

October 2018



"Living with Us" .. page 20



MATAWA MESSENGER

The Power of Unity, The Dignity of Difference

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Photo: (L to R) Terry Varga - LiUNA Local Union 607 Business Manager, Shane Fugere - LiUNA Local Union 607 Indigenous Relations Representative, Roger Wesley - KKETS Executive Director, Joe Baxter - KKETS Board President

KKETS and LiUNA Local Union 607 Sign Cooperation Agreement

On August 28, officials from Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services (KKETS) and the Labourers International Union of America, Local Union 607 (LiUNA) signed a Cooperation Agreement committing to work together on economic/employment development strategies to develop Indigenous human resource potential within Matawa First Nations membership. Specifically, the Agreement commits to working together to provide training and apprenticeship opportunities for the trades of Construction Craft Worker and Cement Finisher as well as employment opportunities with employers bound to a collective agreement with Local 607 or other affiliated Local Unions of LiUNA.

KKETS and LiUNA Local 607 have been partners for a number of years, and more recently, have been working together over the past year leading up to the current Agreement so that Matawa First Nations members can receive training and unionization, where appropriate. Representing 120,000 Canadian workers, mostly in construction, LiUNA International is one of Canada's largest construction union and have accepted that construction projects will not proceed when First Nations are in opposition.

Of this Agreement, KKETS Executive Director Roger Wesley said: "The signing of this Agreement is another step in the right direction for KKETS as we continue to create a foundation in bettering our membership's lives. With it, we are building beyond "projects for work" to "life-long work in the trades and elsewhere" for our membership. LiUNA is a cutting-edge labour association, one with a proven track record of working and dealing with Indigenous organizations and communities with positive benefits and results. We are looking forward to developing our relations with LiUNA now and into the future."

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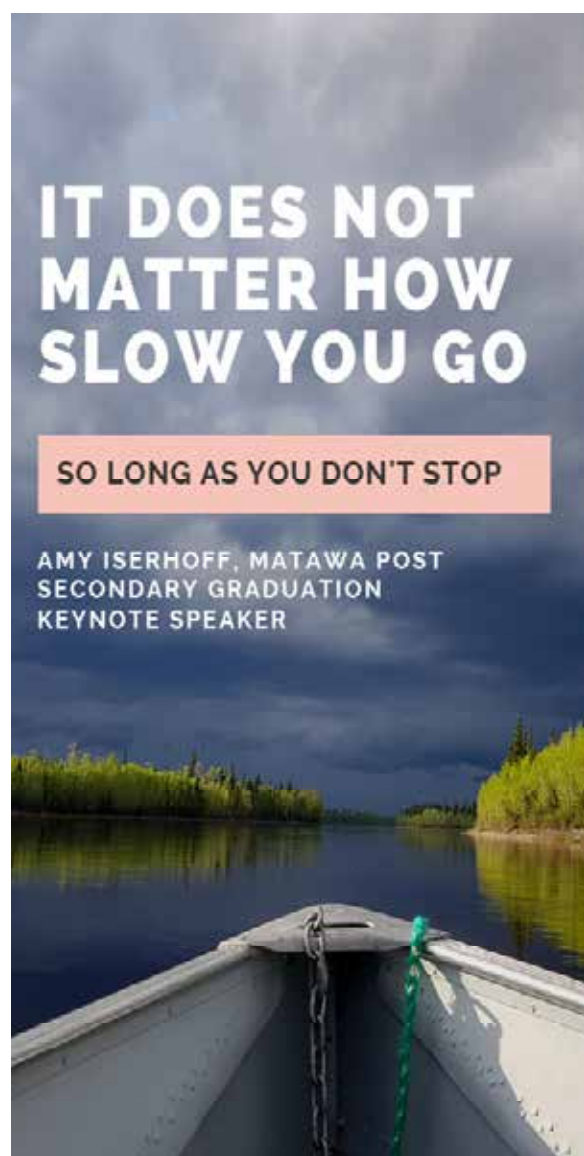
2018 AGM

Welcome New Staff and
more....



CONGRATULATIONS Matawa Post Secondary GRADUATES 2017-2018

Boucher, Billy	Mental Health & Addictions Worker
Charles, Debbie	Business Fundamentals
Cheechoo, Caitlyn	Welding Techniques
Echum, Cassandra	Business Fundamentals
Fortier, Alannis	Early Childhood Education
Gagnon, Douglas	HBed Aboriginal Education – Native Language Program
Gagnon, John	Native Language Program
Iserhoff, Amy	Nursing BSCN
Jabic, Britiny	Social Service Worker
Kakegamic, Chance	Native Access Program
Karhunen, Katelin	Honours Bachelor Social Work
LaBelle, Ashley	Marketing for Fashion and Entertainment
LaBelle, Camryn	Pre-Health Sciences Pathway
Mazinakouskang, Kerrie	Business Fundamentals
Mckay, Corrina	Interactive Media Development
Mendowegan, Karley	Personal Support Worker
Meshake, Glenda	Chemical Addiction Worker
Mekanak, Veronica	Native Child & Family Service
Mishquart, Kasey	Pre-Health Science Pathway
Moonias, Charla	Social Service Worker
Moonias, Natalie	Business Fundamentals
Nadon, Denyse	Master of Education in Leadership
Salmonson, Joseph	Construction Engineering Technology
Sanderson, Kianna	Travel and Eco-Adventure
Shebagabow, Peter	Native Language Instructor Program
Shewaybick, Shania	College Access Program
Sky, Reine	Bachelor of Arts Psychology
States, Larissa	Bachelor of Arts
Taylor, Christina	Early Childhood Education
Taylor, Sierra	Practical Nursing
Taylor, Summer	Arts & Design Foundation
Therriault, Cathy	Chemical Addiction Worker



2017/2018 Post Secondary Graduation & Rotary Club Awards Banquet

On June 7, 2018, Matawa Post Secondary Student Services in partnership with the Bowmanville Rotary Club held their 10th Annual Post Secondary Graduation and Rotary Awards Banquet in Thunder Bay. Family and friends joined in celebrating the accomplishments of graduates and award recipients (see pictures from the event and Rotary Award Recipients on the next page). Georg Krohn and Renee Bos, rotarians from the Bowmanville Rotary Club attended to assist in presenting the awards and providing congratulatory remarks. Keynote speakers were Amy Iserhoff and Durrell Oskineegish. Dark River Drum provided the opening and closing songs. Remarks were made by David Paul Achneepineskum, Matawa CEO and Sharon Nate, Matawa Education Department Manager. Matawa First Nations community leaders and members working in education also attended to present awards.

