



## CHIEFS COUNCIL

*RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in Aroland First Nation to be effective from and ++after 1:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on July 29, 2025*

### RESOLUTION #02-31-07-2025

#### SUPPORT FOR PHYSICIAN SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION WITH THUNDER BAY REGIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

**WHEREAS**, Marten Falls First Nation (Marten Falls) is committed to ensuring timely, equitable, and high-quality health care access for its community members, and;

**WHEREAS**, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between a hospital and a First Nation community is a formal contract that outlines access to care by ensuring that a specific hospital provides timely, equitable care to community members and clarifies who is responsible for care coordination, and;

**WHEREAS**, a MOU between a hospital and a First Nation community may include language to ensure that the designated hospital cannot unreasonably refuse services to members of the community, and;

**WHEREAS**, Marten Falls is currently the only Matawa First Nation community without a MOU with a hospital which creates a significant gap in timely access and the quality of care available to its members, and;

**WHEREAS**, in Marten Falls, the current process for obtaining an Accepting Physician at a hospital during medical emergencies (i.e. Medevacs) without a MOU can take up to ninety minutes for the healthcare providers in Marten Falls, resulting in serious delays in care for Marten Falls community members, and;

**WHEREAS**, Marten Falls has identified Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre as being the hospital they would like to enter into a MOU with given the expertise at the Centre, more accommodation opportunities in Thunder Bay, and the support of the Matawa Tribal Council and its corporations (i.e. Matawa Health Co-operative, Awashishewiigihiwaywiin, 21-Bed Supportive Housing, etc.), and;

**WHEREAS**, having a MOU with a hospital, specifically the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, would allow for quicker physician access (i.e. to reduce response times to as little as 15 minutes), and enable healthcare providers in Marten Falls who are handling the emergency, to consult an acute care physician to determine the safest and most appropriate care pathway for community members, so;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly support Marten Falls First Nation in establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, to close this gap and improve access to emergency and urgent medical care for its members, and;





## CHIEFS COUNCIL

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Matawa Health Co-operative supports Marten Falls First Nation in advocating for and facilitating the development of this agreement, by engaging with Ontario Health and Indigenous Services Canada, and;

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Matawa Chiefs-in-Assembly support funding requirements to enable this protocol in terms of technology, information sharing, capacity building, etc., and;

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding for Marten Falls First Nation be recognized as a regional priority, and that Matawa communities support efforts to achieve equitable access to health care across all member Nations.

**MOVED BY:** Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation

**SECONDED BY:** Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation

**OPPOSITION(S): 0**

**ABSTENTION(S): 0**

**CARRIED.**

Chief Executive Officer

