



2022 / 2023

Chiefs Council Report

Prepared for the Matawa 35th Annual General Meeting
July 25 - 27, 2023
Hosted by Long Lake #58 First Nation



LONG LAKE #58 FIRST NATION





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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 39 Resolutions in total in 2022/2023. This is up from 26 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 2022/2023 Annual Report.



Chief Dorothy Towedo
Aroland First Nation



Chief Sheri Taylor
Ginoogaming First Nation



Chief Chris 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: Chief Chris Moonias joined the Chiefs Council this year replacing former Chief Wayne Moonias (on April 1, 2023)

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Chiefs Council Support Services

STAFF:

Paul Capon, Political Advisor
Dorothy Valtierra, Chiefs Council Secretary
Paul Magiskan, Homelessness and Housing Policy Advisor
Kate-Lynn Paypompee, Youth, Elder and Women's Council Co-ordinator (replacing Kristen Fisher after April 2023)
Barbara Munroe, Homeless Systems Navigator

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

DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES:

Chiefs Sub-Committee on Youth, Women & Elders Council is a sub-committee established by Matawa First Nations Chief Council Resolution 08-29-05-2023, participants and purpose included:

- Chief Sheri Taylor
- Chief Judy Desmoulin
- Former Chief Wayne Moonias (prior to Mar 31, 2023)

- Established to oversee the development of Youth, Women and Elders Councils and to ensure their representation at Chiefs Meetings

KEY PRIORITY AREA:

Promote Health and Social Needs of Communities

- Increasing supports for mental health and addictions are priorities.
- Health planning in the areas of nursing transfer, physician services, and other health services.
- Participation in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Health Transformation.
- 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 Awashishewiigihiwaywiin (Matawa Social Services Framework) on youth programming for those transitions out of care
- Support for band representative programs.
- Family support staff and capital for families in Crisis
- Supporting Homeless individuals with health, social and housing needs.
- Increasing capital projects at the communities' level, including housing.
- Promotion of Youth, Women and Elders Council and participation at Chiefs meetings.

Education and Training of First Nation Members

- Support the Matawa Education Department on Regional Education Agreements and funding for the Matawa Education Care Centre (MECC), mental health supports, language program, accommodation centre, etc.
- Support for the MECC Capital, including a new gymnasium, air exchange systems, etc.

- Support community school programs and capital needs - portables.
- Support for Kikenomaga Kikenjigewin Employment & Training Services (KKETS) Discovery House / Innovation Program.
- Support for health human resources and community capacity building strategy by all departments at Matawa.

Safe Communities

- Support for Matawa Homeless Initiative, the needs of off-reserve members and food security to all Matawa members
- Support for forest fire prevention
- Development of animal management program and pet education in communities
- Working with partners for those leaving custody and the development of wider justice reform – i.e.: Community Justice Centres

Regional Economic Development and Environmental Services:

- Support the development of the Matawa Development Corporation (MDC)
- Support for wider economic development planning, and partnership development
- Support for co-developing a Regional Impact Assessment with the Federal Government
- Support for Community lead Matawa Environment Technical Table (METT), community education and environmental monitoring

Environment

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



ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Education

- Additional Mental Health Supports at the Matawa Education Care Centre.
- Students now staying at the Matawa Education Care Centre
- Construction started Matawa Education Care Centre Gymnasium and other education capital projects.
- Expansion and accreditation program for the Matawa Waka Tere Indigenous Language Revitalization Program.

Economic Development

- New manager hired for Matawa Development Corporation with Board of Directors
- Willingness of Federal Government to engage in higher level joint economic planning for the Ring of Fire area
- Engagement with potential corporate partners, in key community infrastructure areas

Health and Social

- Additional funding for mental health staff.
- Additional funding to increase physician complement
- Additional public health nursing staff for First Nations
- Additional funding from Jordan's Principle to support families and Youth through the Matawa Awashishewiigihiwayiin

Infrastructure

- Increased housing funding for First Nations and in Thunder Bay
- Continuation of construction of the Rapid Lynx High Speed Broad Band Cable Initiative for long term tele-communication access and expansion of this service to Road Access Communities.
- On-going work on the Matawa Training and Wellness Centre

Jurisdiction

- Recognition by Chiefs of Ontario resolution that Matawa communities would take the lead development in the Ring of Fire Region.
- Clear understanding on the federal and provincial Critical Minerals Strategy
- Legal review of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and the assertions of Metis Rights in the Matawa region

Environment

- Acceptance by the Federal Government for a jointly developed co-lead Regional Impact Assessment
- On-going work with the Mushkegowuk Council on environmental matters
- Increased funding for community environmental guardians



CHALLENGES:

Human Resources

As in the overall labour market, Matawa First Nations communities are challenged in the areas human resource shortages. There is a lack of funding to appropriately pay and house staff at the First Nation level compounds staffing issues. Communities have limited staff and there is the need for increased professional development, training and social supports for trainees and their families to grow into their positions. At the same time, respect is needed for the knowledge and understanding of community members in larger process.

Mental Health:

Communities, like much of Canada are confronted with increasing rates of - and severity of - mental health and addictions. This takes a toll on First Nations as they don't have the services to support these individuals. The social ramifications for First Nations on individuals who are impacted by mental health and addictions is – sometimes up to death – is profound and draining for Chiefs and Councils.

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 communications, human and technical resources to build a vision and how everything works together are needed.

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
- New relationship with the federal and provincial governments on wider jurisdictional and planning issues
- Increased capacity building and employment for First Nations members



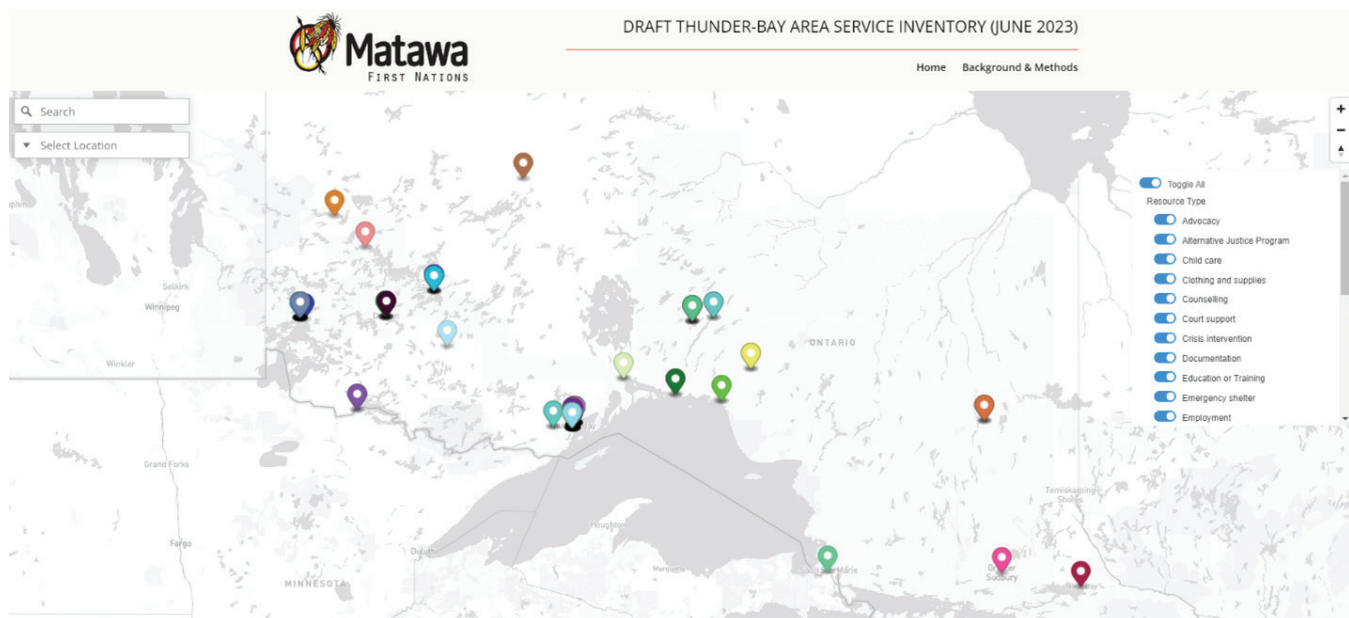
Matawa Homeless Initiative: Owing to direction of the Matawa Chiefs to establish the Matawa Homelessness Strategy through Chiefs Council Resolutions, two positions have been created. One includes a Homelessness Policy Analyst and a Homelessness System Navigator. Reports are as follows:

Homelessness Policy Analyst - Paul Magiskan

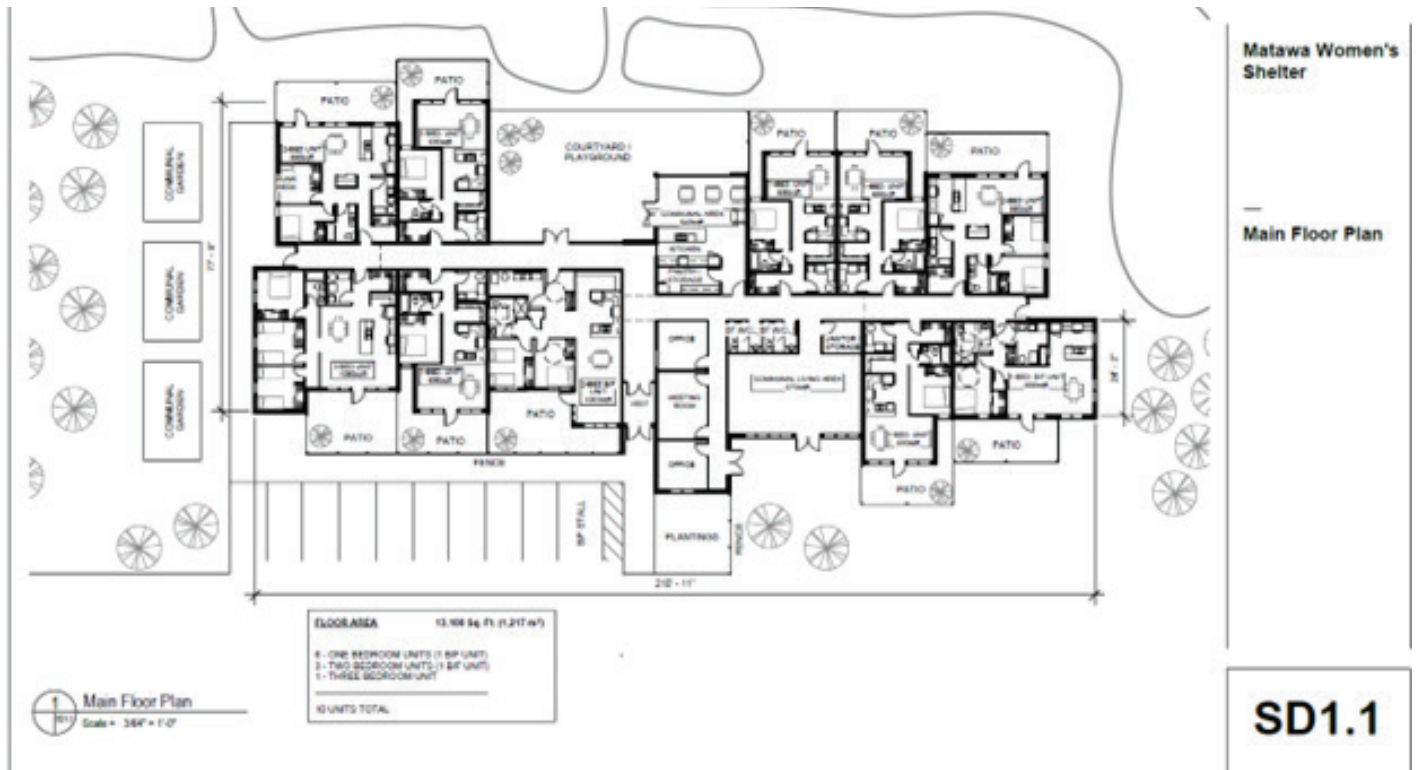
In the past year at Matawa, we have been able to move forward in a number of projects, of which, a number will be moving into the second stage. Others have been in partnership with other organizations. We have grown and are establishing Matawa First Nations Management as a leader in the community, who strives for the betterment of all our peoples.

In collaboration with Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board, Matawa has been able to establish the Matawa Housing Outreach Worker who meets with individuals where they are currently at and tries to connect them to Matawa program (see Homelessness System Navigator report on the next page). In addition, we have brought together every Outreach program in the Thunder Bay region to meet monthly and share resources, lessons learned, best practices as well as training opportunities. By bringing together all outreach programs in the region, we can much more quickly identify and connect services to our membership.

In partnership with several agencies, we have completed the first steps of the service mapping project of the northern Ontario region. By using this map, we will begin the process of acquiring travel data and usage statistics to highlight the unique challenges that communities face in the north. This project will enter public domain and the information offered will be able to be used to allow Matawa, and partner agencies, to display the massive geographic distance that our membership must travel in order to access health and social services. This will provide data to acquire additional resources as well as show user partners.



We have begun the search for appropriate land sites for the acquisition and use for Land Based Healing. We have partnered with the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council for this endeavor and are hoping to offer these services to the membership. We have also begun the process of establishing a treatment centre in the Thunder Bay Region to allow more direct access to services for the membership.



Homelessness System Navigator - Barb Munroe

I have recently started this new job here at Matawa as a Homelessness System Navigator and so far, I have assisted some people with housing applications and home supports, looking at private rentals and viewings. I have assisted with clients getting their income taxes done through referrals to other resources. I have helped others in their process of obtaining identification. I have also linked people to other resources such as NAN, Ontario Native Women's Association, Thunder Bay Friendship Indigenous Centre and other Matawa programs such as KKETS, and Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Program. I attended a community meeting for City Outreach Workers. Currently, I am making a database and getting training for the Homeless Individual and Families Information System (HIFIS).

We are here to support clients as they look for a home and link them to resources available in the city, which will help them meet their academic, physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs.

Youth, Women and Elders Councils - Kate-Lynn Paypompee

At the 2022 Matawa Chiefs Annual General Meeting in Webequie First Nations the Matawa Chiefs and Members conducted a standing vote to support the work of creating Youth, Women and Elders Councils and have these members attend Matawa Chiefs Meetings. Chief Desmoulin, Moonias and Taylor met to provide overall direction for this initiative.

In the fall of 2022, Kristian Fisher started off in the position of Youth, Women and Elders Council Coordinator and helped develop a tool kit to assist communities in the development/support of these councils.

In the Spring of 2023, Kate-Lynn Paypompee took over this position and further conducted research and compiled pertinent information for the establishment of the Youth, Women, and Elders Councils. This involved gathering essential materials and formulating guidelines and administrative procedures for the effective functioning of these councils. Additionally, she conducted informative presentations for the Matawa community members, introducing them to the new Advisory Council program and actively seeking individuals to join the respective councils.

Throughout this process, the Advisory council coordinator actively engaged with community members, soliciting their input, and addressing their questions. This inclusive approach generated considerable interest, which resulted in having community members attend chief's meetings and other engagements. The Advisory Council Coordinator successfully connected with various organizations (NAN, Ontario Native Women's Association, etc.) hosting their own distinct councils. These interactions proved invaluable as they provided valuable insights and guidance for the Matawa Advisory Councils endeavors.

The Coordinator's efforts in fostering relationships with these organizations bore fruit, particularly in the case of the Youth Council. Following their participation in the Tournament of Hope event, and Matawa's Mental Health Youth Summit, numerous young individuals expressed a keen interest in becoming part of the Matawa Youth Council. This encouraging response underscores the importance of actively engaging to attract potential members. Travel to the communities will be the next step in this process. It is also helpful for consistent participation at Chiefs Council meetings.

Overall, the two Advisory Council Coordinators research, outreach activities, and collaborations with other organizations have laid a solid foundation for the formation and successful operation of the Youth, Women, and Elders Councils.