During the event, an opportunity was taken to honour the memory of the late Ted Mann, a Bowmanville Rotary Club member who was involved with these awards over the past 10 years. This man of great kindness and generosity will be very missed.

Elementary Categories

Junior Kindergarten to Grade 2 (Narrative / Story Book)
SK Class - Johnny Therriault Memorial School Aroland

Grade 3 – 5 (Community Story)

1st Place Simon Legarde – Migizi Wazisin Elementary School
2nd Place Kiera Reuben – Johnny Therriault Memorial School

Grade 5 – 8 (Current Issue / Persuasive Letter)

1st Place April Reuben – Johnny Therriault Memorial School
2nd Place Derlyn Metasawagon - Johnny Therriault Memorial School

Secondary Categories

Grade 9 – 12 (Creative Writing)

1st Place Durrell Oskineegish – Matawa Learning Centre
2nd Place Dylan Neshinapaise – Matawa Learning Centre
3rd Place Renee Lavoie – Matawa Learning Centre

Multi-Media Award

Logan Sagutch – Matawa Learning Centre

Post Secondary & Adult Education Categories

Sherry Mendowegan – Adult Education - KKETS
Jamie-Lee Therriault – College Bursary - Fanshawe College
Amy Iserhoff – University Bursary – Lakehead University
Joshua Fisher – Continuing Post Secondary Education (GPA 3.00 and over) – Ryerson University

Academic Excellence Awards - GPA 4.00+

Caitlin Cheechoo – Confederation College
Corrina Mckay – Confederation College
Joshua Fisher – Ryerson University



14 Tips for Kids to Start the School Year Off in a Positive Way

1. Let your children know what time school begins and ends each day.
2. Ask your children about their feelings -- both the excitement and the concerns -- about starting school.
3. Ask your children questions about their days and have them provide you with a few details. Here are some ideas for great questions you can ask your kids:
 - What was your favourite part of the day?
 - Tell me one thing that you learned today?
 - How did somebody help you today?
 - When were you the happiest today?
 - Tell me something good that happened today.
 - What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?
 - Where do you play the most at recess?
 - If you got to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you do?
 - Where is the coolest place at school?
 - Tell me about something kind you did for someone today.
4. Visit the school with your children to see their new classroom, meet the new teachers at the start of school year and make visits throughout the year.
5. Point out the positive aspects of starting school. It will be full of fun learning and a chance to make new friends.
6. Let your children know that all kids are nervous about the first day of school.
7. Share some loving words with your children in the morning that will let them you'll be thinking of them while they're at school.
8. Reassure your children that if any problems arise at school, you will be there to help resolve them.
9. Walk to school with your children and be there for pick up, or arrange for your children to walk to school or ride together on the bus with students who are familiar to them.
10. Find out about after-school activities that your children can take part in. Will there be a sports team or after-school club they can join? Ask how you can be involved.
11. Set a time to turn off electronics and encourage your children to spend time reading and playing.
12. Try to get back into a good sleep routine. Set up a regular bedtime and morning time routine to help prepare your children for school. According to statistics for healthy development: Children between the ages of 3-5 years should be getting between 11-13 hours of sleep a night, while children ages 6-13 years should be getting between 9 -11 hours of sleep a night.
13. A healthy balanced diet is linked with academic achievement. Try to provide meals that include at least three of the main food groups. Here are the 4 main food groups that can be included in a healthy lunch or snack:
 - Fruits and crunchy vegetables (eg. carrots, celery, cucumbers, broccoli, cauliflower)
 - Yogurt, milk, or cheese
 - Meat or meat alternative like hard-boiled eggs or peanut butter
(If your school has a nut-free policy, peanut butter and other nuts should not be included in your child's lunch)
 - Grain or cereal food like bread, a roll, or crackers
14. Making sure that children drink enough water is also very important. Water keeps children hydrated and helps with attention, memory recall and overall mental performance. It is recommended that children between the ages of 4 -8 years old should drink a minimum of 5 cups a day, while children between the ages of 9 – 14 should drink a minimum of 8 cups per day.



For more information, you can contact the school for ideas on healthy meals and snacks

Best wishes to all students, families, and school staff for a great school year!

In kindness,

Kelly Soulias ~ Junior Lead
Matawa Education PASS Program

**TUNE IN EVERY 2ND TUESDAY
FROM 4:00 - 4:30 EST
(3:00 - 3:30 CST)**

www.wawataynews.ca/radio
89.9 FM in Sioux Lookout
106.7 FM in Timmins
BellTV Channel 962

UPCOMING SHOWS

October 9 and 23
November 6 and 20
December 4 and 18
January 15 and 29



Four Rivers News on Environmental Training

This past summer from July 3rd to August 3rd Four Rivers conducted the Environmental Core Skills Program through BEAHR Training from ECO Canada to four successful Environmental Monitors through Greenstone Goldmine.

Anisa O’Nabigon of Long Lake #58 First Nation, Jason Chapais of Ginoogaming First Nation, Mason Shawayahamish of Beardmore and Steve Ouellet of Geraldton attended 4 weeks of classes on site in Geraldton and in the field at Greenstone Goldmine.

