age of 91 and his wife Elizabeth Echum (“Zebate”) who passed on a few years before David. Celia had excellent family relationships with all Ginoogaming First Nation Elders, throughout all of her decades of leadership

in the First Nation. She often assembled her Elders in meetings, to receive direction and guidance from them, and she always made sure that they enjoyed platforms from which to speak. Gabriel's uncle Louis Dore ("Ogie") is another Elder who assisted Celia's family, as he lived with them in their family home and helped to take care of Celia and Gabriel's children.

Celia had a very close relationship with the Ginoogaming First Nation people in the following decades. From 1973 to 2005, she was politically active as her husband Gabriel won several consecutive terms as Ginoogaming First Nation Chief (18 years in total). She also was elected several times as Ginoogaming First Nation Band Councillor during many of those years. She spent several years working in the Ginoogaming First Nation administration as Band Manager, where her relationships with the local people were further deepened, in addition to relationships with the off-reserve membership.

In addition to her grassroots role in the Ginoogaming First Nation community throughout the past several decades, Celia worked tirelessly to advance the needs not only of the Ginoogaming First Nation people, but all Indigenous peoples, through her networking and communications with various boards and associations. Her service was so vast that it is impossible to list here.

Just a few of her extraordinary contributions include her leadership and guidance on: the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Women's Council, the Anishnawbek Police Services (APS) Board of Directors, the Dilico Ojibway Child & Family Services Board of Directors, the Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Board of Directors, the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chiefs political organization, the Chiefs of Ontario political territorial organization, and the Matawa First Nations Chiefs' Council. She served as the KKETS (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services) co-founder (she also helped to come up with the name of that corporation which was launched in 2011). Celia worked tirelessly in her advocacy, as many can attest to across Ontario, and even across Canada.

Celia had a vested interest in utilizing economic development to advance the needs of her people. The recent Greenstone Gold Mine (GGM) Long Term Relationship Agreement Negotiations (which concluded with the LTRA signing in November 2019), and the 1993 Long Lake Forest Products Partnership Agreement Negotiation Team are two areas where her advisory capacity was instrumental. She was committed to economic, social, human, and community development for her people throughout her lifetime. Celia was a Minodahmun Development Corporation co-founder (a regional corporation to pursue business opportunities for the Greenstone Gold Mines LTRA, that she developed along with Chief Dorothy Towedo of Aroland First Nation, and Chief Theresa Nelson of Animbiigoo Zaagi'igaan Anishinaabek), a Ginoogam Development Corporation co-founder (a forest industry agreement to supply wood fibre to the Longlac Lumber Inc facility, signed in 2015 worked on in the following years with Chief Veronica Waboose of Long Lake #58 First Nation and Chief Dorothy Towedo of Aroland First Nation), and a Nee-daa-kii-Me-Naan Inc co-founder (a forest management corporation established in 2012 with six other area Chiefs). Celia was relentless in her desire to advance her peoples' interests.

Celia was also very active in leading the Ginoogaming First Nation land claims files. With her cousin Wally McKay (former Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Grand Chief 1981-83), she led the Ginoogaming First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement Claim Negotiation Team starting in 2016, with Ontario and Canada which is still in progress. She provided crucial advisory services in the breakthrough Ginoogaming First Nation Ontario Hydro Settlement as Lead Negotiator (which was signed in August 1998). Celia lobbied in the 1990's to move forward the Ginoogaming First Nation Timber Claim Trust Settlement forward which was signed in 2001.

Celia also lobbied throughout her career, for legacy infrastructure projects at the community level such as the Ginoogaming First Nation Health Centre (constructed in 2003-2004), the Ginoogaming First Nation Aboriginal Head Start and Day Care (constructed in 1996, and another second Aboriginal Head Start building constructed in 2019), as well as the forthcoming Ginoogaming First Nation Road and Bridge development.

Notably, as a chief, Celia was the first leader in this region to advance Geraldton area gold mining development through a partnership agreement with Premier Gold Mines in 2009. As noted, she was passionate about First Nation people being self-sufficient through community economic development to service the needs of the people, but also advocated for environmental responsibility and stewardship. She was involved in negotiations for the "Ring of Fire" mining development with the Matawa First Nations Chiefs and leadership and Ontario through a Unity Declaration (2011) that led to the Matawa First Nations Regional Framework Agreement, in 2014-2019. Celia was also co-founder of the Minawshyn Development Corporation (a regional economic development vehicle for Matawa First Nations), as well as serving Ginoogaming First Nation as the Rocky Shore

Development Corporation community representative (as shareholder) from 2015-2020.

Locally, Celia was involved in leading a team that established the 1995 Ginoogaming First Nation Gaming License and Ginoogaming Activities, which created a charitable organization to help disadvantaged community members. She also helped to lobby for the construction of the Nimiki Migizi Secondary School (1999-2000) and was instrumental in leading the process to secure funding for a community-led Ginoogaming First Nation Economic Development Strategic Plan (2015).

During the 1990's, Celia was an advisor to the Making Ground River Development Corporation, a federally chartered Ginoogaming First Nation economic development corporation established in 1995 that garnered prestigious business excellence awards including the 1999 Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund Corporation of the Year. Later on, she functioned in the same capacity for the federally-chartered Rocky Shore Development Corporation, which also won awards and in 2005 was awarded with the Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund Corporation of the Year.

One example of the leadership that Celia provided, that had great significance, was the curriculum development for the Aboriginal Workforce & Maintenance Development Program (AWDMP) which operated in Ginoogaming First Nation from 1996 to 2001, and then again in the 2000's to the present. The programming broke barriers to employment for many First Nations people in this region, as the Long Lake Forest Products sawmill and planer operation at that time employed over 289 employees attending from dozens and dozens of First Nation communities.

Celia adopted new ways to engage the Ginoogaming membership by launching a newsletter during her first term (2007), entitled "Community First," which was a vehicle she utilized as a Chief to reach many of her Ginoogaming First Nation members both on- and off-reserve. Celia succeeded in becoming elected as Chief from 2007 to the present day, being continually re-elected in seven victories each and every 2-year term, leading the community for a total of 13 consecutive years to the present. This has never before been accomplished in Ginoogaming First Nation history.