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2022/2023

RESOLUTION UPDATES



34th Annual General Meeting

July 26 - 28, 2022 - Webequie First Nation

1	Acceptance of the 34th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly Agenda	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
01-27-07- 2022			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 34th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly accept the agenda as presented at the 34th Annual Chiefs Assembly.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p>			

2	Acceptance in-principle of the 2022 Matawa Chiefs Council and Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Reports	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
02-27-07- 22			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 34th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly accept in-principle the 2022 Chiefs Council Report and Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Report as presented to the 34th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> The Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department has submitted the signed resolution along with the Matawa Chiefs Council approved 2021-2022 audited financial statements to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Nation Rebuilding Program as per the requirements of our funding terms and transfer payment agreement.</p>			

3	Support for Matawa Education and Care Centre Infrastructure Funding through Jordan's Principle	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
02-28-07- 2022			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support Matawa Education Department's application for capital funding submitted by MECC under Jordan's Principle, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly continue to support the Matawa Education Department and the MECC in their work to ensure the personal well-being and academic success of Matawa children and youth.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> MECC staff members developed a proposal to continue retrofitting and renovating the MECC building and was submitted to CHRT#41, which we have since been informed we are not eligible due to being located off-reserve. Funding has been granted by ISC's Pathways to Safe Communities Initiative to address the funding shortfalls of the gymnasium project. The City of Thunder Bay's Community Partnership Fund has announced funding to be used for the MECC building's HVAC system. Funding from "One-Time Funding for Time-Limited Mental Health and Addictions Projects" through Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health has been applied for, with no response to date. Matawa Education has also begun an application through the CWB Welding Foundation for additional capital to continue retrofitting space for an MECC welding program.</p> <p>Matawa Education's application for "One-Time Funding for Time-Limited Mental Health and Addictions Projects" through Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health was rejected. We are continuing to meet with senior officials from ISC and the province of Ontario to address the funding gaps related to capital, and our understanding is the governments are having internal discussions regarding capital for the MECC.</p>			

4	Support for Matawa Education Partnership with the Critical Thinking Consortium	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
04-28-07- 2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support MECC's partnership with TC2, including travel, presentations, and networking with other national and international education agencies and organizations, especially those serving Indigenous students, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department and MECC to identify funding for these activities, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department and MECC report on these activities to Matawa education leadership on a regular basis.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Education staff attended the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI) Congress 2023 held in Vina del Mar, Chile from January 10-13, 2023. A presentation was made by Matawa Education staff during the Congress with participants from around the world in attendance and contacts were made for possible future partnerships and/or projects. A proposal has been submitted to present at Learning Forward Annual Conference 2023 in Washington, D.C. held December 3-6, 2023. A request to meet with Ontario Public Supervisory Officers Association (OPSOA) has also been submitted. To date no response has been received for either. A proposal to present at ICSEI 2024 in Dublin, Ireland will be developed. MECC staff will be attending Matawa Education's Annual Conference held in March 2023 to gather community level input on work done with TC2. Funding was received through ISC's Education Partnerships Program to continue curriculum development work with TC2 and a similar proposal will be submitted in the most recent call for proposals.</p> <p>The proposal to present at the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI) 2024 is still in development and will be submitted by its June 21, 2023 deadline. The proposal to present at Learning Forward Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. has not received a response to date. The meeting with Ontario Public Supervisory Officers Association will be held at a date yet to be determined in June 2023.</p> <p>With community level input gathered at the annual Matawa Education Conference in March 2023, an Indigenous knowledge and traditions course is currently in development. Also underway are the Indigenizing of two more high school courses, the development of more resources related to previous work with TC2, and the development of a website for sharing our Indigenized curriculum resources. A proposal through ISC's Education Partnerships Program to continue working with TC2 on Indigenizing curriculum is awaiting a funding decision.</p>		

5	Impact of Changes to Federal Funding for Education	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
05-28-07- 2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to continue its work with Matawa First Nations education leadership to ensure second-level services and programs currently funded through ESEP will continue beyond March 31, 2023, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to continue to advocate and, when possible, participate in technical tables at the regional, provincial, and national level 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 in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to seek alternative sources of funding for existing second-level programs and services which may not be eligible for direct federal funding beyond March 31, 2023, and;</p>		

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Education Department provide regular updates to the Matawa education leadership and to the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly in December 2022.

UPDATE:

Matawa Education staff and with support from the Resolutions #05 -28/07/2022 & #28 – 06/10/22 have been diligently communicating with Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) to ensure the sharing of information is accurate and current. Matawa Education was informed the Elementary and Secondary Education Program provides core funding based on Nominal Roll and the Interim Funding Approach to support First Nations control of First Nations education and the delivery of kindergarten to grade 12 educational services for all eligible students ordinarily resident on reserve. The Elementary and Secondary Education Program aims to create a financially stable environment for First Nations education, enabling better quality and consistent support for students, schools, educators, communities and First Nations education organizations, conditions that help improve student outcomes.

The Nominal Roll and Interim Funding Approach is used to calculate the Elementary/Secondary funding and is provincially comparable and responds to variable cost factors, such as remoteness, school size, language, and socio-economic conditions. This funding method uses an objective, transparent and formula-based approach to funding First Nations education.

Core elementary and secondary education funding also includes Second-level education support services that are to be delivered by a recipient or designated First Nations service provider – Matawa Education until a request to withdraw and/or alter from existing service relationships by First Nations.

Indigenous Service Canada communicated with Matawa Education April 13, 2023, that the 2023-24 allocations are currently being calculated, and that Matawa Education will receive their 2023-24 Budget Allocation Letter May 2023.

Matawa Education Department staff members sit on technical tables at the regional, provincial, and national level; as well as, technical tables related to urban and community-based recommendations arising from the Seven Youth Inquest, including the Political Table, Education Table, Infrastructure Task Team, Policy and Legal Task Team, Programs, Services and Funding Task Team and the Student Well-Being Task Team.

Matawa Education also participated in Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Education Jurisdiction Summit February 22-23, 2023 with discussions around NAN-Canada Bilateral Table with a mandate to oversee and guide reform of the education systems that serve NAN communities by reviewing and reforming the policy and funding frameworks that support those systems.

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6	Appointment of the Chiefs' Spokesperson for Education	Ogamakan Michael Sugarhead, Nibinamik FN	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN
06-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly appoint Neskantaga First Nation Chief Wayne Moonias as the Matawa Chiefs' Spokesperson for Education for two years, or until the said person is no longer able to fulfil this responsibility, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct Matawa Education to ensure the Matawa Chiefs' Spokesperson for Education is kept current on issues related to education policies, programming, funding and regional education strategic planning.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> First Nation Chief Wayne Moonias' term has concluded, and we seek guidance from Matawa Chiefs in Assembly to ensure advocacy continues at the regional, provincial, and federal levels with all matters in Education.</p> <p>Matawa Education staff provide information on current education related issues to Sharon Nate, Executive Director of Education, for her to share with the Matawa Chiefs' Spokesperson for Education and the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly. Regular updates are also provided to the Education Directors of Matawa First Nations through their roles as the Matawa First Nations Education Authority Board of Directors.</p> <p>In December 2022, Matawa First Nations Education Authority Board of Directors held a board meeting with the Executive Director and managers of Matawa Education's various departments and the Chief's Spokesperson for Education advocated for Matawa communities and Matawa Education's interests at the Seven Youth Inquest Political Table held January 26, 2023.</p>		



*Chiefs Council Political Advisor Paul Capon at the Matawa FNM Annual Fish Fry, Thunder Bay
May 26, 2023*

7	Changes to Ontario Science Curriculum	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie FN
07-28-07- 2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly want the Ontario Ministry of Education to immediately stop the planned implementation of the new Ontario elementary science curriculum for the 2022-2023 school year, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to work with the Ontario Ministry of Education and other First Nation education organizations to develop a framework that will ensure the on-going incorporation of Indigenous content and ways of learning in all areas of the Ontario elementary and secondary curricula, and;</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly advocate at the regional, provincial, and national levels to ensure the incorporation of Indigenous content and ways of learning in all areas of the Ontario elementary, secondary and post-secondary curricula, and to ensure that the recommendations of the TRC are acted upon in good faith by all governments, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs in Assembly call upon Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Chiefs of Ontario to advocate in the best interest of its member First Nations by challenging the Ontario Ministry of Education's efforts in the implementation of the new Ontario elementary science curriculum for the 2022-2023 school year, 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 in Assembly on issues related to the Ontario curriculum.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Education staff continue to provide Matawa First Nations schools current up-to-date Ministry of Education information and continue to research and share best practices related to instruction and school success to support improved student and school performance. The Ministry of Education has also provided on-going electronic Memorandum's informing Principals of Private Schools/Principals of First Nations (Federally Operated Schools) of pertinent information, opportunities, and webinars in all aspects of Education. The Ministry of Education also offered a technical briefing on the content of the revised elementary Science and Technology curriculum for First Nations and Federally operated schools in March of 2022, and the invitation was sent to Matawa Principals and Education Directors.</p> <p>The MECC is continuing important work to Indigenize secondary curriculum on a course-by-course basis through the partnership with Critical Thinking Consortium (CT2) and is seeking ways to secure permanent funding to ensure all Ontario secondary curriculum is Indigenized (see Resolution #07-28-07-2022).</p> <p>Matawa's concerns have been shared with the Ministry of Education; however, the Ministry continues to implement the elementary science curriculum across Ontario. Elementary schools in Matawa First Nations have control over their own curriculum and can decide what is taught in the classrooms. MECC is continuing important work to Indigenize secondary curriculum on a course-by-course basis through the partnership with Critical Thinking Consortium (CT2) and is seeking ways to secure permanent funding to ensure all Ontario secondary curriculum is Indigenized.</p>		

