



2021 / 2022

Chiefs Council Report

**Prepared for the Matawa 34th Annual General Meeting
July 26 - 28, 2022
Hosted by Webequie First Nation**





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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 26 Resolutions in total in 2021/2022. This is up from 18 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.

For Matawa First Nations Management department updates, refer to the 2021/2022 Annual Report.



Chief Dorothy Towedo
Aroland First Nation



Chief Sheri Taylor
Ginoogaming First Nation



Chief Wayne Moonias
Neskantaga First Nation



Chief Ramona Sutherland
Constance Lake First Nation



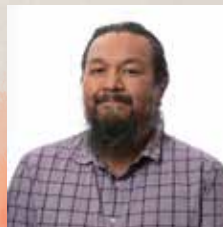
Chief Judy Desmoulin
Long Lake #58 First Nation



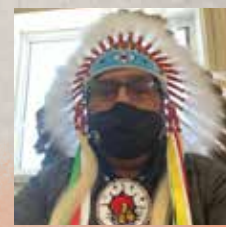
Ogamakan Michael Sugarhead
Nibinamik First Nation



Chief Solomon Atlookan
Eabametoong First Nation



Chief Bruce Achneepineskum
Marten Falls First Nation



Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie First Nation

Note: Ogamakan Michael Sugarhead of Nibinamik First Nation joined the Matawa Chiefs Council this year replacing former Chief Sheldon Oskineegish (elections took place in Nibinamik First Nation on November 19, 2021).

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



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

2021 was characterized by addressing the on-going affects and variants of the COVID-19 pandemic and regional governance issues.

CHIEFS COUNCIL OFFICE KEY PRIORITY AREAS:

Promote Health and Social Needs of Communities

- Worked with the Matawa Health Co-operative to support vaccination and health needs arising from COVID 19. Increasing supports for mental health and addictions are priorities. Health planning in the areas of nursing, physician services, midwifery, and screening are being addressed. Participation in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Health Transformation is continuing
- Community-based capacity building through

the Biimadeswigamik Life Lodge: A Place of Good Life and A Framework for Case Management was supported

- Working with the Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin (Matawa Social Services Framework) on family support issues to increase the band representative program and reduce the risk of interacting with the child welfare system in hospitals
- Supporting homeless individuals with health, social and housing needs
- Working with the Matawa Technical Services support capacity building and the Water Hub System for cleaner drinking water in all Matawa First Nations

Promote Education and Training of First Nation Members

- Support Matawa Education Department on addressing education needs and safety caused by Covid-19
- Support the Matawa Education Department on Regional Education Agreements and funding for the Matawa Education Care Centre.
- Support community school programs and capital needs
- Working with the Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS) Board of Directors to empower them in decision making
- Support for KKETS in their apprenticeship program and better access to programs through the Starlink tele-communications system

Promote Safe Communities

- Support for Matawa Homeless Initiative, the needs of off-reserve members and food security to all Matawa members
- Lobby for additional security and policing in First Nations with Nishnawbe-Aski Policing Services
- Working with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services on justice and safety issues for Matawa First Nations members returning to the communities

Support Regional Economic Development

- Support the development of the Matawa Development Corporation
- Support Four Rivers Environment on community education and environmental monitoring

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Education

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

Economic Development

- Establishment of Matawa Development Corporation with initial Board of Directors

Health

- Additional funding for mental health staff.
- Additional funding to increase physician competent
- Additional public health nursing staff for First Nations
- Promotion of vaccinations Matawa Health Co-operative for community members

Infrastructure

- Increased housing funding for First Nations
- Improved water systems in some First Nations
- Installation of the Starlink satellite dishes for improved broadband access as interim communications solution
- Continuation of construction of the Rapid Lynx high speed broadband fiber initiative for long term tele-communication access and expansion of this service to road access communities

Environment

- Increase support for mapping and various environmental programs for First Nations



CHALLENGES:

COVID-19 Global Pandemic

- COVID-19 has continues to affected First Nations. Communities had to address the delta and omicron variants which have had a more lasting affect on First Nations due to limited infrastructure. Reaching communities on the various vaccination efforts have been a challenge. Equally, pressures to open up and ease community protocols has been difficult. Boarder COVID issues of supply chain shortages and increase prices have an impact on First Nations budgets and projects