Celia and her husband Gabriel, both before his passing and after, enjoyed a close relationship with Ginoogaming First Nation community member Adolph Rasevych, whose wife Judy was a first cousin of Gabriel's, who grew up with him on their traditional family lands use and trapline area in Arms (50 km southwest of Longlac, near Caramat). The three of them (Celia, Gabriel, and Adolph) were a trio known to many as leadership "dynasty," who met constantly and regularly from 1993 onwards, to devise strategies which could advance the socio-economic position of Ginoogaming First Nation community towards prosperity. They did have a special and unique bond. The three serviced the immediate needs of the community people on a continuous basis with much success. One can imagine that the three are together now, leading a meeting of other passed Elders and leaders, in a Ginoogaming First Nation band meeting, watching the Ginoogaming First Nation developments from above.

Celia always pushed for traditional Anishnawbek spirituality and ceremonies such powwow, traditional hunting and fishing and gathering at Wiisnnewii Zaahgaygin Healing Camp outside the community. She was a spiritual person who also practiced Christian beliefs, and she accepted the different forms of spirituality as she saw them all unified in their commitment to being devout to a Creator, God, or Kitchi-Manitou.

Finally, Celia was inspired by the youth and the future generations. She constantly advocated for better education systems on-reserve, as well as post-secondary funding and wrap around supports. Many First Nation youth found her to be a treasured mentor, as she gave them the opportunities to step up and lead projects for the community. Celia believed in the younger generation, as well as the older generation.

Celia and her husband Gabriel were Ginoogaming First Nation Chiefs for 21 of the past 27 years (since 1993), working on improving governance and the financial stability and management systems for the First Nation. Celia represented "unity" of the people and working together with other First Nations towards common goals and objectives. She remained unfazed by political pressure, and was resilient in her work and moving many local and regional milestones that will live on for time to come. Words cannot capture the impact that she had on so many people with her genuine smile, priceless words, and comforting aura. She will be missed so very much, by so very many people.

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 Chris Moonias
Neskantaga First Nation



Chief Rick Allen
Constance Lake First Nation



Chief Judy Desmoulin
Long Lake #58 First Nation



Chief Sheldon Oskineegish
Nibinamik First Nation



Chief Harvey Yesno
Eabametoong First Nation



Chief Bruce Achneepineskum
Marten Falls First Nation



Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie First Nation

Note: Chief Celia Echum (Ginoogaming First Nation) sat on the Matawa Chiefs Council for a majority of the year (until her death on May 9, 2020). Chief Judy Desmoulin of Long Lake #58 First Nation (replacing former Chief Veronica Waboose) and Chief Sheldon Oskineegish of Nibinamik First Nation (replacing Chief Johnny Yellowhead)--joined the Matawa Chiefs Council this year (elections took place in Long Lake #58 First Nation on January 21, 2020 and in Nibinamik First Nation on November 22, 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.
- First Nations Chiefs are strong on their jurisdiction to make decision that affect their land, people and for future generations.
- Worked with Four Rivers for community based, sub-regional and regional environmental oversight programs.



Promote Social-Health Needs of Communities

- Worked with the Matawa Health Co-operative to meet unmet health needs in the First Nations. This has become much more prominent with the Covid 19 Pandemic and the needs for testing, nursing, medical advice and mental health services.
- Worked with the Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin (Matawa Social Services Framework) on children's and family support issues to reduce the risk of interacting with the Child Welfare System.
- Worked with the Matawa Technical Services Department to lobby for and maintain clean drinking water in all Matawa First Nations

Promote Education and Training of First Nation Members

- Supported Matawa Education Department and the Matawa Learning Centre to establish a student accommodation centre in Thunder Bay
- Supported Matawa Education Staff to work with individual First Nations on a draft regional education agreement.
- Supported KKETS in their overall restructuring, recruitment of new Board Members, lobbying for employment needs, apprenticeships, and community-based training.

Promote Safe Communities

- Lobbied for additional security and policing in First Nations
- Worked with Nishnawbe-Aski Police (NAPS) and Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services on justice and safety issues for Matawa First Nations

Support Infrastructure to First Nations

- Supported First Nation Broadband Working Group and several Matawa Broadband Proposals
- Supported the establishment of Rapid Lynx Telecommunications, a First Nations owned company who will build, own and operate a highspeed telecommunications company for the Matawa First Nations
- Worked with the Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction Group to engage with private sector on community assessments and wider infrastructural projects.

Support Regional Economic Development

- Initiated community and regional discussions on regional economic development structures with Enterprise Canada.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Education

- Increased funding for First Nations Schools
- Coming together to explore regional education options and opportunities through the Regional Education Agreement.

Economic Development

- Establishment of Rapid Lynx Telecommunications company which could become the largest First Nations tele-communications company in Northern Ontario

Health

- Maintaining healthy communities in the face of the Covid 19 pandemic
- On-going development of the Matawa Health Co-operative in the areas of: juvenile diabetes strategy, report on health status in the Matawa First Nations in the area of mortality and morbidity through the Mamow Ahyamowen Partnership, increased mental health support to First Nations and new pathways for service



Infrastructure

- Successful lobbying to Ontario for start the Rapid Lynx High Speed Broadband Initiative to Matawa First Nation communities.
- Successful purchase of the Dawson Court Property for Matawa Training and Wellness Centre.

Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction

- Secured support from private sector for ongoing work on community infrastructure planning.
- Presentation to the Ontario Standing Committee on Government on bring First Nations issues to Ontario's attention in its budgetary and regulatory changes in Bill – 132.
- Sub-regional initiative that focus on common community needs and opportunities – i.e.: forestry, planning, etc.

CHALLENGES:

COVID-19 Global Pandemic

- Covid 19 has created a syndemic situation - when a crisis happens and all the accumulated issues/conditions are revealed. This is what has happened with First Nations during the pandemic: First Nations had inferior water systems, broadband, infrastructure, security, enforcement, and health status which have been revealed all too clearly during the pandemic.

Government Attention

- Matawa First Nations are challenged in getting the Province's attention to work with our First Nations on a government-to-government basis. This was true both prior to, and during the pandemic, when issues of resource management, protection and development were being addressed.

Communications

- Reductions to funding to Matawa and the First

Nations from Ontario created difficulty for on-going engagement and information sharing with community members and their staff on important issues.