8	Call for Immediate Implementation of Youth, Women and Elder Councils	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN
08-27-08-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly continue to hold firm that Youth, Women and Elders have the right to a voice and as such, mandate the MFNM Chiefs Council to provide a plan for moving forward on establishing Youth, Women and Elder Councils including a budget with potential funders, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly implement and fund this work on a priority basis moving forward immediately, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that a preliminary report on progress be provided at the next Matawa Chiefs Council meeting in the fall of 2022 and at subsequent Matawa Chiefs Council meetings in early 2023 and onward to the 35th AGM, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mover and Seconder along with Chief Judy Desmoulin of Long Lake #58 First Nation (known as the 3 Chiefs) will take the lead to oversee this process and that opportunities are immediately implemented to ensure Matawa Youth, Women and Elders participate in future Matawa Chiefs Council meetings.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Advisory Council Coordinator positions was filled on October 25, 2022. Meeting with Chiefs from Ginoogaming, Long Lake 58 and Neskantaga on November 24, 2022 to discuss Advisory Council position and reviewed work plan. Community Representatives invited to attend Matawa Chiefs Council Meetings. A Tool Kit was developed to establish and support councils in each First Nation. Co-ordinator position re-filled in May of 2023.</p>		
9	Increased Funding for Post-Secondary Students	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
09-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Chiefs of Ontario, and the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for an immediate, substantial increase in funding for the federal Post-Secondary Student Support Program to meet the actual needs of students in the 2022-2023 academic year, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Chiefs of Ontario, and the Assembly of First Nations continue to advocate for a process that will ensure adequate, sustainable, long-term funding is available to support all First Nation post-secondary students to successfully complete their post-secondary education, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that owing to the estimated 300% increase required in post-secondary funding, Matawa First Nations Chiefs in Assembly direct Matawa First Nations Management and Matawa Education to seek immediate and additional funding to support post-secondary students from the Matawa First Nations, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Chiefs' Spokesperson for Education, Matawa Education and Matawa education leadership to continue to advocate for Matawa post-secondary students with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Chiefs of Ontario, and the Assembly of First Nations, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that Indigenous Services Canada and Canada change its post-secondary funding formula in the spirit of reconciliation immediately for the benefit of Matawa First Nation members.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Matawa CEO spoke to Minister of Indigenous Services of the importance of post-secondary education funding on Friday September 16, 2022. To date Indigenous Service Canada has provided funding only to Neskantaga First Nations as a pilot project to assist with the short-fall due the large increase in their post secondary applications.</p> <p>Since 2019 through 2022 Indigenous Service Canada has provided engagement funding to Indigenous Representative Organizations for the development of comprehensive and integrated post secondary education models. The Engagement report was to be completed in the fall of 2022, however Matawa Post Secondary doesn't have a copy of the report nor have been updated if completed from ISC or Chiefs of Ontario.</p>		

10	Support for the Development of a Matawa Tiny Home Village Pilot Project in Thunder Bay	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
10-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council are in support of the Matawa Tiny Homes Village Pilot Project preliminary feasibility study and implementation plan which includes a funding application to the CMHC Co-Investment Fund, along with others that may be applicable, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council have determined that this pilot project will coincide with the development of a feasibility study and implementing plan for a tiny homes pilot project on-reserve including special considerations relevant to tiny homes being developed in road-access and remote locations and that these should be prepared shortly after the Matawa Tiny Homes village is completed, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct that an additional report on this pilot project be provided at various opportunities prior to the 2023 Matawa AGM.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Matawa applied for Partnership Development Fund to pay for land where Tiny Homes will be. The feasibility study is in draft form, it will then go to funders with proposal. The name of the village – Niinawind is continuing to be worked on. The highschool project is complete and the Tiny Home will be ready for public viewing. Will be working to start the 2nd tiny home in the spring of 2023.</p>		

11	Resourcing Environmental Services	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Councillor Frederic Meeseetawageesic, Eabametoong FN (Proxy)
11-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly demand that the governments of Canada and Ontario properly resource environmental services at Matawa First Nations Management and in our individual First Nations to uphold our stewardship obligations to future generations.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Four Rivers has been very active preparing proposals to access resources for a number of stewardship initiatives. This included a batch of proposals to Canada relating to Indigenous Guardians in October, as well as a series of proposals relating to flood modeling, species at risk, health and climate change over the winter. The outcome of these proposal processes are still pending. Additionally, Four Rivers has been working to secure some longer-term capacity support funding through Canada and Foundations. Completion of these proposals are still pending. Following evaluation of the success of these collective proposals Four Rivers will assess and may need to develop an alternate funding strategy which may require additional lobbying efforts at both provincial and federal levels.</p>		

12 12-28-07- 2022	Matawa First Nations Financial Advisory Services	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council support the Matawa Financial Advisory Services Department to expand the current staff from one (1) Director to having additional human resources (approximately 3 additional staff) and travel costs in order to provide the urgent support at the community level including developing medium and long-term plans with the each First Nation in terms of financial administration development (local level), on-site support with audits, budgeting, financial policies and procedures and other relevant services, create strong networking techniques for the First Nation's finance staff, provide required training at the community level to increase capacity, and other types of financial services that may arise including policy analysis of funding formulas, etc., and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that long-term consistent funding is required for the Matawa First Nations Financial Advisory Services department, at a minimal interval of three (3) to five (5) years on an on-going basis, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Matawa CEO and Board of Directors to assist in supporting and securing the funding from potential sources and report back on the progress and success of this resolution.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> The two levels of government have been unresponsive and have not provided the requested funding to implement the elements we have asked for in our submitted proposal to them. We have requested funding from both the federal and provincial governments for these types of initiatives in the past with the Chiefs Council resolutions supporting them and have not had much response; and therefore no commitment to provide us with on-going funding for at least 3-5 years. <u>Of note:</u> (1) We see that the federal government spends tens of millions of dollars on the First Nations Financial Management Board conglomerate which is funded via the First Nations Fiscal Management Act.(2) We also see that two tribal councils in Ontario are being funded for similar financial management activities, i.e. Nokiwin Tribal Council and Southern First Nations Secretariat who have created a partnership called Capacity Connect. (3) We also note that First Nations are told to utilize Tribal Council services in terms of financial capacity development by the government.</p>			

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13	Addressing Re-Triggered Intergenerational Trauma Due to Attendance at Indian Residential and Day Schools in Matawa	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
13-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council, direct that recommendations be developed by Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) to address re-triggered intergenerational trauma within Matawa as a result of attendance or family attendance at Indian Residential Schools, Day Schools and the finding of unmarked graves at former IRS sites, that should include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Building internal capacity/human resources to provide full-time attention to the matter; b) Advocacy on usage of mental health resources that are available; c) Research and documentation on the specific experience of IRS and IDS survivors within Matawa as part of an educational and communications campaign using a number of lenses including how it affected different generations, educational outcomes, etc.; d) A determination of how departments within Matawa can contribute interdepartmentally as part of their annual workplans; e) Researching how communities in Matawa can partake in IRS and IDS commemoration and healing projects and providing assistance where required; f) Other relevant issues arising, and; <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that these recommendations be provided at various opportunities prior to the 2023 Matawa AGM.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A proposal was submitted on January 18, 2023 to the Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) Resilient Communities Fund for a two-year project that will develop an Indian Residential Schools/Indian Day School Survivors Healing Program. On May 23, 2023, MFNM was informed that the proposal was not approved for funding because "your organization did not sufficiently demonstrate it has a primary purpose, presence, and reputation for delivering programs and services with direct community benefit in Ontario."</p>		