The Environmental Core skills Program is the foundational piece for further training in more specific and targeted areas in the Environmental field.



Trainees completed the 5 parts of the program within the 5 weeks of classes; Foundation skills, Introduction to the Environmental Sector, Technical skills, Local Knowledge, and Health and Safety as provided by Greenstone Goldmine which was mine site specific. The trainees now have the opportunity to further training in areas that are specific to Workforce Training Programs such as the Environmental Monitoring Coordinator, or Contaminated Sites Remediation Coordinator, leading to Technician Training Programs like the Certificate of Applied Environmental Techniques. The trainees were exposed to a multitude of hands on skills that they will be required to use on a daily basis within their area of employment as monitors within Greenstone Goldmine.

For Further Information please contact Dawn Desmoulin the Education and Training Coordinator for Four Rivers Environmental Services at (807) 629 5379.

MLC Students Paddle the Kitchi Siipi from Eabametoong to Marten Falls

This summer nine Matawa Learning Centre students paddled 240 kilometres along the Kitchi Siipi (Albany River) connecting the Matawa Communities of Eabametoong First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation. The students aged 15-20 came from each of the communities along the river as well as Aroland First Nation. The instructor team consisted of an MLC teacher, A Local Guide / Knowledge Keeper, and two professional river guides from Boreal River Adventures each specializing in Science Education and white water safety.

Prior to the trip the group completed three days of training on the Kaministiquia River just west of Thunder Bay. Students prepared for the trip through hands-on activities including canoeing, and canoe rescues, swimming in rapids, along with developing as a team in order to work together on the expedition. Upon successfully completing the training the group boarded their flight to Eabametoong where they were warmly welcomed by family, friends, and community members. The group was excited to get onto the river as many students were eager to paddle a traditional route that has been travelled upon extensively by their families and ancestors.

The students encountered, and overcame several personal and group challenges on the trip as they developed both wilderness and leadership skills. The pathway along the Kitchi Siipi provided students an opportunity to experience flatwater and whitewater paddling as well as sailing across the entire length of Makokibatan Lake. Paddling each day while learning and connecting with their Traditional Territory, students learned about the area and its history from the expedition's local guide and Knowledge Keeper, Joe Baxter. The students caught loads of fish and each participated in preparing delicious camp meals.

Over the course of two weeks students developed skills and certifications in white water safety, white water canoeing, camping, and leadership all while earning a grade twelve credit. Highlights of the trip include successfully paddling down notorious rapids such as Frenchmans, and Marten Falls, sailing the length of Makokibatan length in a mega raft of canoes, taking time to explore significant landmarks along the river including Kagiami Falls, the original Marten Falls town site, and many other incredible moments along the river.

On July 19th, the group paddled in to the community of Marten Falls where the Ogoki and Albany Rivers meet. After receiving a very warm welcome from the community, they spent the final evening camping in the Pow Wow grounds wrapping up and reflecting on the amazing adventure.

Matawa Learning Centre would like to share a Chi Migwetch with both Eabametoong First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation as well as each of the community members that supported the expedition. Another Chi Migwetch to each of the students who participated, all of whom should be incredibly proud for completing the trip.



KKETS - NEAT Training Completions

The KKETS/NEAT staff would like to congratulate participants who completed the 12 week training Pre-Trades Welder and Pre-Trades Heavy Equipment Mechanics programs that took place from June 4 - August 24, 2018 (see participants below). Both programs took place at Confederation College. Best wishes for continued perseverance and determination on their journey!

Pre-Trades Welder Program



Photo: (L to R) Renee Wesley, Tyson Wapoose, Liana Achneepineskum, Wayne Junttola (Welding Instructor), Dennis Magiskan, Martina Waboose and Brian Basketawang. Missing - Denita Magiskan and Howard Jacob

Pre-Trades Heavy Equipment Mechanics Program



Photo: (L to R) Megan Magiskan, Roxanne Wesley, Denise Magiskan, David Paul White, NEAT Program Support Officer Daren Sakanee, Rock Sagutch, Elias Whitehead. Missing - Iffet Kurtoglu

Promoting Matawa Workforce at Northern Ontario Expo

On August 22nd & 23rd, 2018, KKETS staff took the opportunity to participate in the Northern Ontario Resource Expo and promote the Matawa aboriginal workforce. The goal was specifically to create and initiate employment opportunities with industry leaders in attendance at the Northern Ontario Resource Expo 2018 at the Valhalla Inn. This gathering has been beneficial to KKETS as it began to open up new doors and dialogue with interested service providers, employers, and individuals. This will lead to assist in creating additional employment and/or training opportunities for the Matawa membership.

On the 2nd day of the EXPO, Roger Wesley, KKETS Executive Director took part in the discussion forum 'Bridging the Gap: Aboriginal Workforce and Resource Development'. Also presenting in this forum was Shane Fugere, LiUNA Indigenous Relations Representative, and Roger Starr, Supcom Industries Project Coordinator.

'The Northern Ontario Resources Expo presents a unique opportunity for First Nations, governments, producers and suppliers to discuss the challenges and opportunities for Northern Ontario's energy and resource-based economy, and to share and learn best practices for working together in a collaborative and beneficial manner to build and grow sustainable resource opportunities in Northern Ontario. Speaker presentations will offer industry insights and outlooks, professional growth and development. The Northern Ontario Resources Expo trade show will showcase some of the industry's key players and offer an abundance of informal networking opportunities for skill building, knowledge sharing, collaboration and idea generation.' (<http://norepo.ca/>)



Back row L to R: Jason Bilcowski, KKETS Recruitment Officer; Roger Wesley, KKETS Executive Director; Colin Shawinimash, Employment Integration Service Coordinator. **Front row L to R:** Courtney Ward, KKETS Apprenticeship Officer; Elaine Keesick, SkillsAdvance Project Manager.



