

MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT UNDERGOES STRATEGIC REALIGNMENT TO STRENGTHEN OPERATIONS AND ENSURE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THUNDER BAY, ON — Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) is initiating a strategic realignment following an independent review of its services and corporations. The review highlighted MFNM's strengths in delivering successful programs across multiple sectors to its nine member First Nations, while also identifying operational and financial pressures caused by rapid growth.

In response, MFNM will restructure internal processes and realign staffing to better support long-term sustainability. Unfortunately, due to changes in federal funding, programs — such as Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Social Services and certain programming within the Matawa Health Co-operative — will be discontinued.

MFNM, like many Indigenous not-for-profit organizations, relies heavily on government funding. Recent shifts in federal budget priorities have removed key funding avenues, including those supporting Jordan's Principle and COVID-era wellness programs.

"The recent Federal Budget announcement is concerning to many First Nations and organizations about the future of the services that are provided. It is essential that Matawa First Nations Management remains a strong organization and continues to support our member First Nation communities through sustained funded programs and projects," said Dr. Sharon Nate, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MFNM.

The Chiefs of the Matawa member First Nations, the MFNM Board of Directors, and the CEO will continue to lead and oversee the realignment process, ensuring community voices guide the path forward. These efforts are grounded in the shared values of unity, respect, accountability, and First Nation-led governance.

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