



RE: Matawa First Nations Management; Matawa Education Department

Request for Proposal: Matawa First Nations Regional Education Agreement (REA) Negotiator in conjunction with Matawa Education.

1. Background:

Established in 1988, Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) is a registered non-profit Tribal Council. MFNM membership includes eight First Nations in Treaty Nine and one First Nation in Robinson-Superior Treaty. Five Matawa First Nations are accessible by air and winter road while the other four are accessible by all season roads.

MFNM provides a variety of advisory services and program delivery to its member First Nations. The Tribal Council continues to thrive and expand services that cater to the needs of the Matawa First Nations including Matawa Education Department (MED). MED provides educational and advisory support to its member communities including a First Nation Private School, Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC), located in Thunder Bay.

Access to quality and equitable education for Matawa First Nations has been historically complex within Canada which has evolved significantly over time. The Regional Education Agreement (REA) for Matawa First Nations is part of the broader efforts to address historical educational challenges and disparities and provide better educational opportunities for Indigenous communities, children, and youth.

The REA's for Canadian First Nations work to address the educational needs of Indigenous communities while respecting autonomy and self-determination. These agreements aim to provide an agreed upon framework for collaboration between Indigenous groups, provincial governments, and the federal government to improve educational outcomes, preserve Indigenous languages and cultures, and ensure greater control and governance over education for First Nations communities.

The specifics of each REA may vary significantly between each Matawa First Nation and their unique diversity. The REA will be designed to the unique needs and aspirations of the participating communities. Furthermore, the REA seeks to empower Matawa First Nations to design and deliver education programs that are culturally relevant, language-focused, and responsive to the needs of their students.





2. Project Proposal:

MFNM is seeking proposals from qualified professionals to act as the MFNM Regional Education Agreement (REA) Negotiator. The successful proponent will represent the Matawa First Nations involved in the negotiation process for the educational agreement. The goal is to work with participating communities to create an agreement respecting Matawa First Nations rights, enhances educational opportunities for children and youth, promotes cultural and language preservation, and supports the self-determination of Matawa communities in education.

The REA Negotiator will play a crucial role in advocating for the interests, needs, and rights of the applicable Matawa communities during discussions to establish a REA. The REA Negotiator will be an important representative of participating groups' interests and advocate for their priorities, ensuring the agreement addresses the needs and aspirations of each community they represent, with a focus on indigenous governance and self-determination in education.

3. Project Scope:

Key Tasks	Description
Comprehensive consultation of participating Matawa First Nations.	Consultations including but not limited to community meetings, discussions with Elders and knowledge keepers, other key stakeholders and consultants, engagement with parents and students, surveys, workshops, or other forms of engagement tailored to the cultural preferences and accessibility needs of the communities involved.
Focused advocacy for Matawa First Nations	Representing Matawa First Nations' interests and advocate for their priorities, ensuring the agreement addresses the needs and aspirations of each community they represent.
Communications between applicable parties.	Communication between applicable parties including but not limited to First Nations, Governments, Matawa First Nations Management, and Matawa Education Department, ensuring concerns, proposals, and considerations are clearly articulated and understood.
Negotiations with applicable Government groups on behalf of participating Matawa First Nations.	Work towards finding common ground and compromises that satisfy the interests of all parties involved, fostering collaboration and mutual respect.
Drafting and Finalizing Agreement Terms	Drafting the terms and conditions of the REA, ensuring it reflects the consensus reached during negotiations.
Ensuring Accountability and Implementation	Establishing mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and ensuring the implementation of the agreed-upon terms.





Ongoing Resource Support Role for participating Matawa First Nations.	Provide resource support to Matawa First Nations in the infancy phase of the agreed-upon terms.
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4. Proposal Requirements

Consultant Proposals should at a minimum include the following:

- I. Company Profile
- II. Experience with similar work (3 -5 projects)
- III. Project Team members complete with qualifications and experience
- IV. Outline of proposed workplan
- V. Proposed schedule
- VI. Fees including breakdown by stage, total fees, travel costs as applicable, disbursements, any applicable taxes, and total proposed cost
- VII. Hourly Rates for any additional work that may be agreed upon as necessary
- VIII. Identification of any assumptions, constraints in consultant proposals

5. Project Timeline:

Project Timeline	Date
RFP issued	December 01, 2023
RFP closes	December 15, 2023, at 4:30 pm EDT
Evaluation	December 15 – 22, 2023
Successful vendor notified	December 14, 2023
Orientation to the Matawa First Nations Management and Matawa Education Teams	January 15, 2024 – January 31, 2024
Community engagement facilitation and preparations of related presentation material	To be completed by March 31, 2024
Meeting to review and discuss findings to date, including a brief report of findings to date.	To be completed by April 15, 2024
Draft preliminary draft of Matawa First Nations REA	To be completed by May 01, 2024
Meeting to present findings and recommendations	To be completed by May 15, 2024
Support to Matawa First Nations	May 15 – December 01, 2024





6. Proponent Qualifications:

Qualified proponents must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience with Indigenous First Nations in respects to working and maintaining a collaborative and cohesive environment respectful to cultural protocols, norms, and customs
- Experience working with Government bodies including the Federal Government of Canada
- Ability to attend in-person meetings in the City and District of Thunder Bay over the course of the project as well as in other Canadian locations including Matawa First Nations, comprising of road and remote access communities
- Capacity to attend/participate in virtual meetings as required over the course of the project
- Demonstrated successful completion of 3-5 similar projects. References required
- Indigenous organization is an asset but not required
- Familiar with or able to speak Indigenous language(s) is an asset but not required
- Knowledge of First Nation Education preferred/is an asset

7. Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria	Score
Demonstrated knowledge of and experience with Indigenous First Nations in respects to working and maintaining an collaborative and cohesive environment respectful to cultural protocols, norms, and customs.	/ 20
Experience working with Government bodies including the Federal Government of Canada.	/ 20
Ability to attend in-person meetings in the City and District of Thunder Bay over the course of the project as well as in Matawa First Nations, including road and remote access communities.	/ 15
Capacity to attend/participate in virtual meetings as required over the course of the project.	/ 10
Demonstrated successful completion of 3-5 similar projects. References required.	/ 10
Proposed milestones and timeline align with RFP requirements	/ 5
Total Cost	/ 20
Indigenous organization is an asset but not required.	/ Bonus
Familiar with or able to speak Indigenous language(s) is an asset but not required.	/ Bonus
Total Score	/ 100





8. Submission of Proposals:

All proposals must be submitted electronically to Stephanie Hogan; Education Coordinator with Matawa Education at shogan@matawaeducation.ca.

The Submission deadline is: December 15, 2023

9. Contact Information:

For any inquiries or clarifications related to this Request for Proposal (RFP), please contact Education Coordinator with Matawa Education at shogan@matawaeducation.ca.

