



2020 / 2021

Chiefs Council Report

Prepared for the Matawa 33rd Annual General Meeting





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MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

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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.



The Matawa Chiefs Council passed 18 Resolutions in total in 2020/2021. This is down from 34 Resolutions the year before.

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 Wayne Moonias
Neskantaga First Nation



Chief Ramona Sutherland
Constance Lake First Nation



Chief Judy Desmoulin
Long Lake #58 First Nation



Chief Sheldon Oskineegish
Nibinamik First Nation



Chief Solomon Atlookan
Eabametoong First Nation



Chief Bruce Achneepineskum
Marten Falls First Nation



Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie First Nation

Note: Chief Wayne Moonias of Neskantaga First Nation (replacing former Chief Chris Moonias), Chief Ramona Sutherland of Constance Lake First Nation (replacing former Chief Rick Allen), and Chief Solomon Atlookan of Eabametoong First Nation (replacing former Chief Harvey Yesno) joined the Matawa Chiefs Council this year (elections took place in Neskantaga First Nation on March 12, 2021, Eabametoong First Nation on June 23, 2021 and Constance Lake First Nation on June 26, 2021).



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 and its subsidiary corporations
- To liaise with external organizations to support Matawa First Nation Chiefs, members and community aspirations

CHIEFS COUNCIL OFFICE KEY PRIORITY AREAS:

Promote Health and Social Needs of Communities

- Worked with the Matawa Health Co-operative to meet unmet health needs in the First Nations. This became much more prominent with the COVID-19 Pandemic specifically with regards to the need 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 cleaner drinking water in all Matawa First Nations and to support the Matawa Water Hub (Niibii Services) program

Promote Education and Training of First Nation Members

- Supported Matawa Education Department and the Matawa Education Care Centre on addressing education needs and safety caused by COVID-19
- Supported the Matawa Education Department on Regional Education Agreements and the Matawa Waka Tare Language Revitalization Initiative
- Worked with the KIIKENOMAGA KIKENJIGEWEN Employment & Training Services (KKETS) Board of Directors to empower them in decision making.
- Supported KKETS in their apprenticeship program, the Discovery House Housing Initiative and better access to programs through the Starlink tele-communications system.

Promote Safe Communities

- Supported the Matawa Homeless Initiative, the needs of off-reserve members and food security to all Matawa members through traditional foods
- 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 members and to appoint new board members to these organizations.

Support Regional Economic Development

- Supported the development of the Matawa Regional Economic Development Corporation
- Supported Four Rivers Environment on community education on Regional Impact Assessment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Education

- Additional capital funding for First Nations schools and the Matawa Education and Care Centre

Economic Development

- Establishment of Matawa Regional Economic Development Corporation with initial Board of Directors

Health

- Promotion of early vaccinations with ORNGE and the Matawa Health Co-operative for community members.
- Supported healthy communities in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Secured additional public health nursing staff for First Nations

Infrastructure

- Improved water systems in some First Nations and Matawa Water Hub Program
- Installation of the Starlink dishes for improved broadband access as interim communications solution.
- Continuation of construction of the Rapid Lynx high speed broadband cable Initiative for long term tele-communication access.

Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction

- Recognition by provincial and federal government on the difficulty in pursuing various provincial and federal resource legislation during a pandemic



CHALLENGES:

COVID-19 Global Pandemic

- COVID-19 has affected First Nations profoundly. There has not been one area of life and decision which has not been affected by COVID-19. The pandemic has shown strengths in our First Nations but also weakness - housing, physical and mental health services, water, law enforcement, tele-communications infrastructure etc. It has also opened up new routes of communications and a willingness by federal and provincial governments to involve First Nations. Continuing the momentum, building on community strengths and lessons learned will be an important factor in going forward.

Capacity Building on Complex Items

- Larger initiatives in the area of environmental, economic development, health, social services and education governance takes time to develop and involved community members. Regional needs and building up communities is a fine balance which requires much more financial, human and technical resources to build a vision and how everything works together.