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14	Development of a Matawa First Nations Youth Mental Health Strategy	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
14-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly mandate Matawa First Nations Management to develop a Matawa First Nations Youth Mental Health Strategy that will include the organization of a Matawa Youth Gathering, identification of needs for holistic, culturally appropriate mental health services to our youth, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that, as part of this Strategy, current mental health service delivery models be identified and reviewed by a Matawa First Nations Youth Council to identify all perceived service gaps and access barriers, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Matawa Chiefs Council support the application to various funders such as, but not limited to: Jordan's Principle, Indian Residential School Funding, Indigenous Services Canada, Ministry of Long-Term Care for capital, travel, equipment and staffing to support children and youth at the community level, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Youth Mental Health Strategy will not conflict with community mental health initiatives already funded at the community level, however, will support the expansion and accessibility of existing community programs access and delivery models.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC) secured 2023-2024 funding through NAN Choose Life to expand its mental health services to target and service children and youth residing in our Matawa communities. Said child and youth mental health staff and services are meant to compliment and support what already exists within the Matawa communities.</p> <p>Furthermore, a Youth Mental Health Summit was held by Matawa Health Cooperative on June 7 and 8, 2023 with Matawa youth living both on and off-reserve. Throughout the two days of the conference, attending youth were asked to participate in engagement sessions whereby they discussed and responded to questions targeting mental health issues. Responses from the engagement session were documented and recorded. From there, MHC will create a document outlining findings and recommendations that will be utilized to best guide ongoing and future mental health service delivery as well as any funding applications.</p> <p>Matawa Education continues to be ready to support and participate in the development and implementation of the Matawa Youth Mental Health Strategy.</p>		

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15	Continuation of the Development of Homelessness Strategy	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN
15-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council maintain their support of a homelessness strategy and taskforce creation and implementation for Matawa First Nations Members, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Homelessness Policy Analyst will highlight in the media, in the forms of interviews of people experiencing varying levels of homelessness and their unique identifying concerns such as: medical supports, addictions, mental health concerns, and the barriers First Nation People face while researching effective, culturally appropriate and sustainable solutions, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homelessness Policy Analyst of the Matawa Chiefs Council continue their work to research evidence-based practices and data collection to continue with the planning and development of a fulsome and effective strategy, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct that an additional report be provided around the end of the 2022/2023 fiscal year and prior to the 2023 Matawa AGM.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Service mapping project of Thunder Bay region will be complete by April. Project has begun with Canada Housing & Mortgage Corporation (CMHC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for emergency shelter and transitional project for women and children experiencing gender-based violence. Project looking to secure land for construction of the site. Project has proposed construction completion date of 2026. Outreach program has been restructured under the Homelessness Policy Analyst position as a service navigator who will be coordinating efforts will all outreach programs in Thunder Bay. Further expansion of the outreach service to be secured in 2023. Begun applications for the additional construction of transitional units in both the Thunder Bay and Greenstone regions. Projected approval of additional housing units in summer 2023 for these regions. The women's shelter has been moved forward within ISC and CMHC and we are currently waiting for technical drawings to be approved by CMHC, the shelter has also been attached to the Family Violence Prevention program and will be provided with additional funding through this stream to increase capacity. Transitional housing units process has begun with CMHC and ISC with conversations regarding proper site development to begin this spring. Proposals for expansion of both transitional units and Shelters into each of the 9 communities have been submitted to CMHC under the same gender-based violence initiative to help keep families together. All Thunder Bay currently operating outreach service providers now meet monthly to co-ordinate efforts and ensure we are directly connected with our community as early as possible to ensure they are receiving the most and appropriate services available to them.</p>		

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16	Matawa Chiefs' Council Rejects Processes that are Proceeding without the Consent of Indigenous Rights Holders	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council reject the following processes as outlined below:

1. Nishnawbe Aski Nation – Treaty Relationship Agreement with Canada discussions, as well as any other discussions that may be occurring that will impact the decision-making and authorities of the Matawa member First Nations related to our Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, land, resources and development, and;
2. The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Assembly of First Nations (AFN) – First Nations Economic Growth and Prosperity Table(s) that are being advanced by both of these organizations with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada, and;
3. Canada's proposed development of a National Benefit-Sharing Framework that will be conducted by Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grand Chief and Executive Council of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Regional Chief of Ontario - Chiefs of Ontario and the National Chief at the Assembly of First Nations will be advised by letter of the position taken in this resolution with respect to these processes, and;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct the Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department to coordinate the drafting of a media statement on this issue and the position of the Matawa Chiefs Council to reject these processes at this time, and that First Nations across Ontario and Canada must be broadly informed of the significant concerns that our communities are raising.

UPDATE:

AFN Proposed National Economic Growth & Prosperity Table and Draft Mandate Resolution

The RP&J Department staff attended the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly held December 6-8 in Ottawa. As part of the pre-meeting technical sessions, we learned that the draft resolution has proceeded by the approval of the AFN Executive Committee, and a national prosperity table was presented to the Prime Minister of Canada on November 30, 2022.

COO Economic Growth & Prosperity Table – Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCoED)

The Chiefs of Ontario/Ontario Prosperity Table under the direction of the COO Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCoED) seems to be proceeding, including the funding announcement of \$25 Million on October 19, 2022 for this specific initiative. <https://chiefs-of-ontario.org/ontario-regional-chief-glen-hare-welcomes-25-million-investment-for-first-nations-economic-development/>

NAN Treaty Relationship Agreement

No further direction has been given on this issue, the RP&J Department continues to monitor for any developments or indications from NAN.

In order to address the resulting and developing issues surrounding the topics of the AFN/COO Prosperity Tables, Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy announced December 9, 2022, the National Benefits-Sharing Framework and the negotiation of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan scheduled for June 21, 2023 – a separate briefing note was prepared for the Matawa Chiefs Council for direction and next steps.

17	Matawa Member First Nations Reject Métis Assertions in the Matawa Homelands and Territories	Ogamakan Michael Sugarhead, Nibinamik FN	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN
17-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council and Matawa member First Nations reject any Metis assertions being made in the Matawa homelands and territories, and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the position of the Matawa Chiefs Council that there is no historic basis for the recognition of any Metis rights in the land now subject to James Bay Treaty No. 9 (1905-06 and 1929-30) and the Ontario portions of Treaty No. 5., and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council also further reject the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario's recognition of the Metis claims as an Indigenous People group as Constitutional equals to the First Nations people of the Matawa member First Nations, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council direct that the rejection of the assertion of any Metis rights in the Matawa homelands and territories will also apply to any legal strategies or challenges, and regional or national First Nations discussions related to the rights and interests</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department continues to monitor for the introduction of the Metis self-government agreement legislation to be introduced into the House of Commons. As at May 9, 2023 this next step has not occurred. The RP&J Department prepared a letter and media release in response to this event that was approved by the Matawa Chiefs Council.</p> <p>However, in terms of the Matawa member First Nations specifically – the Metis Claims in Matawa Region research project was presented to the Matawa Chiefs Council on March 28, 2023 by Dr. Celeste Pedri-Spade and Dr. Darryl Leroux. The final research project report was distributed to the Matawa Chiefs Council in May 2023. Next steps and further direction on the issue is for the Matawa Chiefs Council discussion further.</p>		

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18	Call for a Kiikenomaga Kikenjgewen (KKETS) Employment and Training Services Funding and Services Allocations Review	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN
17-28-07-2022			

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly call for a review of funding and services of KKETS so that First Nations and their members, regardless of where they live, have equitable access to funding, and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly require that part of this review develops allocations which are proportional to First Nations so they can better service the needs of First Nations members, regardless of residency, and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED there be better communications and transparency on how funding is and can be accessed with First Nations and other funders/partners to maximize First Nations opportunities.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this review be started immediately after the 34th Annual General Assembly and be finalized within 6 months for the consideration of the Matawa Chiefs Council.