- Communications during the pandemic have been made even more difficult due to the lack of broadband to the First Nation and focus on community safety.
- Communities don't have the staffing or technological capacity to address complex engagement question or notification processes.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- To re-set the relationship with governments for our First Nations based a new partnership model
- To focus on priorities that provide health and safety to Matawa First Nations
- To strengthen relationships between First Nations for everyone's benefit.





2019/2020

RESOLUTION UPDATES

Photo Credit: Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation



31st Annual General Meeting

July 30, 31 and August 1, 2019 - Constance Lake First Nation

1	Acceptance of Chairperson and Co-Chairperson for the MCC 31st AGM	Robinson Meshake, Aroland FN (BOD President)	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation
01-31-07-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 31st Annual Matawa Chiefs General Assembly hereby recognize and accept Patrick Cheechoo as the Chairperson and Greg Wesley as the Co-Chairperson for the 31st Annual Matawa Chiefs General Assembly</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p>			

2	Acceptance of the 31st Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly Agenda	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
02-31-07-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 31st Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly accept the agenda as presented.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p>			

3	Continuation of Funding for the Well-Being Pilot Project	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
03-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly fully support Marten Falls First Nation, Webequie First Nation and Neskantaga First Nation in their request to have the Well-Being Pilot Project continue until the completion of their respective projects and extend to Eabametoong First Nation and Nibinamik First Nation inclusion in this process.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Communities and Matawa have been lobbying ISC to continue for the completion of program. However, Indigenous Services Canada has not sought to continue this program. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, most funding decisions during the 2020/2021 fiscal year within the department have been redirected towards addressing COVID-19 related issues and basic needs.</p> <p>Matawa and KKETS are continuing to work with Discovery House for additional housing units in remote First Nations.</p>			

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5	Homelessness Issues Affecting Matawa First Nations	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
05-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct that the Matawa Chiefs Council office establish a specific process and Chiefs Council standing agenda item related to <i>Homelessness</i>, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Chiefs Council office to prepare an environmental scan and options for consideration and implementation that includes any homelessness-related service delivery organizations in the Matawa region, the city of Thunder Bay and municipalities where our members reside, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Chiefs Council office report to the Matawa Chiefs Council on this item and progress updates.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa continues to lobby for homelessness funding; Matawa is a member of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy and the Thunder Bay Homelessness Partnering Strategy. Eight new homes are being built by the Matawa Not-For-Profit Housing Corporation and we continue to have relationships with the District Social Services Board.</p> <p>Matawa First Nations received preparatory funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to look into the purchase of Dawson Court for homelessness needs.</p> <p>Matawa Awashishewiigihiwayiin (Social Services Framework) has received funding and supported emergency transitional housing needs for family with children who are at risk of encountering the child welfare system.</p> <p>During the COVID-19 pandemic, Matawa developed proposals and lobbied for off-reserve member funding from both the federal and provincial governments. Funds received were limited due to high demands across the county for off-reserve homelessness and poverty issues.</p>			

6	Support for <i>Journey to our Homelands</i> Matawa Community and FN Individual Member Initiative	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
06-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the '<i>Journey To Our Homelands</i>' by old canoe routes and encourage all Matawa communities and First Nation members to participate in homeland based activities, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that resources such as the Nishnawbe Aski Nation 'Choose Life Program' be requested to consider making a financial contribution towards the cost of this initiative, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly request the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Chiefs of Ontario and Assembly of First Nations to assist in the media and communications components of this initiative in order to raise awareness of the Matawa traditional territory and homeland initiatives.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The "Journey To Our Homelands" by old canoe routes took place September 5-9 2019 beginning just south of Nibinamik and ending very close to the old village of PinnaeMootang. This canoe trip was led by Elders Tommy Yellowhead and Stephen Neshinapaise – both from Nibinamik and both originally from PinnaeMootang. They were accompanied by 6 youth from Nibinamik & a camera and sound recording crew . All Matawa communities were encouraged to participate in homeland based activities as well. Resources and funding from the Nishnawbe Aski Nation 'Choose Life Program' were used to assist with the cost of this initiative, and fundraising efforts to continue this type of initiative are being developed.</p> <p>Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Chiefs of Ontario and Assembly of First Nations were contacted and copied on press releases in order to assist in the media and communications components of this initiative designed to raise awareness of the Matawa traditional territory and homeland initiatives.</p> <p>Through this event the Elders were re-united with the area they were born and their youth experience the life of their Elders. The event was captured on film and is intended to be blended with footage from other visits to surrounding old village sites – and eventually turned into a documentary. Funds are being pursued to create this documentary.</p> <p>In addition, Four Rivers is intending to support elements of this initiative through weaving this project into other projects they are working on. Among them is a Fisheries and Oceans initiative that Four Rivers assisted Nibinamik First Nation's application to that has field work components that could complement this initiative. Notice has been received that that proposal was successful, but funding agreement and final project work plan is still pending.</p>			

7	Support for the Creation of a Matawa Two-Spirits Group (TABLED)	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation
07-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly approve of the Matawa Kiiwaytiinook Niisho’Achak Piimatiisiwin Gathering to be held on March 24 – 26, 2020 in Thunder Bay at the Valhalla Inn, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Management will endeavour to consult with the Kiiwaytiinook Niisho’Achak Piimatiisiwin group in assisting with their vision and mission statements in holding the gathering on March 24 – 26, 2020 and Kiiwaytiinook Niisho’Achak Piimatiisiwin will submit a final report to the Matawa Chiefs Assembly at the conclusion of the gathering.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Resolution deferred for communities to review.</p>			

8	Support for a 5-Year Renewal Agreement of the Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program	Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
08-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the renewal of Aboriginal Skills Advancement (ASAP) for a 5-year period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025 by the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities, which could include non-Matawa members.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>No report provided.</p>			



Pictured above: Nibinamik First Nation Chief Sheldon Oskineegish in his regalia at the Neskantaga First Nation Pow Wow. Photo credit: Martine Laberge, CBC Radio.