Communications

- Communications during the pandemic were very difficult due to the lack of broadband and specialized staff at the First Nations level. Community staff are focused on safety and life-saving measures during the pandemic in a way that supports safe distancing and other community protocols.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Potential economic development changes in the Ring of Fire, Greenstone and other resource areas which could benefit First Nations
- Governance models in the areas of economic development, environment, social services, health and education.
- Increased capacity building and employment for First Nations members.





2020/2021

RESOLUTION UPDATES

Photo Credit: Darian Ferris, Constance Lake First Nation



32nd Annual General Meeting

September 9 - 11, 2021 - Thunder Bay, Ontario

1	Acceptance of the 32nd Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly Agenda	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
01-10-09- 2020	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council of the 32nd Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly accept the agenda as presented.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p>		

2	CALL FOR EXTENSION OF THE MATAWA HUB (NIBI SERVICES)	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake FN	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong FN
02-11-02- 2020	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council are requesting Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) provide formal confirmation of a multi-year extension of the Matawa Hub (NIBI Services) to continue to provide its essential service oversight to Matawa member First Nations in regards to the operations of their water and waste water facilities.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>On-going lobbying of ISC for this program have been happening; the value of this services is being exhibited through the work on the water crisis in various Matawa First Nations, especially Neskantaga First Nation. The program has been extended 5 years receiving from \$625,000 annually to \$900,000 annually.</p>		

3	Direction for KIKENJIGEWEN KIKENJIGEWEN Employment and Training Services to Register as a Private School	TABLED	
09-11-03- 2020	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chief Council fully support KKETS to form a Private School to allow for KKETS and Matawa to grant accredited and certified education, apprenticeships, training and employment programs.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>KKETS is not putting this issue forward at this time. Another resolution to rescind this one will be introduced at the 2021 Annual General Assembly.</p>		

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

4	Support for the <i>Matawa Waka</i> Language Program	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
04-11-09-2020	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council continue to identify the renewal and revitalization of our languages as a priority for our communities; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council mandate Matawa Education to continue to work with two current Indigenous Language Revitalization Specialist from New Zealand in the development and implementation of the Matawa Waka Tere program, including accreditation;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council mandate Matawa Education to assist in facilitating the extension of the work visas of the two current indigenous Language Revitalization Specialist from New Zealand for the remainder of the project</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council mandate Matawa Education to continue to seek funding for the Matawa Waka Tara program through the Aboriginal Language Initiatives (ALI) or the NIB Trust Fund (NIBTF), as well as funding sources; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs direct the Matawa Education Department to provide regular updates to the Matawa Chiefs Council on the Matawa Waka Tere program.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Education has completed the process of extending the work visas of the two Indigenous Language Revitalization Specialists from New Zealand. The work permits have been extended to April 15, 2023, and the New Zealand Indigenous Language Revitalization Specialists are seeking Permanent Residency which will allow them to work with Matawa Education indefinitely.</p> <p>Matawa Education has continued to seek funding for the Matawa Waka Tere program through identified funding programs. Despite submitting an application for Indigenous Languages Initiative (ILC – formerly known as ALI) funding on February 22, 2021, Matawa Education is still awaiting a decision, and in May 2021, provided the Matawa Chiefs with a briefing note and presentation by Sharon Nate, Executive Director outlining issues we have faced with funding for language revitalization.</p> <p>Year 1 of the Matawa Waka Tere program is complete for the Ojibwe and Oji-Cree languages. The Cree module was nearly completed before the passing of the Cree Language Specialist Suzan Sandau in February 2021 and is currently on hold. Year 2 Curriculum and programming is being developed for the Ojibwe and Oji-Cree languages. The language team plans to consult with language speakers from Matawa communities to seek input into the curriculum during the months of June and July. It is anticipated that the Year 1 program will be delivered in applicable Matawa communities beginning in October pending funding and challenges related to accreditation being mitigated.</p>		

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

5	Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department 2009-2020 Report and Next Steps	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong FN	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake FN
05-11-09- 2020			

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department continue with the work of research and collaboration required with other Matawa departments including Financial Advisory Services, Education, Health, Social Services, and Matawa organizations such as Four Rivers Environmental Services and the Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional & Jurisdiction Department must include in its work going forward specific considering related to the following items identified by communities:

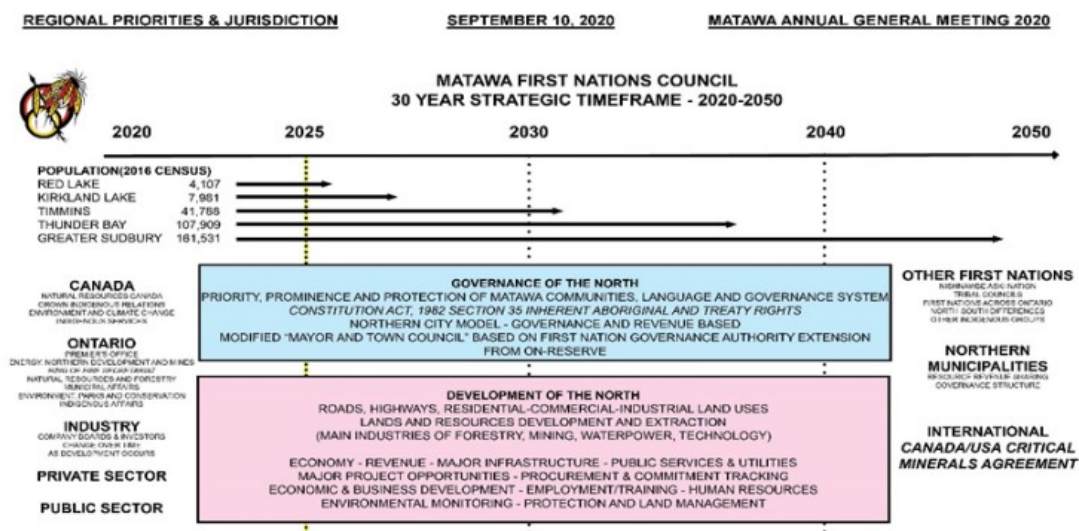
1. Economics – Financial Strategy
2. Youth Strategy

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department continue with the activities as presented and prepare materials for the Matawa Chiefs Council reviewed and direction.

UPDATE:

The Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction (RP&J) Department continue the work of research and collaboration with other Matawa Departments and Matawa Corporations. As directed, the Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department have implemented and are taking specific consideration to items identified by communities to prepare a report for the Matawa Chiefs Council consideration at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Reporting and Information Collaboration - Since the 2020 Matawa AGM, the RP&J Department has compiled the briefing notes and materials since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic into a binder for each Chief and Council for community review and information. The RP&J Department has also continued monitoring government, industry and issues emerging across Canada since the last in-person meeting of the Matawa Chiefs Council and will be providing a further update via briefing notes shortly on major issues identified by the Chiefs.



6	Matawa Homelessness Strategy	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
06-11-09- 2020			

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

THEREFORE, 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;

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

- Number of Matawa Homelessness or at risk of Homelessness
- Needs of Matawa Members Groups – i.e.: Elders, Youth, Families, those leaving Corrections, Disabilities, etc.
- Support services required to assist Matawa Members (i.e.: Navigators, Mental Health, Addiction, Life skill, Employment, etc.)
- Capital and financing requirements for various types of housing in both the short and long term,
- Linkages between members and their First Nation
- Liaison with other service agencies
- Co-ordination and integration of the various Matawa Housing Program into the Homelessness Strategy
- Land-based activities, program and support development
- Review any previous studies or reports conducted by organization 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.

UPDATE:

Due to COVID-19 and a number of crises that have taken place throughout the global pandemic, the Matawa Task Force on Homelessness was not struck until May 2021. In that time, the Task Force met on a regular basis to familiarize themselves with the homeless-serving sector in Thunder Bay and to determine where gaps and overlaps might exist (a presentation with respect to a framework for a strategy is to be presented under separate cover). One of the recommendations will be to have better participation in Thunder Bay's next Point in Time (PiT) homelessness count.

