

*MEDIA ADVISORY*

March 5, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Matawa Education Conference 2026 – Educating for a Good Life**

**Thunder Bay, ON** – Media are invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Matawa Education Conference 2026, northern Ontario's largest annual education conference, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year.

Hosted by Matawa Education, the three-day conference brings together over 400 educators, administrators, and support staff from schools within the Matawa First Nations for networking, strategic planning, cultural programming, and over 50 workshops and training sessions led by 50 presenters.

The conference's theme, *Educating for a Good Life: Gikinookoyan Chiimino Piimaatiseyan*, reflects a shared commitment to supporting student success through culturally grounded, community-led education.

This year, the Matawa Education Conference takes place March 10–12, 2026, at the Valhalla Hotel & Conference Centre. The 2026 keynote address will be delivered by Shy Anne Bartlett, manager of Indigenous education at the Superior-Greenstone District School Board. For more information, please visit <https://matawaeducationconference.com/>.

**What:** Opening Ceremony – Matawa Education Conference 2026  
**When:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Valhalla Hotel & Conference Centre, Thunder Bay

**The following representatives will be available for interviews:**

- Suzanna Baxter, President, Matawa First Nations Education Authority Board of Directors
- Georgette O’Nabigon, Executive Director, Matawa Education
- Stephanie Hogan, Education Coordinator, Matawa Education

*For more information, please contact Shelby Ch’ng, Education Partnership Program Liaison – Matawa Education at (807) 629-4996 or by email at [schnng@matawaeducation.ca](mailto:schnng@matawaeducation.ca).*

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