9	Support for Matawa's Application to CEEA's Indigenous Capacity Support Program	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation
09-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa member First Nation Chiefs support Matawa First Nations Management in submitting an application to CEEA's Indigenous Capacity Support Program to focus on delivering capacity building and outreach on the new Impact Assessment process to all interested Matawa member First Nation communities, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this express support does not supersede, replace, or interfere with individual community applications to the same fund, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Matawa First Nation Management's application to this fund, and any community's access of the subsequent support services, does not constitute any form of consultation with a First Nation community on any given Impact Assessment process, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nation Chiefs Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) to enter into a Master Contribution Agreement and a Schedule(s) with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency; and • Designate the duly authorized signatory to be MFNM's Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of MFNM, for the purposes of signing the application for funding, the Master Contribution Agreement and the Schedule(s), or any documents required under the Master Contribution Agreement and the Schedule(s). <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Four Rivers developed and submitted one (1) regional support proposal to CEEA's (now IAAC) Indigenous Capacity Support Program as well as six (6) individual community proposals. Four Rivers also assisted with the development of two additional individual community proposals. On November 8, 2019 Matawa First Nations Management received notice that the regional support proposal was successful, with funding available until March 31, 2020. Clarification was provided at that time that IAAC only funded conglomerates at that time, but would still consider the individual community proposals if funding came available. Four Rivers did considerable work plan revisions and sought to fund priority projects as requested by communities or groups of projects. Funding was redirected to support the adhoc Kenogami Environmental Technical Table, community attendance at the Cumulative Effects Conference in Calgary and the National Climate Gathering hosted by the Assembly of First Nations in Whitehorse, and a fact-finding trip to Yellowknife to visit local First Nation communities. Participating communities in these initiatives included Eabametoong, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, Marten Falls, Constance Lake, Aroland, Long Lake #58 and Ginoogaming First Nations. With the onset of COVID-19, IAAC extended this funding until October, 2021. Four Rivers is currently developing a strategy on how remaining funds can be further used to support all communities to gain capacity in the IA process, especially under constraints associated with COVID-19.</p>			

10	Matawa First Nations Financial Management Support Strategy	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation
10-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct that the Matawa First Nations Management – Financial Advisory Department prepare a '<i>Matawa First Nations Financial Management Support Strategy</i>' for the consideration of the First Nation communities, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Matawa Financial Advisory Department report to the Matawa Chiefs Council on this item and progress updates.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Financial Advisory Department worked on a strategy that was developed in the form of a funding proposal. The funding proposal was developed with the assistance and feedback from Matawa internal departments and the Band Manager's Committee. In early December the Band Manager's Committee reconvened to review the draft strategy/proposal and in early January a final strategy/proposal was presented to the Matawa Chiefs Council. At this time Matawa Chiefs Council Resolution # 02 -08/01/20 was passed, which directed the Financial Advisory Department to begin seeking funders for the approved strategy/proposal. In January 2020 the strategy/proposal was submitted to both Indigenous Services Canada and the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs. Since this time the Covid-19 pandemic came upon us and this is believed to have stalled the funding process. Some follow up did take place in February and March with promises of looking within other government departments internally for funders but nothing was committed. The Financial Advisory Department will continue to follow-up with the governments.</p>			

11	Signing of Connect to Innovate Contribution Funding Agreement	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation
11-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct Matawa First Nations Management and the Board of Directors to sign the <i>Connect to Innovate</i> Funding Agreement for the Broadband Fibre Optic Project that will connect the Matawa remote First Nations.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa First Nations Management signed the official CTI contribution agreement on August 2, 2019.</p>			

12	Rapid Lynx Telecommunications Company Opportunity for Growth	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
12-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa First Nations Management and Rapid Lynx Telecommunications company to prepare options of including Aroland, Constance lake, Ginoogaming and Long Lake #58 in the Rapid Lynx Telecommunications company including expansion of community broadband infrastructure to fibre optics.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Canada delayed the first funding round of Canada’s Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) \$1.7 billion Universal Broadband Fund Program (UBF), originally planned for Spring, 2020, due to restrictions put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19. After hearing from people struggling to stay connected during the pandemic, the federal government believes that access to high-speed internet is an important part of Canada’s recovery from the effects of the pandemic.</p> <p>ISED Canada now plans to open the first of five funding rounds in July 2020. Ontario also plans to open the first funding round of its Improving Connectivity in Ontario Program (ICON) in July. These programs will provide grants for deployment of broadband network infrastructure that can support Internet service speeds of at least 50Mbps download and 10Mbps upload in rural, remote and underserved areas. The percentages of total project cost to be awarded by Canada and Ontario have not yet been announced (at the time of this report’s printing). Final program rules will be announced when the funding rounds open.</p> <p>MFNM’s project team obtained confirmation from Ontario MENDM that a grant award from its ICON Program may be used as a required contribution of matching funds for a grant award from ISED’s UBF Program. MFNM also learned that the previous “hexagon” model for mapping served and underserved areas of Canada is no longer being used because the previous maps depicted the availability of broadband service at the targeted speed within hexagon areas of 25 square kilometers. As a result, an entire hexagon could be classified as “served” if only one household in that hexagon had access to the target speed. The current maps are more precise.</p> <p>In 2019, MFNM began preparations for these opportunities to obtain funding for the Phase 2 expansion of the Rapid Lynx network:</p> <p>Engaged in consultations with the Chiefs/Council Members of Long Lake #58 and Constance Lake. (The late Chief Celia was unwell when representatives for MFNM last visited Ginoogaming, but she talked with them by phone from her home and agreed to provide a support letter for the grant application).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranged for high level engineering design to extend the Rapid Lynx long-haul network to the three communities from Aroland • Confirmed the 2018 community network design for Aroland; • Obtained high-level engineering designs for fiber-to-the-premise networks in Long Lake #58, Ginoogaming and Constance Lake. <p>Phase 2 high-level network design has been completed, and costs of detailed engineering, permitting, construction and inspection have been estimated. Cost estimates for site preparation and new prefabricated equipment shelters, transport and set-up in the four communities, including Aroland, are still in process and expected to be completed in July.</p>			

The electronics platform for the entire Rapid Lynx network is still under consideration, but MFNM has cost estimates for transport electronics and access equipment at the top tier of the price range for these components, which will allow for flexibility in the final selection.

In addition to the Phase 2 network, electronics and facilities costs, MFNM will include the cost of interconnection to the upstream Internet at Aroland in its grant request, either through Bell or other fiber alternatives. MFNM is currently engaged in discussions with other Ontario carriers to identify other fiber routes already existing or planned near Wunnumin and Aroland.