On June 10, 2021, the Task Force submitted a Concept Paper to Service Canada's 'Reaching Home – Community Capacity and Innovation Funding' for a 3-year project to look at a more rights-based approach to homelessness in the city of Thunder Bay and to potentially secure a Housing Policy Analyst who would be able to look at other models where Indigenous organizations are servicing their own homelessness populations in other cities throughout the country. A response is anticipated back prior to the Matawa 2021 AGM (an updated report will also be provided). A funding proposal was also submitted on June 28, 2021 to: Community the Community Entity of the Community Advisory Board (which in Thunder Bay, is the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre) for a Housing Navigator who can address shorter-term immediate needs of those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Some limited funding has also been secured from governments for COVID-19 support of the homeless this year.

Matawa participates in various homelessness related initiatives in Thunder Bay as follows: Thunder Bay Housing and Homeless Coalition, Thunder Bay Vulnerable Person Table, Released from Custody Task Force, Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Strategy, Our Health Counts, Indigenous Food Circle, and the Lakehead Social Planning Council.

At the Matawa level, District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) funding was secured for youth homelessness beds at Matawa Education & Care Centre and Community Kitchen for Awashishewiigihiwaywiin at the Matawa Training and Wellness Centre. Eight new one-bedroom housing units opened through the Matawa Not-For-Profit Housing Corporation with TBDSSAB funding. Matawa is seeking ten family apartments for homeless partners and children and 40 transition beds for KKETS at the Matawa Training and Wellness Centre. Funding has been secured and staff hired for the Matawa Wiichihehwaywin Street Outreach program (originally from February – March 2021 and renewed for June 1 – November 30, 2021).

7	Matawa Renal Dialysis Strategy and Program	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie FN	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake FN
09-11-09- 2020	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs support the development of a Matawa Renal Dialysis Strategy and Program which would incorporate diabetic education, renal education, the staffing needs (nurses, counsellors, nephrologists, etc.), capital and equipment needs to assist Matawa members;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council support the promotion of and parenteral dialysis education at the community level; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the development of two (2) northern hub programs for renal dialysis in the North as no renal dialysis centre in any community or surrounding municipality; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the development of partnerships and funding applications with all levels of government, universities, hospitals, foundations and the private sector the Matawa Renal Dialysis Strategy; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Chiefs Council support the added support services for renal patients to make their life easier in term of housing, transportation, special food, and transitions.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Initial discussions are set to start with Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre on a decentralized renal strategy with the Matawa Health Co-operative. As food security research study with Lakehead University and one Matawa First Nation has been initiated showing impacts of food insecurity and dialysis.</p>		

8	Matawa Wholistic Mental Health and Addictions Strategy	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie FN	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong FN
18-11-09- 2020	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed strategy would also include capital for on-going housing (land based, treatment, transitional, etc.) and other accommodations measures at both the community and regional level; and</p> <p>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 pathologist/therapist, case manger, art therapist, addictions workers, trainers) for the Matawa Health Co-operative to support children and youth at the community level; and</p> <p>FINALLY, IT BE RESOLVED the Matawa Wholistic Mental Health and Addiction Strategy applications will not conflict with community Mental Health initiatives already funded at the community level.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Expanded mental health proposal are being developed from various funding sources.</p>		

9	Matawa Child and Family Services	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
09-11-09- 2020	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a gathering be held with community representatives in exploring options on the creation of a Matawa Child and Family Services; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that an assessment be done on what kind of service Matawa member First Nations want to see in the area of Child and Family Services; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a plan be developed on what type of Child and Family Services should be developed for the Matawa First Nations; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that that this report would include capacity building, community education, healing, capital costs, operational cost, legal and jurisdictional issues and re-establishing Indigenous laws and customs on child and family welfare; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that community representatives be appointed to Matawa Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Advisory Committee; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Child and Family Services Review will not conflict with initiatives already in process at the community level; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this report and progress will be presented at the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council and the 2021 Annual General Meeting.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Awashishewiigihiwaywin Program (AP) has been working to seek out information to complete an environmental scan of each community's current child welfare practices and available supports and services. A letter has been sent requesting community contacts to begin this process. We have had very little response from the communities. We have made numerous calls to band offices in hopes of connecting with and moving the environmental scan forward.</p> <p>Bobby Narcisse, Nishnawbe Aski Nation Social Services Coordinator presented to the Chiefs this year and is working in conjunction with AP staff to keep informed of legislation changes and additional funding opportunities. He has also been attending Band Representative calls.</p> <p>AP has continued to meet with existing Band Representatives regularly to discuss trends and educational needs.</p> <p>The AP is seeking capacity dollars in hope of developing learning resources to educate communities regarding jurisdiction for child welfare. These dollars will include a 5-year plan to assist in education and consultation with all 9 First Nation communities including a planned gathering.</p>		

