



CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 32nd Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Thunder Bay, Ontario to be effective from and after 1:00pm Eastern Standard time on September 11, 2020

RESOLUTION #06-11-09-2020

MATAWA HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

WHEREAS the number of Matawa members coming to urban areas are increasing and a growing number of them find themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS the issues many of these members bring with them are complex and require support in the areas of mental health, addictions, racism, historic trauma, abuse, etc.; and

WHEREAS issues of affordability, racism, safety and inaccessibility make housing difficult for community members to secure; and

WHEREAS there is a need to track information and the unique needs of different Matawa members groups (i.e.: Elders, Youth, Families, Disabled, etc.) on their housing needs in urban areas; and

WHEREAS there is a need to secure housing for Matawa members as a means of safety, inclusion, and health to avoid encounters with the law, child welfare and/or putting them at risk of crime or victimization; and

WHEREAS there are a number of components and departments of the Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) working on homelessness issues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the development of a Homelessness Strategy for Matawa members that would include a long-term vision for all Matawa members; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this strategy would be guided by a Task Force to assist in its development that could consist of community members, urban members and Matawa First Nations Management managers; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Task Force would look at the following:

- Numbers of Matawa Homelessness or at risk of Homelessness
- Needs of Matawa Members Groups - i.e.: Elders, Youth, Families, those leaving Corrections, Disabilities, etc.





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- Support services required to assist Matawa Members (i.e.: Navigators, Mental Health, Addiction, Life skills, Employment, etc.)
- Capital and financing requirements for various types of housing in both the short and long term,
- Linkages between members and their First Nations
- Liaison with other service agencies
- Co-ordination and integration of the various Matawa Housing Program into the Homelessness Strategy
- Land-based activities, program and supports development
- Review any previous studies or reports conducted by organizations such as Nishnawbe Aski Nation, etc.
- Other issues that may arise.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Task Force seek funding from various sources to assisting in their needs and on-going housing needs of Matawa members; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Task Force present the Matawa Homelessness Strategy to the next Matawa First Nations Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2021.

MOVED BY: Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake # 58 First Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation

OPPOSED: None.
ABSENTIONS: None.
CARRIED: Consensus (8)



 Chief Executive Officer

QMS #: COM TEM 008
 ISSUE DATE: July 2, 2014

DEPT: Communications
 REVISION # / DATE: _____ / _____

APPROVED BY: COM MGR