MFNM has also obtained high level engineering and a cost estimate to extend Rapid Lynx's own fiber from Aroland to Nakina, to interconnect with Bell there and obtain upstream connectivity to Toronto's Tier 1 global Internet Access Point at the Torix facility at 151 Front Street. While extending Rapid Lynx's own fiber to Nakina would be the highest cost option, it would offer more options for upstream connectivity and reduce operating costs for the long term.

When MFNM has completed its evaluation of all upstream connectivity options, it will be in the best position to decide on the route to the Internet and finalize costs for the grant application.

MFNM continues to be in the process of requesting information for the grant application from the four communities. To ensure that MFNM can be responsive to grant application requirements when final rules are announced, Rapid Lynx has asked that each community designate a single point of contact who will be available to provide any additional information about the community required during application development.

13	Matawa First Nations Board Representatives Reporting to Matawa AGMs	Chief Cornelius Wabasse,	Chief Chris Moonias,
13-01-08-19		Webequie First Nation	Neskantaga First Nation
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct that going forward the Matawa Annual General Meeting – Draft Agenda includes updates, presentations and reports from Matawa appointed Board Representatives, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a full-listing of Matawa appointed Board Representatives be created, maintained and distributed to Matawa First nations – including term renewal information and dates, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council will discuss the logistical, time, financial and duplication of reporting considerations required for the addition of this reporting process to the Matawa Annual General Meetings, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the Board Representative process be incorporated as part of the reporting of the Matawa Chiefs Council Office as required during the course of the year between Matawa Annual General Meetings.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A list of Board memberships has been prepared and Chiefs have discussed broader communications and accountability mechanisms with new appointees and the organization they are being appointed to. Organizations will be requested to participate during the Annual General Meeting.</p>			

14	Matawa First Nations Tribal Chair/Spokesperson	Chief Harvey Yesno,	Chief Rick Allen, Constance
14-01-08-19		Eabametoong First Nation	Lake First Nation
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Chiefs Council Office and Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) to reinitiate these discussions, development of updated options for consideration and implementation.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>An issues paper and job description prepared for the Chiefs in January 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic however has limited discussion on this issue.</p>			

15	Daycare/Headstarts in all 9 Matawa First Nation Communities	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
15-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) work with all Matawa First Nations to help them in their efforts to secure feasibility, capital and operating funding for daycare and/or headstart programs, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Matawa First Nations provide periodic reports to the Matawa Chiefs Council on the status of efforts to secure and maintain daycare or headstart in their First Nations.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>An assessment of childcare needs is required for all First Nations. Collective childcare needs of all First Nations has been brought to the Chiefs of Ontario Indigenous Social Services Council which is co-ordinating federal and provincial childcare funding. No additional funding other than on-going support of existing Childcare/Health Start programs has been identified.</p>			

16	Eagle's Earth Addictions Treatment & Wellness Centre	Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation
16-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa First Nations and its various entities and departments work with Constance Lake First Nation to provide additional technical services in its developmental process, so this project can be fully operational as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin Department continues to provide ongoing advocacy. Constance Lake received approval for funding from the Province and currently working on infrastructure upgrades to meet Provincial infrastructure standards.</p>			

17	Dawson Court Feasibility Study	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
17-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Health Co-operative to conduct a feasibility study on the Dawson Court Property and/or other housing initiatives for Matawa First Nations members, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Matawa Health Co-operative will report to the Matawa Chiefs Council with updates on this initiative when available.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A successful proposal for seed funding went to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to look at ownership and viability options for Matawa to acquire the Dawson Court Property. Through the effort of KKETS, Matawa Health Co-operative and Awashishewiigihiwaywiin (Matawa Social Services Framework), Matawa was able to purchase the building as a joint project to create the Matawa Training and Wellness Centre. Additional renovation funding is being sought and programs are expected to gradually move in starting in the autumn of 2020. Accommodations for KKETS students and emergency transition units for families with children are planned.</p>			

18	Community Electronic Medical Records (cEMR) Mustimuhw Information Sharing	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
18-01-08-19			
<i>Opposed: Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation</i>			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the development of an information sharing agreement with Matawa Health Co-operative and the Matawa First Nations, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that additional support be provided for training on the implementation of this information sharing agreement, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that funding be sought in order for communities to hire designated and certified health records staff to assist in community's information sharing agreement maintenance.</p> <p>UPDATE:</p> <p>Discussion are on-going within Matawa Health Co-operative to enable a common health record. Funding has been secured for a Health Records Technician, a person has been hired and policies are being developed. However, lack of broadband, training, capacity issues, technology (software, hardware, and in-operability between programs and sites) have hindered the development of this initiative. Work continue within the Matawa Health Co-operative on technological assessment and using different software. The COVID 19 Pandemic has hindered this project from fully implemented.</p>			

19	Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre Youth Housing Initiative	Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation	Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake #58 First Nation
19-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the Thunder bay Indigenous Friendship Centre in their efforts to build an Indigenous Youth Housing Initiative, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs request that updates on this initiative be provided when available.</p> <p>UPDATE:</p> <p>The support resolution forwarded to the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendships Centre and City of Thunder Bay. A recent judicial review supported the initial City of Thunder Bay zoning approval. Construction was slated to start in the Spring of 2020 but has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>			

20	Confirmation of Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) as an Eligible School	Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
20-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly affirm that the Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) is governed by a board whose representatives are appointed by the Chiefs and Councils who are members of the Matawa First Nations Management (a federally recognized tribal council), and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Matawa First Nations Chiefs in Assembly support the creation and implementation of Reverse Service Agreements between the Matawa Education and Care Centre and any school boards in Ontario, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education and Care Centre to provide annual reports to the Matawa First Nations Chiefs and education leadership on the development, implementation and success of these agreements.</p> <p>UPDATE:</p> <p>The MECC was granted eligibility under the new provincial legislation. The MECC has entered into agreements with the applicable provincial school boards for eligible students to receive funding. The MECC is currently waiting to receive funding from applicable school boards for up to 64 students who attend the MECC.</p>			