Governance

- Time and capacity building are needed to address complex issue of regional governance. This is true in many areas - 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

Human Resources

- Many initiatives have developed out of Covid. However, communities and Matawa First Nations are confronted with a wider human resource shortage. This has had an impact on staffing to fill positions and the ability to implement many important projects going forward. Compounding this are the limitation at the community level in the areas of professional development, training and social supports for trainees and their families

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



2021/2022

RESOLUTION UPDATES





33rd Annual General Meeting

September 14 - 16, 2021 - Thunder Bay, Ontario

1	Acceptance of the 33rd Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly Agenda	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN
01-15-09-2021			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council of the 33rd Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly accept the agenda presented</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p>			

2	Acceptance of the 33rd Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly Matawa Chiefs Council and Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Report	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
02-15-09-2021			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council accept the <i>Matawa Chiefs Council Report</i> and the <i>Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction Report</i> in principle for the 2020-2021 year as presented.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p>			

3	Biimadeswi-Gamik Case Management Continued Development and Training Resources	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
03-16-09-2021			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council hereby support and endorse the <i>Biimadeswigamik Life Lodge: A Place of Good Life, a Framework for Case Management</i> for Matawa First Nations document as presented on September 15, 2021, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council hereby fully support the Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin to continue the development of community-based case management, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council hereby support Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin for the implementation of training community-based works in case management, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the provincial and federal governments to provide financial support for continued development of <i>Biimadeswigamik Life Lodge: A Place of Good Life, a Framework for Case Management</i> and provide resources for community-based workers' training in each Matawa member First Nation.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Due to COVID-19 restrictions, continued developmental work or training did not occur.</p>			

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4	Resources for Back to Our Roots: Chii Kee Way Meno Biimadeseyung Review/Recommendations	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie FN
04-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council hereby fully support and endorse the <i>Review of Back to Our Roots: Chii Kee Way Meno Biimadeseyung</i> document as presented on September 14, 2021, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council hereby fully support Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin to continue addressing the key areas, action for change, new findings and recommendations as identified in the report, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council hereby support Matawa Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin to seek and advocate for increased resources for each Matawa First Nation for adequate funding, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the provincial and federal governments to increase financial resources for Matawa member First Nations for their PDA/Addictions/Treatment programs.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Due to COVID-19 restrictions, continued developmental work or training did not occur.</p>		

5	Matawa Chiefs Council Reject Nishnawbe Aski Nation Approach on Delivery of Programs and Services in NAN-Wide ICP Starlink Project	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
05-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council have not directed or delegated any decision-making authority, spokesperson or negotiation 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;</p> <p>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</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council do not support the NAN-Wide ICP Internet Connectivity and IT Implementation Support project but have no alternative but to participate under duress.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>As of the first week of June 2022, NAN has deployed the residential Starlink units to only one of Matawa First Nation community. Neskantaga First Nation received their Starlink satellites on October 2021. Matawa's Four Rivers department secured a number of commercial Starlink units and will be deploying them to the Matawa First Nation communities while NAN continues to work on deploying the residential units.</p>		

6	Expansion of Matawa Health Co-operative: Physician Services	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN
06-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council support the expansion of the Matawa Health Co-operative: Physician Services Program to take on the additional graduates of the Remote First Nations Residency Program; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that funding be provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to support these physicians with appropriate compensation, including remoteness factors that make it different from an urban practice; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that funding be provided to the Matawa Health Co-operative to provide proper administrative support services to physicians and all health staff in the areas of technology, human resources, finances, and accommodations.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Physician Services Business Plan was developed and funding was approved for 2 additional physicians on April 1/22 under the Remote First Nations Residency Program. Dr. Oyella had joined our team in April/21. We expect to hire an additional physician as soon as possible as these funds were just recently approved. MHC received prorated base funding for 2021/22 and annualized funding for 2022/23 funding year which included administrative support services.</p>		

7	Matawa Health Co-operative: Public Health Initiative	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
07-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the application by the Matawa Health Cooperative to preserve their current Public Health Initiative program and to expand the program to support the ongoing need for public health services in the Matawa member First Nations; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that funding be provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Indigenous Services Canada with appropriate compensation, including remoteness factors; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that funding be provided to the Matawa Health Cooperative to provide proper administrative support services to public health staff in the areas of technology, human resources, finances and accommodations.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Proposal was developed by Matawa Health Cooperative for Public Health initiatives and funding was approved by the Ministry of Health to hire additional nursing staff in 2021/22 fiscal year. Nurses were hired to provide public health services. New proposals were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Health and to Indigenous Services Canada.</p>		