UPDATE:

KKETS has used 3 avenues to find accurate numbers of the Matawa on/off community populations. The results have varied. Data from the 2021 Census gave these statistics. When presented to the Matawa Chiefs they informed us the numbers were inaccurate due to lack of participation in the survey. The population data from the most 2021 survey was as follows:

Name	On	Off	Total
Aroland	165	445	610
Constance Lake	325	655	985
Ginoogaming	185	490	675
Long Lake #58	350	605	955
Marten Falls	240	425	665
Nibinamik	315	115	430
Webequie	720	245	965

Statistics can be found at: [Membership in a First Nation or Indian band by residence on or off reserve: Canada, provinces and territories \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/92-626-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.htm)

After contacting the Matawa Membership department we learned that Matawa membership does not have an accurate listing of populations in each community. They often rely on Service Canada Census data which is widely considered inaccurate. Advice was to contact the First Nations directly.

Ila Beaver was hired to discover what each community population statistics were directly. Her findings and sources from each community are below:

Matawa Communities Population

Name	On	Off	Total	Name	Contact #
Aroland	345	400	745	Robinson Meshake,ECC	807- 621-7559
Constance Lake	856	794	1650	Shania Echum, Administration	705-463-4511
Ginoogaming	277	977	1254	Emmerae Charles, Admin Assistant	807-876-2732
Long Lake #58	450	1383	1833	Valerie Patabon, Membership Clerk	807-876-9645
Marten Falls	250	571	821	Linda Moonias, Administration	807-349-2509
Nibinamik	325	211	536	Samantha Ash, Membership	807-593-2131
Neskantaga	105	270	375	Julian Sakanee, Band Rep	julian.sakanee@neskantaga.com
Webequie	951	258	1209	Travis Spence, Community Coordinator	807-353-6531
Eabametoong	1600	1100	2700	Paul Holcroft, Band Manager	807-242-7221

KKETS will be conducting a research project with Lakehead University identify a baseline for quality of life indicators for each Matawa / KKETS First Nation commencing the summer of 2023. During this time, researchers at KKETS will go house-to-house to accurately obtain population numbers for the Chiefs to discuss disbursement of Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ISETS) dollars.

19	Support for Work Towards the Development of Community-Based Long-Term Care Facilities and Services in Matawa FNs	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Councillor Frederic Meeseetawageesic, Eabametoong FN (Proxy)
17-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Matawa First Nations will conduct a feasibility researching the unique requirements of each of the Matawa First Nations with the goal of securing funding for the establishment and operation of community-based long-term care facilities and services, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa First Nations Management will seek to secure funding to facilitate the creation of an advocate position within the health care team that will ensure the safety and security of Matawa members in a care facility, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly direct lobbying efforts towards the continued expansion of health care for those in need of a continuum of care service both on and off the Matawa First Nations.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> At the First Nation level—Matawa Technical Services completed applications for three (3) Elders Complex Facilities and only one (1) was approved (Aroland First Nation). Long Term Care co-development has taken place with a final report to be made available to the public this spring. The final report is expected to be brought to federal government this fall with Treasury Board approval process to begin shortly after. This proposal has been co-developed by First Nations People across Canada, so it is expected to take longer than any other current funding proposal, however its scope is expected to address many of the concerns First Nations People face when addressing Long Term Care solutions in our communities. Individual First Nations will be given the opportunity to present their unique barriers to long term care and ensure that going forward long-term care breaks away from the western model and adapts to more a suitable and sustainable model. Additional consultations will take place on Long-Term Care with the Matawa Health Co-op and Matawa on specific needs.</p>		

20	Matawa Chiefs' Council Accepts Revised Draft Mining Resolution for Further Review, Input & Consideration	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Councillor Frederic Meeseetawageesic, Eabametoong FN (Proxy)
20-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council accept the revised draft mining resolution as presented (copy attached) for the consideration of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly meeting to be held on August 9-10-11, 2022 and;</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department will assist in this item, including providing an update to the mover and seconder as to the status of the revised draft resolution, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council understand that there may be revisions and changes made to the revised draft resolution as it proceeds towards the next Chiefs of Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly in which the deferred resolution has been scheduled for reconsideration September 6-7, 2022.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> The RP&J Department attended the Chiefs of Ontario Fall Chiefs Assembly held November 15-17, 2022 in Toronto, ON. The Matawa Chiefs Council in attendance presented to the Chiefs Assembly from their individual community perspectives as they chose, and participated in the Chiefs discussion panel on the issue of mining. The outcome of this COO meeting was the successful adoption of COO Resolution 22/44S titled: The Emerging Development of the North and the Ring of Fire Region moved by Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation and seconded by Chief Ramona Sutherland, Constance Lake First Nation.</p>		

21	Roll Out of the Matawa Waka Tere Language Revitalization Project	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie FN
21-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the Matawa Education Department, in consultation with Matawa First Nations, to develop a Matawa Wide Language Strategy, while recognizing the sacred teachings when revitalizing languages, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate Matawa Education to secure accreditation of the Matawa Waka Tere language revitalization program in order to access funds to allow the program to be sustainable indefinitely similar to post-secondary institutions, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to provide regular updates to the Matawa Chiefs on the Matawa Waka Tere Language Revitalization Project.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Accreditation Consultations have initiated with Matawa Education & World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC). The WINHEC has focussed its attention on alleviating the difficulties which confront the Indigenous peoples. WINHEC is to provide an international forum and support for Indigenous Peoples to pursue common goals through Indigenous education, including but not limited to: Creating an accreditation body for Indigenous education initiatives and systems that identify common criteria, practices, and principles by which Indigenous Peoples live. WINHEC's accreditation process is split into five parts: the letter of intent; eligibility application, self-study, visiting committee (report), and accrediting board (ruling). Upon submitting the Letter of Intent and membership fee, an applicant has two years to complete its Eligibility Application. Candidates who have submitted their Eligibility Application will then have two years to complete the Self-Study and its site visit. As mandated by Matawa Chiefs in Assembly Matawa Education staff will continue to research and prepare for WINHEC's accreditation process utilizing WINHEC's Accreditation Handbook as a procedural guide in successfully assembling requirements needed.</p> <p>Currently Year Two Matawa Waka Tere Indigenous Language Revitalization Curriculum development is in progress. Delivery sites are being continuously monitored and evaluated and being provided with supports and resources as needed. Next steps for Matawa Education is to continue gathering accreditation information.</p>		

22	Support for Capital in Matawa First Nation Community Schools	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
22-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly recognized the number of deficiencies at the First Nation level from lack of infrastructure, lack of teacher accommodations, lack of resources, lack of school space, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department, Matawa First Nation Management and Matawa Education Spokesperson to lobby Canada and Ontario for educational capital funding.</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Education Department provide regular capital updates to the Matawa education leadership and to the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Matawa Education brought the matter forward to the Political Table rescheduled to January 26, 2023. At this meeting, ISC indicated the simplest means of securing funding for education infrastructure is to include it in Regional Education Agreements (REAs).</p> <p>In follow up meetings, after the Political Table meeting in January 2023, ISC representatives continue to assert that the simplest means of securing funding for education infrastructure is to include it in Regional Education Agreements (REAs).</p> <p>Matawa Education Department has also learned that funding for community infrastructure could be made available through CHRT-41 (Jordans Principle). November 16, 2021, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) issued 2021 CHRT 41. This decision contains orders for Canada to fund the purchase and construction of capital assets in community.</p>		

23	Support for Education and Training Resolutions Omnibus	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN
23-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the grouped Education and Training Resolutions in this omnibus.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p> <p>Please refer to #21-28/07/2022 - Roll Out of the Matawa Waka Tere Language Revitalization Project.</p>		

24	Support for Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction Omnibus	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Ogamakan Michael Sugarhead, Nibinamik FN
24-28-07-2022	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the grouped Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction Resolutions in this omnibus.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p>		

25	Support for Health & Social Omnibus	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN
25-28-07-2022			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support the grouped Health and Social Resolutions in this omnibus.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> N/A</p>			