21	Education Transformation	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation
21-01-08-19	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct Matawa Education to access transition funding through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and to facilitate community-level discussions regarding the three options, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs in Assembly direct Matawa Education to provide information and facilitate training, including information and training available through ISC, the Chiefs of Ontario and Assembly of First Nations, to Matawa Education Directors so they can better advise their respective Chiefs and Councils on the three options, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs in Assembly direct Matawa Education to conduct research related to the three options, including a cost-benefit analysis for each options and the impact that a NAN Education Jurisdiction Agreement may have on Matawa regional initiatives as outlined in the Matawa Education strategic plan and the Matawa Education Department, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Matawa Education report to the Matawa First Nation Chiefs, leadership, and First Nation education directors on an on-going basis on the progress of this work.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>On October 25, 2019, Matawa First Nations Management, through its Education Department (Matawa Education) submitted a proposal to facilitate community-level discussions regarding Regional Education Agreements. Upon receipt of the submitted proposal, ISC responded that a letter of support or individual BCRs were needed for the proposal to be assessed.</p> <p>On November 7, 2019, the seven Matawa First Nations Chiefs present at a Matawa Chiefs in Assembly signed a letter of support for this proposal. Following the submission of this letter of support, ISC has questioned if Matawa Education will receive the support of the First Nations not signatory to the letter.</p> <p>If the REA proposal is funded, Matawa Education will begin the activities described in the proposal. Upon the completion of the draft REA, any participating Matawa First Nations can enter into a collective REA with Matawa Education Department providing all second-level services or the Matawa First Nations can use this draft REA to begin their own REA process with support from Matawa Education.</p> <p>Matawa Education has requested from NAN on several occasions for information related to each of the three options. NAN has yet to provide any information to us.</p> <p>Matawa Education has provided funding and facilitated opportunities for Matawa Education Directors to attend training regarding Education Transformation available through partner organizations (eg, AFN, COO, NAN).</p> <p>Matawa Education received its funding approval letter on December 10, 2019 for the proposal supported by Matawa First Nations Chiefs (presented on November 7, 2019).</p> <p>An information session was held on February 11, 2020 for applicable Matawa Chiefs, First Nations Band Councillors, and Education Directors. Information on current education funding and governance was presented by the consultant hired to assist in the REA process. Advice for the next steps was gained at this time.</p> <p>On March 10, 2020, Matawa Education held a Regional Education Strategic Planning session with various stakeholders from Matawa First Nations during the annual Matawa Education Conference. Information from this session will be used to guide our new strategic plan and can be used toward REA development.</p> <p>On March 11, 2020, Matawa Education held a REA engagement session during the annual Matawa Education Conference open to Matawa First Nations Chiefs, Band Councillors, Education Directors, and Education Authority Board of Directors members. Information regarding the Ontario public education funding model, the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), the Interim Funding Formula, and an overview of REAs and what they can look like was presented. A package containing all of this information was provided to those in attendance.</p>		

The consultants have provided Matawa Education with a draft funding model for developing a REA, a sample REA, and a presentation in preparation for community visits in the next phase of the REA process.

On May 28, 2020, Matawa Education provided a briefing note containing the above information during a Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council Meeting. By June 15, Matawa Education held individual meetings with Aroland First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation leadership to answer any questions they had regarding REAs and Matawa Education's REA process. Other Matawa First Nations had the option of having similar meetings, but these had not taken place by the time of this update being submitted for preparation of the AGM Report.

On June 15, 2020, Matawa Education submitted a proposal to continue sharing information about REAs with applicable Matawa communities through scheduling three engagement sessions in each community by March 31, 2021, pending a timely release of funding. During these engagement sessions further information regarding the options will be available for discussion.

22	Funding Under Jordan's Principle	Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
22-01-08-19			
<i>Abstentions: Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation</i>			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the funding proposal to First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) for funding under Jordan's Principle, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs in Assembly direct Matawa Education to work with FNIHB and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to ensure that adequate, sustainable and stable funding to meet the special needs of Matawa First Nations students attending MECC can be provided on an on-going basis, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Matawa Education report to the Matawa First Nations Chiefs and leadership on an on-going basis on the progress of this work.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>On May 22, 2019, Matawa Education submitted a proposal for funding under Jordan's Principle (JP) requesting funding for Special Education programming and services. The funding ask of the proposal was \$939,621.00 and included hiring a Special Education Coordinator, three Special Education Resource Teachers, six Special Education Classroom Assistants, and resources for the Special Education Program (SEP). On September 3, 2019, Matawa Education received an email approving funding in the full amount. To date, Matawa Education has been able to hire a Special Education Coordinator, two Special Education Resource Teachers, one Special Education Classroom Assistant, and purchased various resources to support students in the SEP.</p> <p>A second proposal was submitted to JP in the amount of \$699,600.00 on July 15, 2019 for academic support services which had previously been funded through the Ontario Ministry of Education. This proposal was denied funding on September 3, 2019. Matawa Education followed the appeal process and submitted an appeal on October 18, 2019. No response has been provided to date.</p> <p>Funding proposals continue to be on a yearly basis, JP has indicated that funding might be moved to three year cycles in the near future. Matawa Education continues to advocate for the need for adequate, sustainable and stable funding.</p> <p>Matawa Education submitted an updated proposal Special Education funding for the 2020-21 school in February, but have not yet received any news about approval. Numerous attempts have been made to Jordan's Principle for a formal response regarding the status of the proposal.</p>			

23	Funding for Inquest Initiatives	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake First Nation	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation
23-01-08-19			

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs in Assembly direct MFNM to work with the Governments of Canada and Ontario to provide funding for the Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) to provide the staff, student supports and resources required to effectively and fully implement the recommendations related to MECC and its students, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs in Assembly direct MFNM to work with the Governments of Canada and Ontario to provide additional funding for Matawa Education to provide second level services and supervision, including special education services and supports, to support the effective implementation of inquest recommendations that are relevant to Matawa First Nations schools and students, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs in Assembly direct MFNM to work with the Governments of Canada and Ontario to provide additional funding for Inquest Coordinators for MFNM and for each of the Matawa member First Nations to ensure that Inquest initiatives can be successfully implemented at the community and regional levels, and to ensure that administrative and reporting requirements can be met in a timely and efficient manner, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs in Assembly direct MFNM to work with the Governments of Canada and Ontario to ensure funding for Inquest initiatives is sufficient, ongoing and secure, with accommodations to meet any increased costs and/or needs related to these initiatives, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs in Assembly direct MFNM to work with the Governments of Canada and Ontario to ensure all Inquest funding is provided through a consolidated Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA), and;

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the MFNM report to the Matawa First Nations Chiefs and leadership on an on-going basis on the progress of this work.

