



CHIEFS COUNCIL

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

RESOLUTION #-08-18-09-2024

SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MATAWA-SPECIFIC INDIGENOUS PATIENT NAVIGATOR IN THE THUNDER BAY REGIONAL HEALTH SCIENCE CENTRE (TBRHSC)

WHEREAS, Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) have identified a need to have a Matawa-specific Indigenous Patient Navigator (IPN) at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre (TBRHSC) due to many service gaps and lack of proper service coordination from the TBRHSC, and;

WHEREAS, some of the services the TBRHSC IPN provides to all Indigenous Peoples include:

- Out-Patient Renal Unit
- Out-Patient Regional Cancer Care Unit
- Centre for Complex Diabetes Care
- Emergency Department
- Maternal Newborn
- Pediatrics
- Interpretive services in Ojibwe, Cree, and Oji-Cree anywhere in the TBRHSC
- Support during appointments
- linking to community resources
- Tele-visitation services with remote family members
- Patient advocacy
- Assistance with discharge planning, and;

WHEREAS, MFNM departments will continue to work with other health care delivery services to coordinate client care, translation and interpretation services in Ojibwe, Cree and Oji-Cree, along with supporting members during their stay at the TBRHSC, and;

WHEREAS, Matawa members, parents and caregivers have identified being fearful of taking children to the TBRHSC Emergency Department due to racism and a high number of unfounded child welfare reports done by emergency staff, and;

WHEREAS, a significant number of Matawa members including Elders, adults, youth, and children reside or visit Thunder Bay and receive health care services from TBRHSC and multiple Matawa departments simultaneously and there is currently zero or limited collaboration or exchange of information between TBRHSC and Matawa departments which is causing Matawa members to 'fall through the cracks,' and;



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WHEREAS there are unique youth needs in the TBRHSC Emergency Department that have been identified by Matawa Education arising out of the Seven Youth Inquest, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly direct MFNM departments to work collectively to identify and secure adequate funding to support the development of an additional TBRHSC Indigenous Patient Navigator position that service Matawa People located at TBRHSC who will act as liaison between the hospital and Matawa departments to better service Matawa members in hospital and upon discharge by providing the same health-related supports and services that currently exist for other Indigenous organizations and communities but for Matawa departments and communities specifically, and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that this position support patients and family escorts coming into TBRHSC and upon discharge back into home communities, and;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that MFNM departments provide regular updates to the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly on this important initiative.

MOVED BY: Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

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

CARRIED:

Chief Executive Officer