Roger Wesley, KKETS Executive Director addressing industry leaders and members of the public on KKETS initiatives.

Language Revitalization

Matawa Education is pursuing an accredited community-based adult education language programme to ensure the revitalization of Ojibwe, Oji-Cree and Cree adult language speakers within each Matawa First Nation community, using the delivery methodology called 'Matawa Waka Tere' and community based tutors for dialectal purposes (*see Chiefs Council resolution on the next page*). Secured funding has allowed progress towards a Year 1 Certificate up to a Year 3 Bachelors Degree that commenced in mid March of this year with the arrival of two New Zealand (NZ) language specialists Mike Graham and Aroha Watene to work for Matawa Education for the next three years. They were past staff of Dr. Rongo Wetere who is assisting Matawa First Nations Management and Matawa Education with an accreditation recognition process. In June and August, internal introductory accelerated learning workshops on language revitalization for fluent speakers was held over two days at the Victoria Inn, in Thunder Bay, with a total of 40 participants representing all of the 9 First Nations communities. From these two successful trainings, participants were also invited to consider employment opportunities as a Language Specialist, where six people would be selected and based in Thunder Bay and be mentored by the NZ Language Specialists in the delivery methodology and development of the adult curriculums and resources, or be a tutor and or tutor assistant - these roles would be based within their community and or Thunder Bay. From the interested participants, we welcome Lawrence Therriault from Aroland First Nation and Nancy Ritch from Marten Falls First Nation as the Language Specialists for the Ojibwe language. The Oji-Cree and Cree language specialist positions will follow. It is planned that the Certificate Year 1 programme will commence in the fall 2019. Lastly, what you have to share about language revitalization is important and we would like to invite you to complete an online Language Revitalization Survey by going to one of the following links and by also sharing it with other Matawa Community members:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MATAWA-Language> or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MatawaLanguageFB>



Matawa Education Indigenous Language Revitalization Workshop - June 2018

Front Row L-R: Cecil Medowegan, Priscella Fisher, Betsy Towedo, Aroha Watene (facilitator), Pauline Gagnon, Mike Graham (facilitator), Anthony Towedo, Gloria Champagne, Victoria Nate, Lily Slipperjack. **Back Row L-R:** Joseph Meeseetawageesic, Roberta Wesley, Calvin Taylor, Daisey Slipperjack, Jeff Gagnon, Stella Bouchard, John Gagnon, Barb Wapoose, Judas Beaver, Nora Atlookan, Susan Sandau, Florrie Sutherland, Roy Bois. **Not in photo:** Lawrence Therriault, Jasmine Baxter, Carol Yellowhead, Rhonda Wabasse, Fred Jacob, Kevin Wabasse, Marilyn Kashkesh, Ruth Baxter-Meier.



Matawa Education Indigenous Language Revitalization Workshop - August 2018

Back Row – L to R: Nancy Ritch (Ojibwe Specialist), Mike Graham (Facilitator), Jocelyn Bananish, Norman Shewaybick, Lawrence Therriault (Ojibwe Specialist), Barbara Munroe, Romeo O'Keesh. **Front Row – L to R:** Noreen Missewace, Joyce Ooshag, Mary O'Keesh, Victoria Ooshag, Aroha Watene (Facilitator), Allen Towegishig.



(L to R): Allen Towegishig, Jocelyn Bananish



Norman Shewaybick

RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 30th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Nibinamik First Nation to be effective from and after 1:00pm Eastern Standard time on August 2, 2018

RESOLUTION #07-02-08-18

APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA AND DEGREE PROGRAMS IN MATAWA INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

WHEREAS Matawa Chiefs' Resolution #11-30-07-15 – *Language as a Nation Building Tool* supports new or continuing language retention and renewal initiatives in individual Matawa First Nations communities, and;

WHEREAS Matawa Education is currently implementing a community-based language renewal and revitalization initiative in the three Matawa Indigenous Languages (Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway) based on the successful Maori model of *Ako Whaka Tere*, and;

WHEREAS this initiative includes the training of community-based language teachers and the formal accreditation, in partnership with Six Nations Polytechnic Institute, for 1-year certificate, 2-year diploma and 3-year degree programs in Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway, and;

WHEREAS it is anticipated that these accredited programs will be taught by Matawa teachers and will provide a revenue stream once the initial pilot program has been completed, so;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly approve and endorse the formal accreditation, in partnership with Six Nations Polytechnic Institute, for 1-year certificate, 2-year diploma and 3-year degree programs in Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway, and;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Education Department provide ongoing quarterly reports to the Matawa First Nations on the implementation of this initiative, and;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Education Department to provide annual reports to the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly on the status of this language retention and renewal initiative.

Moved by:

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Wayne Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