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8	Support for Matawa Midwife Proposal	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN
08-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Chiefs Council supports the Matawa Health Co-operative application to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for the Indigenous Midwifery Program to hire midwives which will support Matawa community members in their communities for prenatal, interparten, consults, births, cultural teachings and post-natal services, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Health Co-operative work with all governments and all department of Matawa First Nations and communities to promote midwifery as a profession and help train up new generation of midwives through various education and training services.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Health for a midwifery program and we just learned that we were not successful. Their reasoning was that there were a large number of applications province wide. We were encouraged to apply again once the Indigenous Midwifery Program funding cycle is announced.</p>		

9	Matawa Chiefs Council Direct, Continued and Ongoing Support of the Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Program	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #85 FN
09-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Program continue to work in partnership with Matawa member First Nations as they build capacity, develop policies, community education tools, and develop protocols to support the exploration of Child Welfare Jurisdiction, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council support the MFNM Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Program seeking additional capacity funds to support this important initiative, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the MFNM Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Program to update progress on roll out at the next Matawa Annual General Meeting in 2022.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have been advised that we require a letter from each respective community to show support and will not accept just the resolution for part of capacity building dollars - Training event scheduled for May 24-26 with community Band Representatives (BRs) to assist with education and information sharing - Completed this fiscal year's Band Representative Services proposal to Indigenous Services Canada for continued day to day operations of the program - Continue to work collaboratively with existing Band Reps within our 9 communities - Continue to update Chiefs Council at Chiefs meetings as requested 		

10	Approval of Regional Education Strategic Plan for Matawa Education	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN
10-16-09-2021			
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council approves and supports, in principle, the adoption of the Matawa Education Five Year Strategic Plan 2021-2026, and;			
FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Matawa Education Department to implement the Matawa Education Five Year Strategic Plan 2021-2026, in cooperation with the Matawa First Nations Education Authority and the applicable individual Education Authorities of the Matawa First Nations, and;			
FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the activities undertaken to implement the Matawa Education Five Year Strategic Plan 2021-2026 does not interfere or compete with, or take away from, community initiatives or activities, and;			
FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Education Department provide regular updates on the implementation of the Matawa Education Five Year Strategic Plan 2021-2026 to the Matawa education leadership and to the Matawa Chiefs Council.			
<u>UPDATE:</u>			
Matawa Education with support from Matawa First Nations Education Authority have initiated the Matawa Education Five Year Plan 2021-2026 to ensure Matawa youth have the resources and supports needed to achieve their educational goals; and have met November 8-10, 2021 & March 28-29, 2022 to update and monitor objectives are being met.			

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11	Impact of Changes to Federal Funding to Matawa Education	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
11-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Matawa Education Department to continue to work with Matawa First Nations' education leadership to ensure that second-level services and other programs and services that are currently funded through these programs will continue to be available to support Matawa students and schools; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Matawa Education Department to provide input and when possible, participate in technical tables at the regional, provincial and national levels to ensure that future federally-funded student and school supports and services for Matawa First Nations are reliable, timely, accessible and address the needs of Matawa First Nation students and schools; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Matawa Education Department to seek alternative sources of funding for existing programs and services which may not be eligible for direct federal funding after March 31, 2022; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council advocate at the regional, provincial and national levels for the continuation of direct funding for Matawa regional education-related programs and services offered through Matawa Education; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Education Department provide regular updates to the Matawa education leadership and to the Matawa Chiefs Council.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Education continues to advocate equity within regional, provincial and national levels and has made some efforts with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Ontario Region implementing monthly Education meetings via Zoom April 12, 2022. ISC presented April 12 & 26, 2022 on Interim Funding Formula-Second level services will continue to flow to service providers at the same amounts as in 2017-2018 though the interim, until Regional Education Agreements have been established. There are changes to Second level services that will need further discussions with applicable individual Education Authorities of the Matawa First Nations and Matawa First Nations Education Authority to either adjust funding amounts to existing service providers or adjust the recipient of funding for an existing service.</p> <p>Matawa Education successfully submitted a Proposal to the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres Indigenous Languages Component February 2021 with FNCCEC approving \$200,000. December 10, 2021 towards our Matawa Waka Tere Language Revitalization Project which was a small triumph as our Project will continue to need substantial funding to support accreditation and administering within Matawa First Nations, and will continue to research alternative sources.</p>		

