



## CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs deferred from the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in Neskantaga First Nation to be effective from and after 9:00 am Eastern Standard Time on September 18, 2024

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### RESOLUTION #05-18-09-2024

#### SUPPORT FOR YEAR-ROUND, 24/7 OPERATION OF THE MATAWA EDUCATION AND CARE CENTRE'S SAFE SOBERING SITE

**WHEREAS**, Matawa Education and the Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) recognize the primary importance of supporting student wellbeing and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the MECC Safe Sobering Site is accessible twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week during the school year to provide support and services to Matawa students and youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for these supports and services continues to grow, as demonstrated by the number of services provided in the 2023-2024 school year:

#### Safe Sobering Site:

- 657 student incidents related to alcohol or drug intoxication
- 36 students who were ineligible for service due to alcohol/drug poisoning, violence to staff, etc
- 1007 students accessed emergency clothing, showers/personal care products, food, etc.
- 124 students accessed free harm reduction supplies, which are supplied by our new partnership with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit:
  - Safe injection supplies.
  - Aluminum foil packs.
  - Safer crystal meth smoking kits.
  - Safer crack-smoking kits.
  - Safer snorting kits.
  - Naloxone kits.

#### On Call Service:

- 5337 student rides

#### Indigenous Cultural Reintegration Programming:

- 655 students accessed Matawa Safe Sobering Site's Indigenous Cultural Re-integration youth related programming

#### Outreach

- Average of 70 curfew calls every night; and



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**WHEREAS**, a significant number of Matawa students and youth reside in or visit Thunder Bay over holidays or in the summer months, and may continue to require supports or services offered through the MECC Safe Sobering Site; and

**WHEREAS**, the request has been made to expand the operation of the Safe Sobering Site so that it operates year-round, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including the summer and all holidays, essentially increasing the need for additional operational funding, staff and resources by 20%;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education and Care Centre to operate at its Safe Sobering Site year-round, 24 hours a day, seven days to ensure Matawa students and youth are able to access its supports and services when they are needed; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education and Care Centre to identify and secure adequate funding to support the expanded operations of its Safe Sobering Site.

**MOVED BY:** Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation  
**SECONDED BY:** Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation

**OPPOSITION(S):** 0  
**ABSTENTION(S):** 0

**CARRIED:**

*Chief Executive Officer*