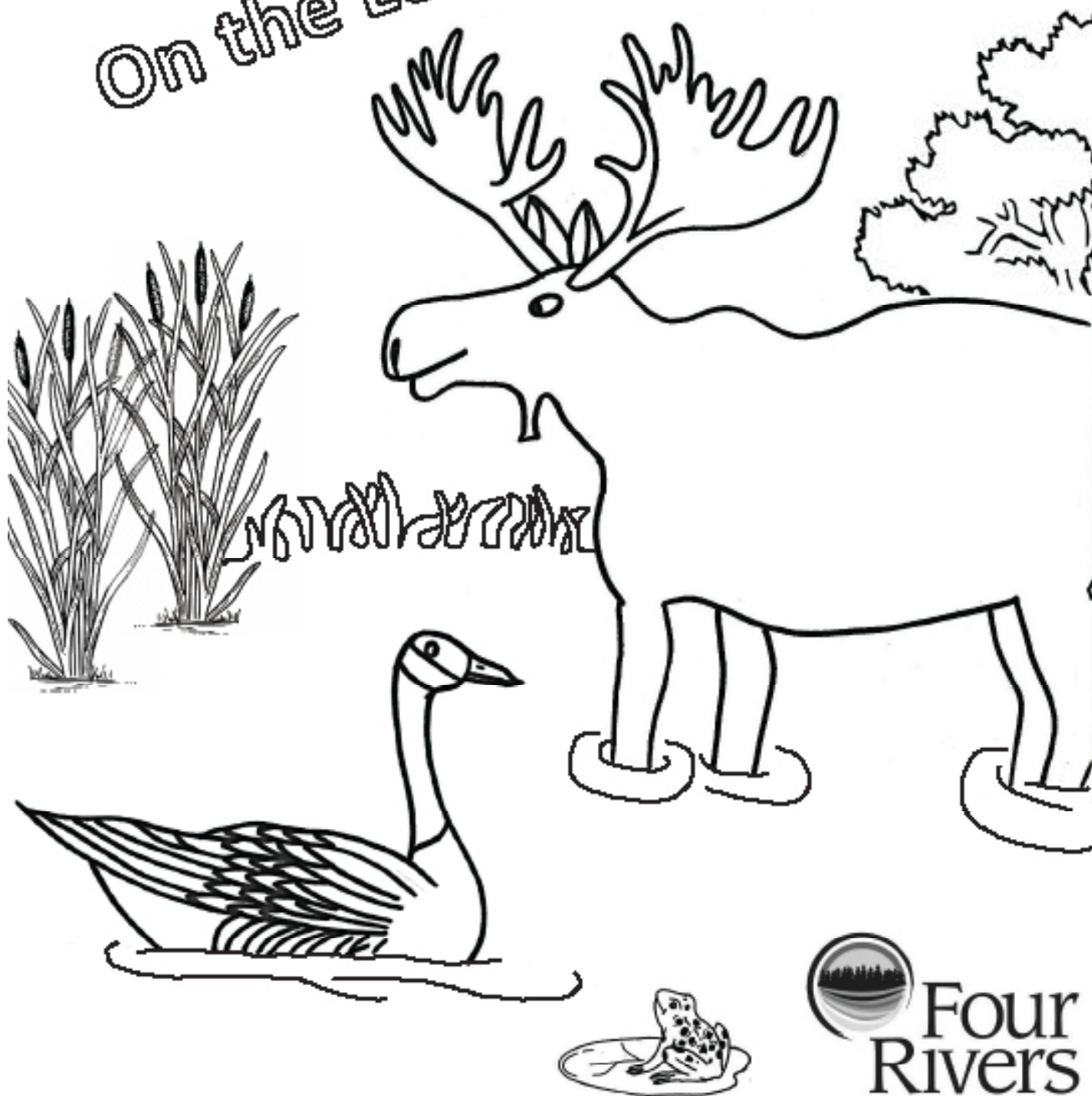
Abstentions:

None

Carried:

Yes (9)

This Moose &
Goose are
On the Loose!



News from Matawa Membership Program



Earlier this year, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) changed the way children under the age of 15 years of age or dependent adults can receive Indian status.

Changing from a 1 page application, it is now a 6 page application requiring more parental information including the need for both parents, the custodial parent, or legal guardian(s) to sign now. If parents are not together, it requires the most recent legal documents (like a divorce judgement, separation agreement, custody or guardianship order). In addition to this new 6-page form, INAC requires the completion of an addi-

tional application called the 'Guarantor Declaration' or a 'Statutory Declaration in Lieu of Guarantor.'

INAC also still requires the *original* long-form birth certificate with the name of both parents and 2 unaltered/identical passport-style photos (if it's going to be a Secure Certificate of Indian Status). Original long-form birth certificates are available through Service Ontario. For an illustration of this new INAC integrated registration process, go to Page 20.

To obtain the aforementioned INAC application forms, visit canada.ca/indian-status or call 1-800-567-9604.

Note: it is strongly recommended when a birth takes place that both new parent(s) fully participate in hospital birth registration processes so that long-form birth certificate be obtained when Indian status is being applying for. If the hospital birth registration process becomes affected, the process to obtain Indian Status becomes more complex such as having to pay additional processing fees, legal commissioning of documents, etc. which delays a child from being able to access important services like health care, etc.

RFA-Watershed Partners Opening Event

On August 9, 2018, Regional Framework staff in conjunction with Watershed Partners hosted an RFA-Watershed Opening Event at the Nor'Wester Hotel. The event was successful and well-attended with Chiefs, Elders, Regional Framework Working Group (RFGW) Members and Youth. The main purpose of the event was to launch the beginning of the Matawa-member communities' journey with Watershed Partners, who are design facilitators based out of Victoria, British Columbia.

All nine Matawa Chiefs passed a Chiefs' Council Resolution, Collaboration with Watershed Partners (#01-05/07/2018), supporting the work with Watershed Partners to facilitate the development of the shared understanding and unity which will lead to a long-term vision, decision-making processes and moving forward to collaborate to develop the vision of a long-term community-based regional process.

Watershed Partners is a strategy design firm with a global reach. Since 2005, they have been helping individuals and organizations make genuine and meaningful transitions from old to new ways of working through systematic changes. They are a team of designers, implementors and planners. Their skills and expertise provide the necessary framework to support groups as they navigate their current conditions to design a new future.