12	Reaffirmed Support of Enhanced Hub Proposal for Water and Wastewater Services	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Sheldon Oskineegish, Nibinamik FN
02-16-09-2021			
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the <i>Enhanced HUB Proposal</i> that was submitted on our behalf to address the issues with water plant operation of new water plants, and;			
FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council demand that the Government of Canada fund the <i>Enhanced HUB Proposal</i> so that adequate services can be provided, and;			
FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Chiefs Council require a formal response from the Government of Canada on all funding decisions including rationale relating to the <i>Enhanced HUB Proposal</i> , and;			
FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the <i>Enhanced HUB Proposal</i> should not in any way impede or supersede individual First Nation proposals.			
<u>UPDATE:</u>			
Rather than a full approval—a modest increase in funding was received for the Enhanced Hub Proposal. Matawa Technical Services was able to manage within that amount as costs for travel due to COVID-19 were restricted, especially during the time that the Omicron Variant was locking down the Matawa First Nations. With restrictions lifting in the summer/fall/winter of 2022/2023 it remains to be seen if the modest increase will sustain costs for providing services.			



October 2021 Greenstone Gold event in Geraldton, Ontario. Pictured L to R: Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland First Nation; Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 First Nation; Chief Theresa Nelson, Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek; Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry; Chief Sheri Taylor Ginoogaming First Nation

13	Continuing the Development of a Matawa Homelessness Strategy	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN
13-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Matawa Homelessness Task Force to continue with the development of a homeless strategy in the direction that was reported at the Matawa 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) which included building a strategy within the lens of systemic justice, trauma-informed approaches, and de-colonized harm-reduction and homelessness prevention frameworks; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council direct that funding be sought to continue the process alongside the work of the <i>Matawa Homelessness Task Force</i>, including funding for a Housing Policy Analyst, funding for travel to undertake a fact-finding-mission and for professional strategic planning; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Chiefs Council direct that an additional report be provided around the time of the end of the 2021/2022 fiscal year and prior to the 2022 Matawa AGM.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the clear direction of the Chiefs-in-Assembly in this resolution, continuing community crises, amongst other reasons—the Matawa Task Force on Homelessness struck in 2021 was not able to meet this year. It took some time to find a potential funder for the full-time position but, in May 2022, discussions on potential funding ended favourably with confirmation that the Community Housing Transformation Centre (CHTC) would be in a position to fund a 18 month project overseen by a ‘Homelessness Policy Analyst.’ The CHTC is a non-profit housing corporation that works with housing organizations across the country to drive transformation, sustainability and growth in community housing. Their vision is: “By working together, we can stabilize and grow the community-housing sector to meet the needs of people in this country.” Their mission includes: to connect and partner with sector, service and community-housing providers to facilitate sector-wide transformation; and, to fund, support and build organizational capacity where gaps and needs exist.” At the time of this report being printed—this matter was still under discussion and will be reported on directly at the 34th AGM.</p> <p>Matawa continues to participate in various homelessness related initiatives in Thunder Bay as follows: Thunder Bay Housing and Homeless Coalition, Thunder Bay Vulnerable Person Table, CHAT, Released from Custody Task Force, Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Strategy, Our Health Counts, Indigenous Food Circle, and the Lakehead Social Planning Council, amongst others. On March 31, 2022, a Matawa staff member was vetted as becoming a member of the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Advisory Table. On February 8, 2022, a presentation was made to the Matawa Board of Directors describing a chart of actions currently being undertaken by a number of Matawa Departments to address homelessness/housing insecurity as preliminary actions to fill the gaps. Some of actions presented included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation has applied for 6 additional units, provides tenant education, and referrals for financial counselling • Some funding secured for the Matawa Tiny Home Pilot Project • Renovations currently underway for Crisis/Transitional Family Housing to be overseen by Awashishewiigihiwaywiin at Matawa Training and Wellness Centre at 523 Algoma Street North in Thunder Bay • Awashishewiigihiwaywiin continued to assist clientele in maintaining existing housing through their support for families and has a completed Community Kitchen called ‘Mii-chem Asha-Gewin’ • Matawa continued to work with the ‘Released from Custody Table’ to lobby for specialized housing help those coming out or going into corrections • Matawa continued to operate the WiiChiiHehWayWin Outreach Program working directly with the homeless to help assess/meet their needs and refers to more specialized assessment and advocate for them in other ways • Continuation of ‘Project Brown Bag’ by a number of Matawa departments • Lobbying to become a partner in the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) which is a comprehensive data collection and case management system designed to better understand what is happening in a community and to work collaboratively • Additional homeless youth beds have been secured by the Matawa Education Safe Sobering Site <p>More work will be undertaken on this file in the coming year by the Homelessness Policy Analyst including the development of a Matawa Homelessness Strategy (HPA) to begin in mid-July 2022.</p>		