October 4 - 6, 2022 - Toronto, Ontario

26	Support In-Principle of the Matawa Environment Technical Table (METT) Terms of Reference	Chief Ramona Sutherland, Constance Lake FN	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN
26-06-10-2022			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs adopt the October 4, 2022 METT Terms of Reference in principle as a guiding document for METT's work to advance the regional assessment; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the METT will meet regularly with the Matawa Chiefs to report its recommendations and receive feedback, including amendments for the Terms of Reference as needed; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that METT will develop a Communication Strategy to guide communications among all relevant groups throughout the regional assessment; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that financial resources must be provided for the METT to fulfill its duties.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> METT meetings have been ongoing since July 2023. The METT has been very dedicated to supporting the Matawa Chiefs through their efforts to review aspects of the regional assessments and prepare recommendations based on their community perspectives, experience, and collaborative discussions. The last comprehensive update provided to the Matawa Chiefs was in December 2022. The METT made several recommendations to the Chiefs at that time some of which still need to be addressed: This includes a dedicated meeting between the METT and the Matawa Chiefs and a discussion between the Matawa Chiefs and the METT on their proposed drafted communication strategy. Clarification is needed from the Chiefs on if the METT can access anticipated Regional Assessment (RA) resources to continue their work. The METT had made a recommendation for some technical presentations for the Chiefs – some of which are being scheduled for the March 2023 Chiefs meeting. An additional outstanding METT recommendation is a Matawa Chiefs Retreat which still needs to be scheduled.</p>			

27	Translation Services at Matawa Chiefs' Meetings	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
27-06-10-2022			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that translation services be made available at Matawa First Nations Chiefs meetings to encourage the use of Indigenous languages.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Translation equipment has been purchased. A roster of translators is being developed to assist in the translations.</p>			

28	Second Level Services Continued	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN	Ogamakan Michael Sugarhead, Nibinamik FN
28-06-10- 2022			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Chiefs direct Indigenous Services Canada to continue funding Matawa First Nations Education Authority for Second Level Services as a status quo to its member communities until such time the planning process have been completed and direction provided for the next steps for the Regional Education Agreement (REA).</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Resolution #28-06/10/2022 was provided to ISC October 26, 2022 with no response, a follow up virtual meeting was held with ISC February 13, 2023 with ISC deferring as it is still under review. For next steps, Matawa Education will continue to contact ISC, until a clear response is provided.</p>			

December 13 - 15, 2022 - Thunder Bay

29	Support for FireSmart Capacity Building	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN	Chief Ramona Sutherland, Constance Lake FN
29-15-12- 2022			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Chiefs support an application by Matawa First Nations Management to ISC and other funders to support the implementation Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP); and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa First Nations work with Geraldton Community Forest in implementing the CWPP with each First Nation, and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution will negatively impact communities from applying for funding sources to protect their First Nation members.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> As of 9 May 2023 - The Wildland Fire Bush trucks will be arriving in Thunder Bay late August/early September 2023. Most of the equipment and tools have been received by Geraldton Community Forest Inc. There are still some supply chain issues.</p>			

30	Support For Post Majority Care for Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Ogamakan Michael Sugarhead, Nibinamik FN
30-15-12-2022	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs acknowledge the high number of Matawa youth aged 18-26 exiting the child welfare system and the current lack of supports to transition them to independent living and enhance connection to community and culture; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs authorize Matawa Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin Program to provide Post Majority Care for those youth exiting the child welfare system; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin will work co-operative with First Nations on case management to better serve First Nations members in all areas.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Funding was approved funding and 2 staff were hired to begin the program which started on February 21, 2023. As of May 1, 2023, 15 youth intakes were completed. A funding request for the 2023/2024 fiscal year was submitted to Indigenous Services Canada.</p>		

31	Support for Jordan's Principal Enhanced Group Application and Service Coordination for Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Ramona Sutherland, Constance Lake FN
31-15-12-2022	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs acknowledge the high number of Matawa children requiring support through the Jordan's Principal program requiring assistance and a coordinated approach in completing individual applications for Matawa Members</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs authorize Matawa Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin Program oversee and develop an Enhanced Group Application for Service Coordination and an additional application for Service Access Resolution Fund (SARF) to support the implementation of Jordan's Principal Navigators and program supports; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Awashishewiigiihiwaywiin will report back to the Matawa Chiefs on how the process will work for community members; and</p> <p>FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution will negatively impact communities from applying for funding sources to protect their First Nation members.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> The Jordan's Principle application was approved and the program began on April 1, 2023. Hiring and onboarding of staff took place after that time and staff have been assisting families with Jordan's Principle Applications.</p>		

32	Rapid Lynx Telecommunications Expansion	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Dorothy Towedo, Aroland FN
32-15-12-2022			
Abstentions: (3)			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Matawa Chiefs in Assembly hereby exercise the option pursuant to Resolution #12-01-08-2019, and recommend and fully support the Board of Directors of Rapid Lynx Telecommunications GP Inc. to invite the communities of Constance Lake, Ginoogaming and Long Lake #58 First Nations to the become Limited Partners of the Limited Partnership and shareholders of the General Partner Rapid Lynx Telecommunications GP Inc. on the same terms and conditions as the current First Nations. 2) The Matawa Chiefs in Assembly recommend and fully support the Board of Directors to direct their legal counsel, Ericksons LLP, to prepare the appropriate legal documentation to add the aforementioned communities through a participation agreement to amend the Limited Partnership Agreement, Unanimous Shareholder Agreement of Rapid Lynx Telecommunications GP Inc. and LP and to issue Shares and Units to Constance Lake, Ginoogaming and Long Lake #58 First Nations to reflect the aforementioned changes in this resolution. <p><u>UPDATE:</u> On January 3, 2023, the following packages were sent to Long Lake #58 First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation and Constance Lake First Nation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Band Council Resolution (BCR) - new director template 2. New First Nation Participation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Shareholder and Limited Partner Participation Agreement <p>First Nations have Appointed a Board Member by signing the BCR and Participation Agreement. Participation Agreements were signed by Chiefs of their respective First Nation and James Suganaqueb, President, signs on behalf of Rapid Lynx Telecommunications GP Inc. and Rapid Lynx Telecommunications LP.</p>			

January 16, 2023 - Toronto, Ontario

33	Support for Four Rivers' Application to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to Fund a Predictive Ecological Blastomycosis Model for the Matawa Territory	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN
33-16-01-2023			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs support Four Rivers' application to ISC to fund their Predictive Climate and Environmental Model on the Ecology of Blastomyces in the Matawa Territory, and;</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this expressed support does not supersede, replace, or interfere with individual community applications to the same fund.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Four Rivers prepared and submitted an abstract to ISC for a Predictive Climate and Environmental Model on the Ecology of Blastomyces in the Matawa Territory. As part of the application processes this abstract is the first part of the application process, to which additional budget information and workplans will need to be prepared and under the next phase of the process.</p> <p>Four Rivers has received an indication that resources will be received to support some of this work. Four Rivers is awaiting the results of an independent research study, commissioned by Four Rivers on Blastomyces to assist in refining workplans and next steps.</p>			

January 26, 2023 - Virtual

34a	Matawa Chiefs' Council Direction for UNDA/UNDRIPA Legal Opinion and Research Project on Metis Rights Assertion in Matawa Territory	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga FN
34a-26-01-2023			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs direct the Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department to proceed on this initiative as outlined in the update provided January 16, 2023; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council approve the selection of Gowling GWL (Canada) LLP for the legal opinion on UNDA/UNDRIPA and Dr. Darryl Leroux and Dr. Celeste Pedri-Spade for the Metis rights assertions research project; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Chiefs Council direct that the Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department update on the outcomes and reports from these projects.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>Over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction completed two (2) major research and support projects as directed by the Matawa Chiefs Council via Resolution #34(a)-26-01-2023 <i>Matawa Chiefs' Council direction for UNDA/UNDRIPA legal opinion and research project on Metis Rights Assertion in Matawa territory</i>. First, Gowling GWL (Canada) LLP completed the legal opinion on the UNDA/UNDRIPA process for the Matawa Chiefs Council consideration, presenting their work on March 24, 2023. Second, the Matawa Metis rights assertions research project was completed by Dr. Darryl Leroux and Dr. Celeste Pedri-Spade, presenting their work on March 28, 2023. Both of these research projects were funded by the Department of Justice and are important for the information and direction going forward of the Matawa Chiefs Council on these important and inter-related topics.</p>			