2020/2021 Chiefs Meetings

OCTOBER 1, 2020 - VIRTUAL MEETING

10	Northern Food Security	Chief Rick Allen, Constance Lake FN	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong FN
01-01-10- 2020			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs support the extension of the Nutrition North and Northern Harvesters Program to Northern and Rural Matawa First Nations who are road accessible, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Discovery House Project be eligible to be built in all Matawa First Nations, including those northern and rural road accessible First Nations.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The resolution and letter were sent to Minister of Crown Relations and Northern Development. Recent conversations with government officials confirmed that a budget submission is being prepared to expand this program to rural First Nations that are road accessible. Discussions have started with the Indigenous Food Circle for expanded community-based food security and sovereignty programs. Different departments at Matawa are looking at food security and helping to develop and overall food sustainability strategy. The first additional road-access community has been added to the list of communities receiving this program, it is anticipated that others will be following.</p>			

JANUARY 20, 2021 - VIRTUAL MEETING

11	Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS)	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
01-20-01- 2021	Appointment		
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council appoint Anna Betty Achneepineskum to the Board of Directors of Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS) for a three-year term.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Resolution forwarded to NAPS for appointment and appointee is now a part of the various committees of the Board.</p>			

12	Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Legal Services Corporation (NLSC) Appointment	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
02-20-01- 2021			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council appoint Lisa Echum to the Board of Directors of Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation for a three-year term.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Resolution forwarded to NLSC for appointment and appointee is now a part of the various committees of the Board.</p>			

13	Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Legal Services Corporation (NLSC) Alternative Appointment	Councillor Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
03-20-01- 2021			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council appoint Bertha Sutherland as an Alternate Board Member to the Board of Directors of Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation for a three-year term.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Resolution forwarded to NLSC for appointment.</p>			

JANUARY 27, 2021 - VIRTUAL MEETING

14	Support for Call for COVID-19 Vaccination and other Pandemic Interventions in Matawa Road-Access Communities Where Outbreaks are Occurring	Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
01-27-01-2021			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council support the call for the inclusion and prioritization of the Matawa road-access communities in Phase 1 of Ontario’s vaccination plan; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council supports the Matawa Health Co-operative in assisting in the administration of Phase 1 of the vaccine roll-out as they have demonstrated their capacity and preparedness to respond; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council supports mass testing and tracing done in the communities where outbreaks are taking place to slow the spread of COVID 19; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council supports the call for the establishment of isolation shelters with staff in the First Nations, or other isolation arrangements in urban centres where not available in the communities, to reduce the spread of COVID 19 where these outbreaks are occurring.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Health Co-operative worked with the District Health Units to expand vaccinations to all road-access and urban centres for Matawa members. Successful clinics 1st and 2nd dose clinics were held in a number of communities and Thunder Bay.</p>			

MARCH 17, 2021 - VIRTUAL MEETING

15	Matawa Regional Development Corporation Structure Appointments	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
01-17-03- 2021			
Abstentions: Chief Chris Moonias, Neskantaga FN			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs support the appointment of Chief Rick Allen (Constance Lake First Nation), Chief Judy Desmoulin (Long Lake #58 First Nation) and Chief Harvey Yesno (Eabametoong First Nation) to lead the work with support from the Matawa CEO and staff, as well as legal and other professionals, to outline the principles and structures required to establish the Matawa Regional Development Corporation.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Development Corporation (MDC) Directors were appointed and accepted the following positions on March 25, 2021; President Judy Desmoulin (Long Lake #58 First Nation), Vice President Harvey Yesno (Eabametoong First Nation) and Secretary/Treasurer Rick Allen (Constance Lake First Nation). The MDC Directors have met numerous times and continue to do the work as directed and mandated by the Matawa Chiefs Council.</p>			