14	Matawa Chiefs Council Direction for Corporate Services to be Provided to Matawa Entities	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN
14-16-09-2021			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) with drafting and implementing service agreements to provide corporate services for Matawa entities including, but not limited to: Finance, Information Technology (IT), Human Resources, Communications, Legal, Board Training and other similar services as may be required from time to time; and that the Matawa First Nations Management service agreements include mutually agreeable compensation terms for provided services.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Finance department has drafted a service agreement template to cover corporate services to Matawa’s various reporting entities. The template will be customized for the following entities: KKETS, Matawa Health Co-operative Inc., Matawa Training and Wellness Centre, Matawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation and Matawa First Nations Property Inc. Completion of the service agreements will be prioritised in the Finance department’s 2023 Work Plan, with completion of the agreements expected in the Fall of 2022.</p>			

15	Funding for Matawa Education and Care Centre Student Accommodation	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN	Chief Sheldon Oskineegish, Nibinamik FN
15-16-09-2021			
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Matawa Education Department to meet with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to follow up on the previous commitment made by former Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Minister Philpott to have Matawa Education & Care Centre (MECC) identified as a recipient of federal private home placement allotment funding, and that this be in place prior to February 1, 2022, and;			
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs' Spokesperson for Education and Matawa education leadership provide advocacy and support to ensure MECC is identified as a recipient of federal private home placement allotment funding, and;			
FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Education Department provide regular updates to the Matawa education leadership and the Matawa Chiefs Council.			
<u>UPDATE:</u>			
The Matawa Education Department (MED) met with ISC on April 12, 2022 to discuss this resolution and Resolution #19-16-09-2021 (see below). From this meeting, ISC suggested it would be best to meet with the Matawa Chiefs to explain the complexities and intricacies involved with separating the Private Home Placement (PHP) funding and tuition funding from the nominal roll-based funding each First Nation receives. The meeting with the Matawa Chiefs was scheduled for May 13, 2022.			

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16	Advancement of Education Systems of Matawa First Nations	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie FN
16-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council call on the Canada to work alongside each individual Matawa First Nation and Matawa First Nations Management in true partnership in the spirit of reconciliation, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council call on Canada to support the Matawa First Nations in their advancement of an education system and to follow the recommendations of the Seven Youth Inquest to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an education system on reserve that is equivalent or better to the standards of provincial education systems • capital education infrastructure, curriculum services • language and culture needs <p>While following the principle of First Nations control of First Nations education.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Education Department has attempted to engage Canada in funding conversations that will lead to the implementation of the community-based recommendations of the Seven Youth Inquest. Canada continues to hold the position that the funding transformation process begun with the interim funding formula will address most or all of the recommendations.</p>		

17	Governance and Operation of Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (“KKETS”)	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN
01-07-04-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that rather than remove their current KKETS Voting Members and Directors and appoint themselves as Voting Members and Directors of KKETS in accordance with the By-Law, the Matawa Chiefs wish to provide clarity and direction around KKETS governance, via this resolution, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. KKETS finance, administration, as well as legal, accounting, and other services will managed by MFNM; 2. The KKETS Executive Director shall report to the MFNM Chief Executive Officer; 3. The KKETS Board of Directors shall not manage the day-to-day operations, but shall be responsible for decision-making around program delivery and related policy according to the Corporation by-laws; 4. The Matawa Chiefs Council as ultimate authority over all Matawa corporations, will immediately direct that the KKETS By-laws, policies, and other documents as necessary be amended to reflect the provisions of this resolution. <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The KKETS Board of Directors has agreed to the Chiefs decision on the resolution and will continue to be responsible to the decision makers regarding policies and program deliveries. To date, KKETS Board of Directors have discuss plans to review the current policies within the organization and revise them to be up-to-date.</p>		

