



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 #08-11-09-2020

MATAWA WHOLISTIC MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS STRATEGY

WHEREAS the initial engagement on the Matawa Health Co-operative identified mental health, addictions and suicide prevention (Intentional and Unintentional Injuries) as one of the top health concerns of Matawa First Nations community members, and especially for the youth; and

WHEREAS the rates of death due to intentional and unintentional injuries is 4.6 times higher in the Matawa First Nations compared to the rest of Ontario as identified in the *Mamow-Ahyamowen Partnership – Learning from our Ancestors: Mortality Experience of Communities Served by Matawa First Nations*; and

WHEREAS the Matawa Chiefs Council have repeatedly identified that mental health and addictions supports are required to reduce the high rates of suicide, especially for the youth; and

WHEREAS there is high link between mental health issues and those who have had encounters with law enforcement, child welfare and crime; and

WHEREAS the mental health needs are complex and will require a variety of supports in the area of housing, life-skills, cultural, linguistic and clinical supports, employment etc.; and

WHEREAS there is a need to increase capacity building and education of health care providers in the different needs of mental health.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the development of a Matawa Wholistic Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, which would include education, training, prevention, management, aftercare, and tracking; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed strategy would work with First Nations in supporting their various community initiatives and to links with existing programs/staff/schools including a review of replacement therapy practices; and





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FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed strategy would also including capital for on-going housing (land based, treatment, transitional, etc.) and other accommodations measures at both the community and regional level; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council support the application to various funders but not limited to Jordan's Principle, Indian Residential School Funding, Indigenous Services Canada, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for capital, travel, equipment and staffing (psychometrist/phycologist, outreach worker, child/parenting coach, case-manager, speech/language pathologists/therapists, case manager, art therapist, addictions workers, trainers) for the Matawa Health Co-operative to support children and youth at the community level; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Wholistic Mental Health and Addictions Strategy applications will not conflict with community Mental Health initiatives already funded at the community level.

MOVED BY: Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation

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



Chief Executive Officer

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REVISION # / DATE: _____ / _____

APPROVED BY: COM MGR