Photo credit: Peter Rasevych

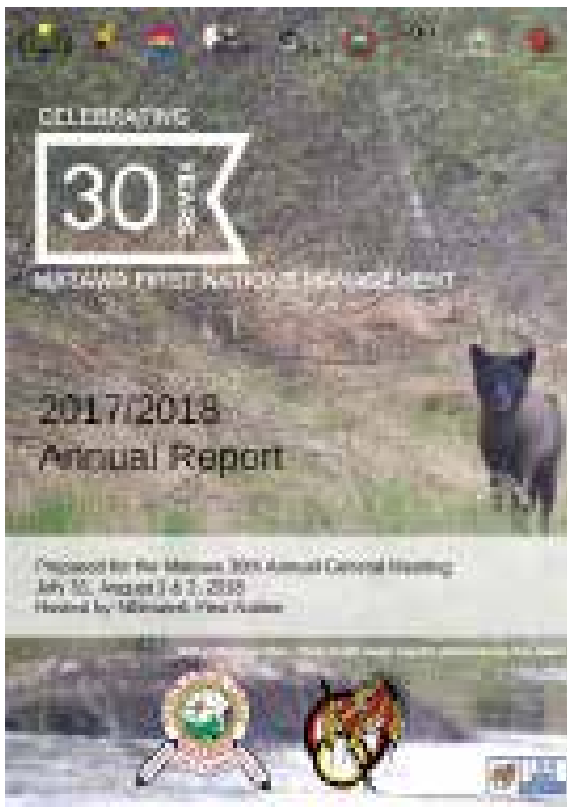
During the months of September and October, the Watershed Team along with staff from the Regional Framework department will be visiting each community for a duration of two to three days. Their visits will be designed based on the individual community's direction, and may include site visits, specific group discussions, capacity building through training and a "Discovery Day" which involves community member participation, engagement, discussions and feedback. Keep an eye out for flyers and notices in your community!



AGM HIGHLIGHTS

From July 31, Aug 1 & 2, Chiefs and Elder/Women/Youth delegations from the 9 Matawa First Nations came together in Nibinamik First Nation. They met to make decisions on corporate business holding a Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on July 31 which included:

- Acceptance of Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services and Matawa audits
- Acceptance of Matawa First Nations Management Department Reports, including the Matawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Matawa First Nations Property Inc., Matawa Project Management Group and Gathering of Rivers for Community Care
- Appointment of auditors
- Decision to host next AGM in Constance Lake First Nation from July 30, 31 and August 1, 2019
- Deferral of BOD election of Officers to September 19, 2018 which resulted in the following elected positions: Robinson Meshake (Aroland) newly elected BOD President, Frank Onabigon (Long Lake #58) re-elected BOD Vice President and Charlie Okeese (Eabametoong) re-elected BOD Secretary/Treasurer



This report, along with the Chiefs Council Report and the 2018 Audit, is available to download at: www.matawa.on.ca under 'Download Reports'





They also held a Chiefs Council meeting on August 1 - 2. Some highlights included:

- Presentation by Sharon Nate, Matawa Education Manager on initiatives in education including the *Matawa Wake Tere: Revitalizing Matawa First Nations Languages program*
- Māori haka (traditional dance) by Mike Graham, Aroha and Taiapau Watene (Mike and Aroha are Indigenous Language Revitalization Specialists working with Matawa Education)
- Presentation by Hon. Bob Rae, Regional Framework (RF) Lead Negotiator and Kathy Brady, RF Project Manager
- Presentation from Frances Wesley, Matawa Health Cooperative Planner
- Presentation on free, prior and informed consent research project by Darren Thomas and Terry Mitchell of Wilfred Laurier University
- Presentation from members of Nibinamik Youth Council
- Presentations from Richard Seyers of Stantec and Sherry McCuller from Magellan Advisors on the broadband project
- Nightly social activities in the community
- Matawa 30th anniversary commemoration
- Prayers and presentation from Bishop Lydia Mamakwa, of the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh, a Diocese of the Anglican Church of Canada

MEEGWETCH TO EVERYONE IN NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION FOR THEIR GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY!



Williams Gold Mine Tour in Hemlo, Ontario



Open pit at the Williams Gold Mine in Hemlo

On June 6-8, 2018, a group of Elders, Youth and Environmental Monitors from Long Lake #58 and Ginoogaming First Nations visited the Williams Gold Mine in Hemlo, ON. The group toured the operating mine site, which including the huge open pit, tailings ponds (where waste from the mine is treated), and water discharge areas (to a local creek after treatment). The group also got to see two adjacent closed mines that had been reclaimed, both recently (which was covered in short shrubs and grasses) and over 20 years ago (which had huge red pines and lots of raspberries & strawberries).

Jason Chapais, Environmental Monitor in Ginoogaming First Nation, commented that he was surprised by the size of the open pit and the waste rock piles, and felt that it was wild to think that it used to be just a forest before. He was happy to hear that although ducks and geese land regularly on the tailings ponds, local hunters in the area did not have any concerns with the meat or health of the waterfowl. He was also pleasantly surprised by how green the recently reclaimed area was, and that wasn't a moonscape like he would have expected.

Anisa O'Nabigon, Environmental Monitor in Long Lake #58 First Nation, said: "it was a great learning experience, to see the different stages of mining. It was an eye-opener to see how the tailings ponds look, and it gave the community members some peace of mind to see how the reclaimed site was successful, with vegetation growing back."

Everyone felt that the tour was really helpful, and that they now have a better understanding of Greenstone Gold's plan to develop a gold mine within their traditional homelands. Special thanks to Greenstone Gold and Four Rivers (Peter Moses) for helping to arrange the tour, and to Biigtigong Nishnaabeg First Nation for their hospitality.