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18	Development of an Action Plan to Demand Canada Implement the Seven Youth Inquest Recommendations Related to High Schools On-Reserve	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN
18-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council demand that Canada immediately implement the inquest recommendations related to high schools on-reserve as 6 years have passed since the Inquest and progress has been slow, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council direct Matawa Education & Care Centre to work with First Nations on developing an action plan to support the implementation of Inquest recommendations related to on-reserve high schools, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this action plan be communicated to Matawa Chiefs Council prior to the end of the first semester of 2021/2022 school year.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The framework of the action plan has been developed through discussion with community-based education staff, students and some parents. The Matawa Education & Care Centre has attempted to engage Canada in funding conversations that will lead to the implementation of the community-based recommendations of the Seven Youth Inquest. Canada continues to hold the position that the funding transformation process begun with the interim funding formula will address most or all of the recommendations. Progress has been slowed due to COVID-19 related reasons and concerns.</p>		

19	Tuition Nominal Roll Funding for Matawa Education and Care Centre	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
09-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Matawa Education Department to work with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the communities to ensure Matawa Education & Care Centre receives tuition nominal roll for its students, beginning in February 2022; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs' Spokesperson for Education and Matawa education leadership provide advocacy and support to ensure MECC receives tuition nominal roll funding for its students; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Education Department provide regular updates to the Matawa education leadership and to the Matawa Chiefs Council.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Education Department (MED) met with ISC on April 12, 2022 to discuss this resolution and Resolution #15-16-09-2021 (see above). From this meeting, ISC suggested it would be best to meet with the Matawa Chiefs to explain the complexities/intricacies involved with separating the tuition funding and Private Home Placement (PHP) funding from the nominal-roll based funding each First Nation receives. The meeting with the Matawa Chiefs was scheduled for May 13, 2022.</p>		

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20	Matawa Chiefs Council Reject the Ontario and Canada First Nations Economic Growth and Prosperity Tables	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN
20-16-09-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council reject the imposition of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO)/Ontario First Nations Economic Growth and Prosperity Table and the Assembly of First Nations/Canada First Nations Economic Growth, Prosperity and Wealth-Building Table, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council have not directed or delegated any decision-making authority, spokesperson or negotiations functions to the Ontario Regional Chief (ORC) of COO or the National Chief (NC) of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa member First Nations and duly elected Matawa Chiefs Council retain all authority in representing the interests of our People and our Communities.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>On Tuesday September 28, 2021 a formal letter was issued to both the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the Ontario Regional Chief of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) to communicate the contents of this resolution and the Matawa Chiefs Council position on the extensive interrelated matters. To date there has been no response from the National Chief's Office to the letter, and the Chiefs of Ontario ORC Office responded during the October/November 2021 timeframe to have possible further dialogue on the issue and potential Matawa Chiefs Council observing of the COO Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCoED). This COO offer was presented to the Matawa Chiefs Council at their meeting held November 9 & 10, 2021 at the Delta Waterfront Hotel. At that time, the Matawa Chiefs Council directed that the Chief's position remained the same on the issue, and that the Matawa Chiefs Council maintained their united position to reject the imposition of the original Ontario and now extended to Canada (provincial and federal partners) level First Nation Economic Growth and Prosperity Tables. There has been no further response or follow up from the AFN or COO on these issues.</p> <p>The current status of the Ontario and Canada First Nations Economic Growth and Prosperity Tables will be updated as part of the issues and government updates to be provided at the upcoming Matawa Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2022.</p>		

DECEMBER 1 - 2 , 2021 THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

21	Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS) Appointment	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
21-01-12-2021	Abstention: Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN		
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nation Chiefs Council appoint Robert Moonias to the Board of Directors of Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS) for a three year term.			
UPDATE:			
Robert Moonias, member of Marten Falls First Nation, was appointed to the NAPS Board of Directors. His term expires on January 20, 2024.			