UPDATE:

See Update for Resolution #22 for progress on funding for Matawa Education to provide second level services and supervision.

Matawa Education continues to advocate for funding for both MECC and community-based Inquest recommendations. While progress has been made for funding for MECC students and programs, little progress has been made to address community-based recommendations. All levels of government have yet to provide a plan to address community-based recommendations as well as identify a specific funding source for these recommendations.

Task Teams have been set up with all Inquest partners to examine options and provide guidance to applicable government partners to address community-based recommendations. These Task Teams will meet throughout this school year to provide technical support and guidance to best address funding stability and predictability (ie, through the creation of a consolidated TPA). These will include items such as funding for second level services, Inquest Coordinators, implementation of community-based recommendations, etc.

Many activities and processes that may have resulted in funding for Inquest Initiatives have been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Stable, reliable and predictable funding has yet to be provided by government partners for the Matawa Education and Care Centre as well as Matawa communities. Matawa Education continues to advocate for both MECC and community based Inquest recommendations.

24	Additional Financial and Technical/Trades Resources for Nibi Services	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation	Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
24-01-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support Nibi Services to secure additional resources (financial and technical/trades support, development of trades people for employment) that are necessary to ensure safety and clean drinking water for all the First Nations and their members.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The proposal was revised and submitted to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) with the resolution. ISC has not responded and Matawa Technical Services will follow up. Matawa Technical Services will also be inquiring if ISC will be extending the Nibi services program beyond March 31, 2021.</p>			

2019/2020 Chiefs Meetings

AUGUST 15, 2019 - MATAWA OFFICE - THUNDER BAY

25	Rescinding of Matawa Chiefs Council Resolution #01-13/12/2018	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
01-15-08-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) will continue the work outlined on the following section of the rescinded resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The restructuring process will look at how other Matawa corporations will be working under the MFNM 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 consolidations of legal, accounting, and other services, and; <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the MFNM will report to the Matawa Chiefs Council on the continuing work.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Resolution passed and forwarded on to KKETS. Joint training with the Matawa Board of Directors and the Directors of KKETS happened. KKETS Board reconstituted and has been working on future training opportunities for members.</p>			

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NOVEMBER 7, 2019 - MATAWA OFFICE - THUNDER BAY

26	First Nations Participation in REA Technical Tables/Negotiations in 2019-20	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
01-07-11-19			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED we hereby agree to authorize Matawa First Nations Management to represent our First Nations for the purpose of potentially entering into Regional Education Agreement discussions for the purposes of the Ontario Region REA process in 2019-20, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED we authorize Indigenous Services Canada to share our elementary and secondary education financial information and nominal roll data directly with the technical table representatives for the purpose of discussion and analysis and potentially working towards a Regional Education Agreement. We are aware that in the context of a technical table, our financial and nominal roll data may also be shared with a broader audience, which may include consultants, facilitators etc., for the purpose of the technical table; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED we acknowledge that the Regional Education Agreement will address four main topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive funding arrangements, covering all federal support for First Nation elementary and secondary education; 2. Clear and defined roles and responsibilities of First Nation and First Nation education organizations, including applicable service standards; 3. Mutual accountabilities mechanism(s), with clear objectives, performance indicators and reporting expectations for both the Government of Canada and First Nation education system participants; and 4. Responsibilities for working with provincial education systems to manage the costs associated with on-reserve students who attend provincial schools and for reporting from provincial school divisions to First Nations and the Government of Canada; and <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the work of the technical table involves gathering and reviewing financial and human resources information at the band level. This may include, but is not exclusive to, current funding of the education budgets, band-operated school budgets, O&M, capital, school transportation, square footage, number of years the school has been built, demographic data and staffing information, etc.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>This resolution was passed by means of a letter of support required by ISC for Matawa Education's 2019-20 REA proposal as presented to the Matawa Chiefs on November 7, 2019. The REA process undertaken by Matawa Education has not reached the point of a technical table being needed. This is expected to take place following adequate community consultation which will begin as early as July 2020 pending funding approval, and as allowed by COVID-19 safety restrictions.</p>			

Land Culture Language Unity Future Cooperation Development Sustainability Peoples of the Land

JANUARY 8 & 9, 2020 - MATAWA OFFICE - THUNDER BAY

27	Support for the Matawa Learning Institute	Chief Bruce	Chief Harvey Yesno,
01-08-01-20		Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Eabametoong First Nation
<i>Abstentions: Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation</i>			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly support the establishment of the Matawa Learning Institute, within the Matawa Education Department, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department, Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS), Matawa Health Co-operative, Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin, Four Rivers, Matawa Technical Services, and other Matawa First Nation Management departments/entities to identify post-secondary education and training needs of Matawa citizens and First Nations, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to develop the necessary administrative and academic frameworks for the Matawa Learning Institute, including accreditation with the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium, to provide accredited programs and related services that will meet the unique needs of Matawa citizens and First Nations by offering courses, whenever possible, that are taught in Matawa's traditional languages and that incorporate our traditional knowledge and ways of learning and at a community level, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the MFNM provide annual reports to the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly on activities related to the Matawa Learning Institute, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this initiative will not negatively impact and/or take funding away from community-based initiatives.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>in January 2020, the Matawa Chiefs passed a resolution for the Matawa Education Department to apply for standing as a post secondary institute with the Indigenous Advanced Education Skills Council (IAESC). This process is an eighteen month long process, with the COVID pandemic this work has been put on hold for the time being and will push back the application time to most likely a two year waiting period.</p>			

