



CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 33rd Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Thunder Bay, Ontario to be effective from and after 1:00pm Eastern Standard time on September 16, 2021.

RESOLUTION #05-16-09-2021

MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL REJECT NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION APPROACH ON DELIVERY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN NAN-WIDE ICP STARLINK PROJECT

WHEREAS in 2019 Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS) through their partnership with DISCOVERY HOUSE initiated a STARLINK broadband upgrade project securing 800 Starlink Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite units from SpaceX to provide improved internet access for commercial, institutional and residential users in the Matawa First Nations; and

WHEREAS KKETS spent over 2 years preparing for this project including putting in the human resources to complete training on the installation/application/configuration of IT upgrades necessary to support the security/privacy requirements, and had deployment plans in place; and

WHEREAS First Nations who were left out of the 2013 Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and Bell Alliant initiative, who have been relying on outdated and dysfunctional satellite/microwave telecommunication systems—particularly Nibinamik, Webequie, Neskantaga, Eabametoong and Marten Falls First Nations—were looking forward to the installation of these units as they *had not been receiving the benefit of any internet, unlike the 43 First Nations in NAN* who received high-speed internet as a result of the NAN/Bell Alliant project; and

WHEREAS prior to the public announcement on August 11, 2021, a NAN Infrastructure Advisor, under the direction of the NAN Infrastructure & Housing Director and leadership of former Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, advised KKETS that NAN also initiated the expansion of broadband services to communities through STARLINK and were initiating a TPA to install 2128 LEO satellite units in student homes across NAN territory under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and this was surprise to KKETS; and

WHEREAS NAN had indicated that NAN Resolution 20/11 entitled ‘*Support for Broadband Upgrades COVID-19 Global Pandemic,*’ provided the mandate to supercede KKETS’ previous work on this project, despite there being no reference to DISCOVERY HOUSE or STARLINK in the resolution; and

WHEREAS it was determined that the involvement of NAN has resulted in the undermining and delay in the deployment of the KKETS project by a minimum of 6 weeks, disappointing the youth and members of communities pre-determined to receive the (LEO) satellite units; and





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WHEREAS it is unacceptable to the Matawa Chiefs, that the NAN Infrastructure Advisor and NAN Infrastructure & Housing Director under the direction of the former NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and current Grand Chief Derek Fox neglected to offer the courtesy of advising the Matawa Chiefs of their work with DISCOVERY HOUSE until shortly before a public announcement; and

WHEREAS NAN is a political advocacy organization that is mandated to advocate, protect and promote the political, treaty, governance, social and economic interests of its member first nations and not deliver programs and services in the same fashion/natures as Tribal Councils and affiliated organizations like KKETS.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council have not directed or delegated any decision-making authority, spokesperson or negotiations functions to NAN and demand that, in the future, that prior to any decisions being made, full, prior and informed consent be sought from the Matawa First Nations; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa member First Nations and duly elected Matawa First Nations retain all authority in representing the interests of our People and our respective Communities; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council do not support the NAN-Wide ICIP Internet Connectivity and IT Implementation Support project but have no alternative but to participate under duress.

MOVED BY: Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation

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



Chief Executive Officer

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APPROVED BY: COM MGR