22	Mineral Development Information & Support Officer Continued Support	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
21-01-12-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs of the Matawa member First Nations support continuing the position of a Mineral Development Information and Support Officer (MDISO) at Matawa First Nations Management, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the MDISO position proposal include additional funding for additional capacity building and supports at the First Nation level to support the development of community capacity around the Mining Land Administration System, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that funding applications by Matawa First Nations Management for any mining education and training initiatives are intended to support and advance community initiatives and will not supersede any community application to the same funding authority.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa First Nation Management (MFNM) prepared an application to continue the MDISO support program to the MDA funding program that was consistent with the program's deliverables under previous funding agreements. MFNM has been awarded a multi-year funding agreement to continue this program until March 31, 2027. This program continuance was secured prior to March 3, 2022 and there was no pause to this program. It is anticipated that the MDISO may be able to resume travelling to communities to provide support once COVID restrictions are lifted.</p>		

23	Continued Support for Discharge Planning Program with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
23-02-12-2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs of the Matawa member First Nations support continuing the Inmate Discharge Planning Protocol with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NLSC) and Ontario; and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that NLSC and Matawa continue to work on discharge planning and other restorative justice initiatives to promote early communications to communities, cultural teachings, community-based sentencing, diversion, other land-based correctional initiatives, surety and bail variations, mental health and additions, and housing supports.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Funding was approved for the next fiscal year to Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NLSC) to continue discharge support to NAN members and NALC continues to play a roll in the Thunder Bay Release from Custody Table with Matawa.</p>		

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24	Matawa Winter Road COVID Checkpoints Minor Capital Applications (MCAs)	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN
24-02-12- 2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs request Indigenous Services Canada provide funding to Marten Falls First Nation and Matawa First Nations Management to proceed with the scope of works as outlined in both the Marten Falls First Nation COVID Checkpoint and the Matawa Winter Road – 808 COVID Checkpoint - Minor Capital Applications dated September 2021.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>For the 808 Winter Road Network, \$910,723.87 was received from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Indigenous Affairs Ontario. It was opened from January 22 - April 9, 2022. Thunder Bay Multi Trades manned the checkpoint 24/7. They were responsible for ensuring vehicles had signed approval forms, negative COVID results, and proof of vaccination (commercial vehicles only).</p> <p>For the Marten Falls First Nation COVID Checkpoint, \$356,232.57 was received from ISC. The checkpoint was administered and coordinated by Marten Falls First Nation. It opened on February 1, 2022 to light traffic. The checkpoint was setup prior to that. This winter road closed towards the end of March 2022.</p>		

25	Matawa First Nations Management Tribal Council Funding	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
25-02-12- 2021	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nation Chiefs Council hereby approves the Tribal Council Consolidated Work Plan for 2022-2023 as prescribed by Indigenous Services Canada and as presented to the Chiefs by Administration on December 2, 2021, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that administration is hereby instructed to carry out the prescribed filing and reporting requirements in order to comply with its direction.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The resolution was forwarded to Indigenous Services Canada as part of the annual funding submission.</p>		

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June 13, 2022 - Toronto, Ontario

26	Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin Support - Jordan's Principle	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
26-13-06-2022			
Abstentions: Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs support Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin in their budget request to Jordan's Principle – Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and other funders for on-going operational support, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin continue to work in partnership with First Nations as they build capacity and assist in community/Jordan's Principle proposals, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution will not take away from or negatively impact community resolutions or proposals to this same funding.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Resolution has been submitted to Indigenous Services Canada to be added to the application. There was no word on funding at the time of this Report being printed.</p>			



Joint Matawa Chiefs Council and Mushkegowuk Council meeting, June 14, 2022

Back LtoR: Chief Gaius Wesley, Kashechwan First Nation; Chief Robert Nakogee, Fort Albany First Nation Middle LtoR: Chief Mervin Cheechoo, Moose Cree First Nation; Chief Keeter Corston, Chapleau Cree First Nation; Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation; Chief Jason Gauthier, Missanabie Cree First Nation, Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

Front LtoR: Lawrence Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation; Chief Dorothy Baxter, Aroland First Nation; Grand Chief Alison Linklater, Mushkegowuk Council; Chief Ramona Sutherland, Constance Lake First Nation, Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming First Nation

Missing: Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation; Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 First Nation; Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation; Chief David Nakogee, Attawapiskat First Nation; Chief Bruce Archibald, Taykwa Tagamou Nation



Matawa Chiefs Council

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