



August 12, 2021

## **RE: Matawa Health Co-operative Introduction to Health Partners**

I am writing to introduce the Matawa Health Co-operative (MHC) which is an innovative strategy to complement health care services for the Indigenous communities of Matawa First Nations. MHC was incorporated in 2017 and is owned and controlled by Matawa First Nations, which are comprised of nine (9) communities including 4 road access communities - Aroland, Long Lake #58, Ginoogaming, Constance Lake First Nation, and 5 remote communities – Marten Falls, Nibinamik, Neskantaga, Webequie and Eabametoong First Nation.

The MHC is an interprofessional primary healthcare team providing health care for the Matawa community integrating both traditional healing and medicine. The MHC Team adds culturally sensitive practices to enhance existing health services and primary care for our Matawa community members.

Under the direction of the Matawa Health Co-operative Board of Directors, formerly the First Nation Health Directors, MHC is a community-driven organization offering services tailored to individual community's needs. The MHC healthcare team is led by the Executive Director, Director of Nursing and Clinical Services, 12 nurses (three certified diabetes educators, three community health nurses, one foot care nurse specialist, four public health nurses, and one registered practical nurse), a food and nutrition dietitian, a health promotion worker, three physicians, a nurse practitioner, a director of mental health, two mental health counsellors, a mental health nurse and a small group of support staff to support all factions of the co-operative.

We are looking forward to this collaboration to provide health services to our Matawa communities and its members. Our goal is to work with all partners to offer optimal patient care that incorporates the Indigenous values.

Attached is a referral form for individuals who may benefit from our services. Please share if you have an opportunity. If you have any further questions about our services, please don't hesitate to contact me at (807) 344-4575.

Miigwich,  
**MATAWA HEALTH CO-OPERATIVE**

Frances Wesley,  
Executive Director



- CIRCLE OF BELONGING -