Long Lake #58 First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation and Four Rivers worked collaboratively with Greenstone Gold Mines to arrange the tour



Jason Chapais (Ginoogaming First Nation) examining a recently reclaimed area at adjacent closed mine site



Peter Moses (Four Rivers) discussing the open pit mine design with Anisa O'Nabigon (Long Lake #58 First Nation)



Rockin' Recovery Day Celebrations



Each September, Canadians in recovery from addiction join with friends and family to build awareness, challenge societal stigma, and celebrate the role that recovery plays in improving the lives of individuals, families, workplaces and communities. This year, Matawa First Nations Management was thrilled to be a sponsor in support of the Rockin' Recovery Day celebrations held at Marina Park on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, in Thunder Bay. The Matawa Learning Centre's (MLC) involvement with the Drug Awareness Committee of Thunder Bay developed our awareness of this meaningful celebration and we were happy to participate. Sarah Moonias, MLC Elder, shared opening remarks and introduced the MLC drum. Our Matawa Education booth was visited all evening by young and old, curious about Matawa services and communities. A huge thank you to MLC staff including Sarah (Elder), Joey (First Aid tent), Steve, Elmer, Marcel (MLC Drum), Brittany, Jackie and Matawa youth who volunteered (Breanna, Bethany and Madeline). Thank you also goes out to Education Department Manager, Sharon Nate, for supporting this initiative. Recovery Day is passionate about supporting people from all walks of life in their recovery and believes that recovery does save lives. We look forward to next year's celebration.

Jackie Corbett, Vice Principal
Matawa Learning Centre



Matawa
FIRST NATIONS

JOIN OUR INDIGENOUS INTER- PROFESSIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TEAM

Matawa Health Cooperative



The 9 First Nations of Matawa First Nations Management recently established the Matawa Health Cooperative (MHC), the first in Canada. Its purpose is to provide collaborative and accountable health services to the each of these First Nations. These First Nations, who are members of the MHC set the direction based on the unique nature of each community. The MHC is flexible in how services are implemented, which must reflect the priorities, capacity and diversity of each First Nation.

In establishment of the Inter-Professional Primary Health Care Team, MHC is seeking professionals to submit their resumes and 3 employment references for the following positions:

- Physician (1 Full Time and 1 Half Time)
- Nurse Practitioners
- Registered Nurse with CDE
- Registered Nurses
- Mental Health Case Managers
- Mental Health Workers

These positions will require extensive travel to the Matawa First Nation communities to perform the roles and responsibilities as outlined in each of the job descriptions. Complete job descriptions can be found at: www.matawa.on.ca

For more information, contact:

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Indspire 2018 Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Awards



On November 8, 2018 hundreds of educators and supporters of Indigenous education from across Canada will gather at a ceremony in Edmonton, Alberta to celebrate the ten recipients of the *2018 Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Awards*.

The awards are presented by Indspire, a national Indigenous organization that invests in the education of Indigenous people by connecting educators of K-12 Indigenous students with programs, resources, and a professional learning community to improve educational outcomes, increase high school completion rates, and support sustained systemic change. The awards recognize the achievements of outstanding educators of Indigenous students who are leading the positive systemic change to education for our young people.

Guiding the Journey honourees are acknowledged for having innovative and impactful teaching practices, advocating for resources and culturally-based curricula, and helping Indigenous students reach their full potential. Their hard work and dedication will lead Indigenous youth to success at school and ultimately to becoming the next generation of leaders across the country.

Rachel Mishenene, Eabametoong First Nation member (pictured above) is one of the ten recipients of this award under the Community Service category.

BIO
COMMUNITY SERVICE



Rachel Mishenene - Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang First Nations, Ontario

Executive Assistant - First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

As an educator, author and curriculum developer, Rachel Mishenene is committed to improving outcomes for Indigenous learners. As an executive assistant with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, she works to ensure Indigenous members are supported and involved in developing culturally relevant education resources and programming.

Before moving to her current position, she established herself as a leader in Indigenous learning in Thunder Bay. Teaching at all levels of education, she also developed resources for educators, school boards and the City of Thunder Bay. Through the City of Thunder Bay, she created five facilitator guides to accompany the Walk a Mile Film Project to address racism and educate the public on reconciliation.

Rachel has received much recognition for her work, including receiving the 2013/14 Nanabijou Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement Role Model Award for her academic achievements at Lakehead University, and being highlighted in the book: *40 Fabulous Feminists and Amazing Activists of Northwestern Ontario*. As a PhD candidate at Lakehead University, she is focusing her research on First Nations parent engagement.

Rachel says, "*my work is two-fold: (a) empowering Indigenous people to feel proud of their identity and; enabling non-Indigenous people to know and understand the histories, culture, and struggles of First Peoples.*" She also says, "*Education is key – we need to educate one another in order to move forward and create a more equal and inclusive Nation.*"

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Matawa First Nations Management offers our congratulations to Rachel on receiving this award!

Matawa First Nations Management Welcomes New Staff

Matawa Education

Post-Secondary Student Support Worker, Carly Perras



Hello ~ Boozhoo! My name is Carly Perras and I am thrilled to have joined the Matawa Education department as the Post-Secondary Student Support Worker. I am from Nipigon, ON and a member of Flying Post First Nation. I have an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Psychology from Carleton University and a Bachelor of Education from Lakehead University. I taught for 5 years at an Elementary School in Thompson, MB and now my husband Chris and I, along with our two young boys, are so happy to have moved back to Thunder Bay. Here we are close to our families and back on the land where I have always felt at home. I am honoured to have the opportunity to work with our Post-Secondary Students and support them as they achieve their educational goals. I look forward to working with you all! Thank you ~ Miigwetch!

Matawa Education

Student Activities Coordinator, Hope Kuzma



Hello everyone my name is Hope Kuzma, I am very pleased to be one of the new Student Activities Coordinators at Matawa Education Centre. I was born and raised in Thunder Bay, I graduated from Confederation College in the Recreation Therapy program in 2014 some of my work experience in this field include working for agencies in the community such as Shelter House, Community Living Thunder Bay, Canada Games Complex and The Boys and Girls clubs. Many of these positions I was in charge of organizing and implementing activities for participants while providing them a safe and fun environment to learn and grow. I am very excited to get started here at Matawa Education with all the youth this 2018-2019 school year.