February 7, 2023 - Virtual

34	Matawa Chiefs' Council Direction for Capacity and Support Funding Required for the Matawa Region	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
34-07-02-2023	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs direct the Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department to formally submit the 2023-2024 fiscal year and on-going proposal to the Ministers of Natural Resources Canada, Justice, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and Indigenous Services Canada for their response.</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs Council maintain the position that this proposal is only for the capacity and support activities outlined as being required for the Matawa Chiefs Council and Matawa member First Nations, and does not constitute engagement, consultation or agreement on the development of the Matawa Region.</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Chiefs Council direct that the Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Department update on the responses to this proposal from each federal Minister and their department.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>The Matawa Regional Priorities and Jurisdiction Department has submitted the approved proposal to the potential funding sources as directed. In addition, the proposal has been shared directly with Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Patty Hajdu and the Ontario Minister of Mines George Pirie. Additionally,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Matawa Board of Directors have decided to stop funding the RP&J Department due to lack of resources and the present deficit effective March 31, 2023; • Funding has not been solidified for the department at this point in time, however meetings and discussions continue internally between Matawa First Nations Management and the Province and Federal departments, emphasizing the importance to the independent basic capacity and support the RP&J Department provides to our member First Nations; • The Matawa Development Corporation (MDC) has solidified funding to support start-up costs and is not part of the above funding request. <p>The Matawa Development Corporation (MDC) has submitted a \$1.4M funding request for start up costs. The funding request has been presented to the Ontario Treasury Board and has been verbally approved. We are working towards a signed document and workplan outline in the coming months of May/June. The RP&J team remains at Matawa under the MDC portfolio.</p>		

March 4 - 5, 2023 - Toronto, Ontario

35	Moving Forward with Drafting a Terms of Reference within a Co-Led Matawa/Mushkegowuk/Canada Regional Impact Assessment Process and Drafting a Matawa/Mushkegowuk Relationship Agreement	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN
35-05-03-2023	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that although the Matawa Chiefs Council have not provided their free, prior and informed consent in the area known as the ring of fire and do not view it as an adequate consultation—agree to moving forward with drafting a Terms of Reference within a Co-Led Regional Impact Assessment Process, as proposed by the Eabametoong First Nation Recommendations and Options Paper, with the above amendments, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that in addition to the Regional Assessment (RA) Terms of Reference process, the draft Matawa/Mushkegowuk Relationship Agreement will include alternative strategies to the RA, for ratification of the MCC and Mushkegowuk Council, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that strong ongoing investments from Canada to support community capacity needs are absolutely critical, and the needs of individual communities to participate in impact assessment process, including the regional assessment processes, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that funding is required from Canada to support immediate next steps towards advancing the Terms of Reference including Chiefs, Working Group, Technical Table meeting costs; Expert Advisory & Technical Supports; and logistical, communications, coordination & administrative supports, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that Canada will need to support additional regional assessment costs, once defined by the terms of reference, and;</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that progress reports on the above be presented on a regular basis.</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution shall be on a “without prejudice” to First Nations positions on rights, interests, and/or projects.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Introductory meetings between named community working group members and Canada have occurred (April – May, 2023). The aim of these meetings have been to relationship build and get input on how community working group members may wish to organize/conduct future conversations. Members have recommended hiring of an independent 3rd party facilitator and hosting an in-person working member workshop to advance discussions. Community working group members have also recommended advancement of Matawa Environment Technical Table (METT) recommendations surrounding internal discussions (ie Chiefs Retreat, Internal Dialogue). A Chiefs Retreat is also planned to assist in this process with the Matawa Environment Technical Table.</p>		

May 12, 2023 - Thunder Bay, Ontario

36	Support for 2-year Pilot Project on a New Animal Services Community-of-Practice and to Reclaim the Cultural Practice of Dog Sledding in the Matawa First Nations	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN
36-12-05-2023			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs support Matawa First Nation Management's application to Indigenous Services Canada for an Indigenous Animal Services 2-Year Pilot Project entitled 'Creating an Animal Services Community-of-Practice & Bringing Back Dog and Human Cultural Traditions in the Matawa First Nations' inclusive of much needed spay/neuter clinics to act as a model for other First Nations in the country and call for it to be fully funded as a priority.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> On May 26, 2023, a meeting with held with ISC. The proposal was positively supported. At the time of this report being printed, logistical considerations were still in progress. The target to begin the project (previously September 2023) will be pushed forward to October or November 2023 in light of the lack of a contribution agreement.</p>			

37	Support for Family Transitional Housing Units	Chief Solomon Atlookan, Eabametoong FN	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN
37-12-05-2023			
<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Awashishewiigihiwaywiin continue to work in supporting Matawa families in reducing the number of Matawa children in care or at risk of apprehension; and</p> <p>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council support the Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Program seeking additional funding to support the needed staffing for 6 family transitional housing units at the Matawa Training and Wellness Centre; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the Matawa Chiefs Council direct Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Program to update progress on roll-out at next annual general meeting (AGM).</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> The application for funding through Jordan's Principle was accepted. As of May 2023, staff vacancies of one (1) Lead and eight (8) full-time support staff and additional relief staff were working to be filled. The plan is to begin occupancy by August 1, 2023.</p>			

38	Support for Community Health Capacity Building and Health Human Resources	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN	Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming FN
38-12-05-2023	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council call on federal and provincial funding in the areas of employment and training, education and health services to work together to supply funding for individual and collective community needs in the area of capacity building and Health Human Resources; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs Council call upon Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS), Matawa Education, other Matawa entities and other health/social agencies work collectively to develop a Community Health Capacity Building and Health Human Resources strategy; and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that ongoing reports be provided to Chiefs and Councils and Matawa entities on the development of the Community Health Capacity Building and Health Human Resources Strategy.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> A number of Matawa First Nations Management departments have begun the proposal planning phase. They include: KKETS, Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin (HSMB), Health Co-operative and Education. It is hoped that one of the training components will be around HSMB's 'Biimadeswigamik Life Lodge: A Place of Good Life' case management program.</p>		

June 9, 2023 - Thunder Bay, Ontario

39	Immediate Next Steps in Working Together on the Regional Assessment	Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls FN	Chief Judy Desmoulin, Long Lake #58 FN
39-06-09- 2023	<p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs affirm the work of the Matawa Environment Technical Table (METT), and their recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Matawa member First Nation Chiefs will gather together at a retreat to address any barriers of unity related to the Regional Assessment and discuss a common path forward. 2. The Matawa member First Nations intend for the Regional Assessment process to be a community-led process, wherein Matawa member First Nation Chiefs are the decision makers related to this process. Community and Regional Technical/Legal Advisors/Experts will support the process, build capacity and work together with community member working groups, who in-turn will make recommendations to the Chiefs (see attached diagram). 3. The Matawa member First Nation Chiefs direct the METT to develop a plan and recommendations associated with community engagement on the Regional Assessment. 4. There shall be a neutral and comprehensive review of past collaborative initiatives with the intent to highlight lessons learned and strategies that should be incorporated into processes moving forward. 5. The Matawa member First Nation Chiefs direct that work must be done on conflict/dispute resolution between First Nations, and that a conflict/dispute resolution mechanism is developed and implemented for Regional Assessment processes. 6. The Matawa member First Nation Chiefs direct that the METT is to lead the development of a Regional Assessment Communication Strategy which will be brought forward to Matawa Chiefs for consideration. 7. The Matawa member First Nation Chiefs direct that a regular meeting/update schedule is established between the METT and the Matawa Chiefs Council so that the Matawa Chiefs are kept informed about METT progress and can provide ongoing direction to the METT. <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa member First Nation Chiefs direct the METT to undertake a process to hire a skilled, independent and neutral facilitator who will be approved by the Matawa member First Nation Chiefs to support Regional Assessment meetings and processes moving forward, and</p> <p>FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that an interim Regional Assessment workplan and budget is prepared that includes the resourcing required including: Chiefs Retreat, support advisor and community working group meetings, community or regional technical/advisory support, preliminary engagement of community members, assessment of past collaborative processes, development of a despite/conflict resolution mechanism, and regional assessment Chiefs meetings and associated Chiefs meeting supports.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u></p> <p>A METT meeting took place on July 5-6, 2023 to work on the items identified above. The meeting included METT community representatives from all Matawa communities. Feedback was obtained for a draft work plan and budget that was presented at a subsequent Matawa Chiefs Council meeting on July 18, 2023. The results of this meeting were presented at the Matawa 35th Annual General Meeting.</p>		

Notes

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