28	Matawa Chiefs Council Support for the Three (3) Year Matawa Financial Advisory Services Strategy & Proposal	Chief Rick Allen,	Chief Chris Moonias,
02-08-01-20		Constance Lake First Nation	Neskantaga First Nation
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council approve the three (3) year Matawa First Nations Management Financial Advisory Services Strategy & Proposal as presented, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct that financial supports be secured for the implementation of this workplan and proposal.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Financial Advisory Department worked on a strategy that was developed in the form of a funding proposal. The funding proposal was developed with the assistance and feedback from Matawa internal departments and the Band Manager's Committee. In early December the Band Manager's Committee reconvened to review the draft strategy/proposal and in early January a final strategy/proposal was presented to the Matawa Chiefs Council. At this time Matawa Chiefs Council Resolution # 02 -08/01/20 was passed, which directed the Financial Advisory Department to begin seeking funders for the approved strategy/proposal. In January 2020 the strategy/proposal was submitted to both Indigenous Services Canada and the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs. Since this time the Covid-19 pandemic came upon us and this is believed to have stalled the funding process. Some follow up did take place in February and March with promises of looking within other government departments internally for funders but nothing was committed. The Financial Advisory Department will continue to follow-up with the governments.</p>			

APRIL 9, 2020 - TELECONFERENCE

31	Personal Protective Equipment Procurement	Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation	Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation
01-09-04-20			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Matawa member First Nations in its common vision, hereby fully support and enact a Matawa-wide EMERGENCY COVID19 RESPONSE – ACTIONING A COMMUNITY CARE, URGENT HEALTH AND SAFETY SUPPLIES PROCUREMENT PLAN as developed by LongNorth Capital Group; and</p>			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we, the Matawa member First Nations, authorize Long North Capital Group to immediately implement this procurement plan that will see the following PPE equipment and supplies secured for the specific benefit and use of all Matawa member First Nations:</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Disposable Surgical Mask (3-ply) medical grade masks; b) KN95 Masks (N95 Standard); c) Medical gloves (S, M, L, XL); d) Medical gowns, shoe covers, caps, coveralls; e) Face shields; f) Goggles; g) Thermometers; h) Hand Sanitizer (bottled, bottled with pump tops 1000ml,500ml, 100ml); i) Disinfectant cleaning products (wipes, spray, liquids); j) Covid19 Igk/IgM Rapid Test Kits, Spartan Kits, etc. and, k) Modular/Temporary emergency quarantine structures. 			
<p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the purchase of this PPE will be part of the funding as set out by the federal and provincial governments to cover the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>			
<p>UPDATE:</p>			
<p>Resolution forwarded to Indigenous Services Canada for support and Chief Rick Allen has sought to raise this issue with them. The providers however have requested up-front funding and due to other agreements with the federal government, continues to work through their procurement process. Matawa Health Co-operative, through other funding, has forwarded some PPE to First Nations.</p>			

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MAY 28, 2020 - TELECONFERENCE

32	Additional Support for Off and On-reserve Funding Application during COVID-19 Pandemic	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
01-28-05-20	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Indigenous Services (DISC) financially reimburse individual First Nations, and Matawa First Nations Management, who have supported their off-reserve membership through their First Nations contribution agreement; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nation Chiefs support funding for off-reserve members through individual community proposals and the Matawa First Nations Management Proposal; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that DISC provide additional funding to First Nations so they can recoup losses sustained by the COVID-19 planning and implementation of precautionary measures to protect their citizens.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>With respect to this new \$75 million in funding called the Indigenous Community Support Fund for Urban and Off-Reserve Indigenous Organizations and Communities 2020-2021 Call for Proposals, Matawa First Nations Management was informed on June 29, 2020 that were approved for a total amount of up to \$225,000 which was approximately 7% of the funding requested.</p> <p>There were no further details on the amount and what it was for but, DISC did indicate that the funding can only be used to support First Nations off-reserve and/or Indigenous Peoples in urban areas who were not eligible for funding under the distinctions-based streams of the Indigenous Community Support Fund. They did not provide a response to the request that First Nations be provided additional funding so they can recoup losses sustained by the COVID-19 planning and implementation of precautionary measures to protect their citizens.</p>		

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JUNE 26, 2020 - TELECONFERENCE

33	Support for the Matawa Emergency Education Response Plan	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 First Nation
01-26-06-20			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly support the COVID-19 Emergency Education Response Plan, as presented at the NAN Special Assembly on Education, which directs special emergency education funding consideration from the federal government; and</p> <p>FURTHER. BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate Matawa First Nations Management to advocate for additional education-specific funding for all Matawa Education Authorities, schools and education organizations in order to implement the COVID-19 Emergency Education Response Plan; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to develop a strategy for the implementation of the COVID-19 Emergency Education Response Plan in the 2020-2021 school year; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that federal and provincial funding be extend to our First Nations to include equitable funding for capital upgrades, equipment, supplies, land-based programs, distance education, and connectivity to make our schools safe for students during the COVID-19 Pandemic; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to provide regular updates to the Matawa Chiefs, Education Authorities, schools and education organizations on the implementation of the COVID-19 Emergency Education Response Plan.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>On July 1, 2020, a media release was issued entitled “Matawa First Nations Sound the Alarm on the Lack of 2020/2021 Supplementary Funding to Make Schools Safe in the COVID-19 Global Pandemic.’ This started the advocacy process. Working with Education Authorities, Matawa’s Emergency COVID-19 Education Response Plan will be ready by July 20, 2020, it will include (but will not be limited to) a 2020/2021 plan and costing for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgraded bandwidth where needed so that teachers and students can access online resources • additional costs for safe facilities (PPE supplies, cleaning, heating – including the logistics of delivering and operating in fly-in remote communities) • additional capital costs that will be incurred to upgrade school facilities (such as retro-fitting washrooms with touchless-handwashing and automatic-flushing, etc.), teacher accommodations (especially where accommodations are shared) and office facilities in the schools and Education Authority offices in order to accommodate physical distancing measures • additional transportation where schools implement staggered attendance to reduce the number of students in the classrooms • additional student supervision and monitoring • curriculum modification (including land-based learning, home-based instruction, safe classroom teaching methodology, remote program delivery) • on-site medical 			

JULY 8, 2020 - TELECONFERENCE

34	Analysis of Injuries, Chronic Disease, Mental Health and Addictions Trends Among Matawa First Nations	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 First Nation
01-08-07-20			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs support and endorse band members of the nine Matawa communities to be included in the analysis and dissemination plans proposed by Mamow Ahyamowen; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that this agreement with Mamow Ahyamowen (and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences) will be based on mutual trust, respect, cultural sensitivity, and consideration and recognition of each organization’s responsibilities, priorities and capacities; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations Chiefs recognize and support the inclusion of Matawa-specific population data in the aforementioned analyses and dissemination plan.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Not available at the time of printing.</p>			

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