

**STATEMENT AT THEMATIC DIALOGUE ON THE FINANCING OF
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' WORK AND PARTICIPATION ACROSS THE
MULTILATERAL AND REGIONAL SYSTEM – UNPFII TWENTY-FOURTH
SESSION**

April 23, 2025

By

Matawa First Nations Management Youth Delegates”
Landon Yellowhead, Nibinamik First Nation
Sienna Wabasse, Nibinamik First Nation
(Treaty #9, Ontario, Canada)

Distinguished delegates and fellow Indigenous Peoples and Members of the Permanent Forum:

My name is Landon Yellowhead, and my fellow delegates are Mercedes Sofea and Sienna Wabasse. We are all members of the remote Nibinamik Summer Beaver First Nation in Ontario.

On behalf of the Matawa youth delegation– the Matawa youth want to remind Canada and the Province of Ontario that their economies are based on accessing the critical minerals, precious metals, and energy sources of our territory.

The development of the Matawa territory including the Ring of Fire is expected to be a nation-building economic boom to Canada outlined in Ontario’s Bill 5 to secure a strategic national mineral supply chain.

The lands and resources of the Matawa territory are subject to the James Bay Treaty No. 9 signed in 1905-06 and 1929-30.

Matawa First Nations and our Chiefs in leadership are at a critical point in the history of our people.

It is time for meaningful Treaty implementation that includes the recognition of the sovereignty and rights of our people.

It is time to keep the promises made at the signing of the Treaty.

The Matawa youth delegation call for all nations represented here today to monitor how the governments of Ontario, Canada, and the United States may proceed to unilaterally access without free, prior and informed consent - the territory, lands, resources and wealth that has been entrusted to us.