MARCH 31, 2021 - VIRTUAL MEETING

16	Direction for Battery Plant Opportunity	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie FN	Councillor Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN
01-31-03- 2021			
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council support the interim appointed directors: Chief Rick Allen (Constance Lake First Nation), Chief Judy Desmoulin (Long Lake #58 First Nation) and Chief Harvey Yesno (Eabametoong First Nation) to lead the work required to move forward with the Battery Plant opportunity presented by Enterprise Canada, including preliminary discussions related to the project and the work on the draft teaming agreements.			
<u>UPDATE:</u>			
The interim directors (President Judy Desmoulin, Vice President Harvey Yesno and Secretary/Treasurer Rick Allen) of the Matawa Development Corporation have met five times (April 23, May 4, 10, 28 and June 1, 2021) since being appointed (and since the time of this report's printing). Priority discussions have included the initial structure of the corporation, as well as the Battery Plant opportunity. Preliminary discussions related to the opportunity include several presentations and updates from Enterprise Canada, as well as a draft teaming agreement for the Battery Plant opportunity which was distributed to the Matawa Regional Development Corporation Board of Directors for review at the June 1, 2021 meeting.			

APRIL 7, 2021 - VIRTUAL MEETING

17	Nibi Services Water and Wastewater HUB Enhancement Proposal	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
01-07-04-2021			
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs support Matawa First Nations Management Technical Services Enhanced HUB proposal to assist Matawa Communities with Operator Support and Training as well support in emergency responses for a minimum of 5 years; and			
FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution will negatively affect individual First Nations from accessing funding, or ability to access resources to address their water and waste water systems.			
<u>UPDATE:</u>			
Indigenous Services Canada did not support Matawa Technical Services' Enhanced HUB proposal to provide full-time operator mentorship for 3 communities who received and will be receiving new water treatment plants. In addition, they held back funding for the HUB program in 2020-2021 even after all reporting was completed and accepted.			

MAY 19, 2021 - VIRTUAL MEETING

18	Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Support	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
01-19-05-2021			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Awashishewiigihiwaywiin continue to work in partnership with First Nations as they build capacity, develop policies, community education tools, train and mentor staff, support communities in their band representatives' program, develop protocols, and work with clients/families in Thunder Bay, especially for those communities who do not yet have urban programs and/or who have to deal with very complex or conflict of interest cases;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs support Awashishewiigihiwaywiin in their budget request to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and other funders which will provide on-going operational support and renovation expenses to Matawa First Nations families at the Matawa Training and Wellness Centre; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that Matawa Chiefs Council support the application for funding to review, develop community education products, engage communities, create options, and provide a plan for Matawa First Nations communities to exercise jurisdiction and re-establish Indigenous laws for their Child and Family Services in whatever form they agree to; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the on-going and future work of Awashishewiigihiwaywiin will be guided by Elder Values, Teaching and Principles; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution will not conflict with any initiatives currently or in the future being developed at the community level; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this report and progress will be presented to the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council and the 2021 Annual General Meeting.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A Band Representative Support Proposal to ISC to continue the work of the program was submitted.</p>			

JULY 14, 2021 - VIRTUAL MEETING

19	Support for 3 Year Funding Proposal: Winter Road Technical Support Person	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
01-14-07- 2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Matawa Chiefs Council approves Technical Services to seek funding for a Winter Road Technical Support Person through Ontario and Canada for the next 3 years (2021-2024) for all Nine First Nations, including road-access communities who have winter road issues;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the Matawa Chiefs Council approves Technical Services to seek funding for a Winter Road Technical Support Person through Ontario and Canada for the next 3 years (2021-2024) for all nine First Nations, including road-access communities who have winter road issues.</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that nothing in this resolution will detract from individual communities seeking current and additional resources to support their winter road and/or other road improvements, or interfere with community winter road coordinator activities.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A 3-year funding proposal was developed and submitted to federal and provincial ministries funding winter road activities. At the time of the 33rd Matawa Annual General Meeting report, a response from these ministries was not available and will be reported under separate cover.</p>		

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Pictured above on July 10, 2021: Marten Falls First Nation Community Healing Walk during Marten Falls First Nation Family Week 2021. Photo credits: Wanda Coaster.

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