Regional Framework (RF)

RF Logistics Coordinator, Rosanna Peever



Hello everyone! My name is Rosanna Peever and I am a band member of Ginoogaming First Nation. I've been with Matawa First Nations Management for the past four years; working in the Economic Development and the Regional Framework departments. My work will continue with the Regional Framework in a new position - as the Regional Framework Logistics Coordinator. My education includes a diploma in Aboriginal Community Advocacy from Confederation College, as well as a certificate in Aboriginal Canadian Relations. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow with the Matawa family.

Matawa Education

Transition Coordinator, Steve St. Jean



My name is Steve St. Jean and I am the new Transition Coordinator at the Matawa Learning Center. I was born, raised, and educated here in Thunder Bay. I graduated from the Concurrent Education Program at Lakehead University where I received my Bachelor of Education, in addition to my Bachelor of Arts. I am a Qualified Intermediate/Senior Teacher in Ontario

with teachables in Mathematics and Social Studies. I have also begun working towards my Special Education Additional Qualifications. Immediately after graduating, I began my teaching career in the wonderful community of Aroland First Nations. For two years, I had the pleasure of working at Johnny Therriault School with amazing staff and students and I cherished my time learning about the Ojibwe language and culture. While teaching a grade eight transition course, I developed an understanding of the unique challenges that First Nations students face while transitioning from their home communities into secondary school. For students coming to the MLC, these challenges are amplified by the size of our city and being away from their familial supports. I believe I possess a great mix of leadership abilities, strong communication skills, and capacity for relationship building. I am eager to use these tools to guide our students as they transition seamlessly into our programming.

I spend my free-time engaging in a balance of activities to maintain my holistic health. I am big hockey fan and although cheering for the Canadiens may not be good for my sanity or cardiovascular health, I am a loyal fan. I have played hockey competitively my whole life and I also play tennis, golf, and football regularly. I love being outdoors so I take advantage of the fishing and camping our region has to offer. I am also a huge rock and roll music fan and I have been playing guitar for 12 years. I look forward to working with all staff and supporting our students on their path to success.



Matawa Health Cooperative

Clinical Coordinator, Carmen Blais

Boozhoo, I was recently hired as the Clinical Coordinator of the Matawa Health Co-op. I have gained clinical experience over the past 30 years working in the Health Care Sector. I am looking forward to assisting the Health Co-op in implementing crucial health services in the Matawa communities to ensure that our people are receiving the highest level of necessary care.

Matawa Health Cooperative

Human Trafficking/Anti-Violence Support Worker, Nicole Stewart



Boozhoo, I have worked in the Human Services field since 2008 in a variety of different capacities including group home worker, mental health counsellor, day treatment child and youth worker, clinical services case manager and homelessness coordinator. I look forward to the opportunity to work with people from diverse back grounds and welcome any learning opportunity I am fortunate enough to experience.

Matawa Tech Services Hub - Nibi Services

Water and Wastewater Support Operator, Neil Neegan



Neil Neegan from Constance Lake First Nation recently joined Nibi Services Team under Technical Services. Neil is a Class 2 Water Treatment Operator with 10 plus years operating experience as a water and wastewater plant operator in his community. Neil started on August 27 and has already been sent to Nibinamik, Ginoogaming, Long Lake, and Aroland First Nations. The Matawa communities will become familiar with him in short time. Welcome Neil!



== ★★ ★ ==
MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT
2018 SUMMER STUDENTS
== ★★ ★ ==



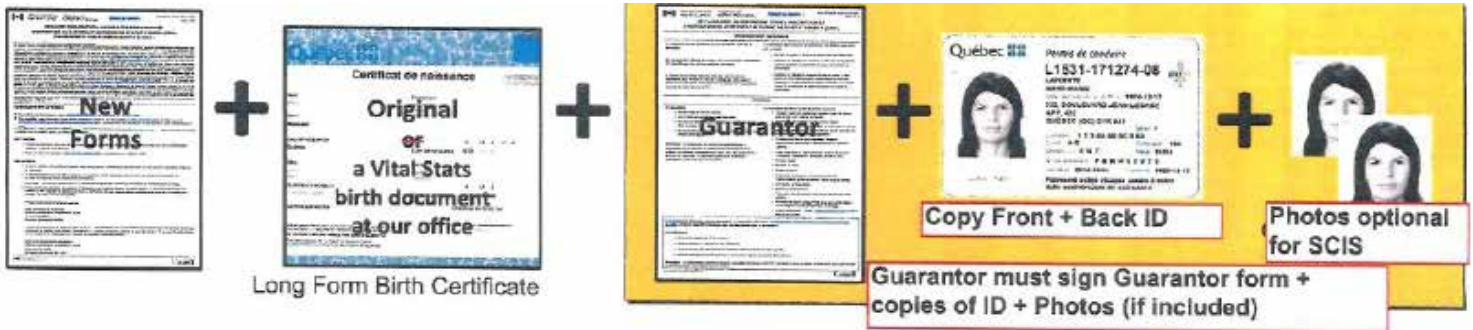
On August 24, Matawa staff took some time to say farewell to our 10 summer students who spent 7 weeks with us in various positions. We thanked them for their service and dedication and wished them well in their educational endeavours!

Pictured (L to R): Arianna Atlookan, Miranda Waboose, Mathew Wapoose, Malcom Sagutch, Star Moonias, Lucille Atlookan, Emma Gaudie.

Missing from the picture: Ryann Okeese, Joey Baxter, Lynette Williams



INAC Integrated Registration Process - Cont'd from Page 11



Living with Us... Moose

Moose (Mooz)

The moose is the largest and heaviest member of the deer family. Moose love the boreal forest and areas with mixed forests in the North. Their diet consists of both land and water vegetation. The moose has a few predators, including wolves, bears and humans. Moose do not travel in herds, and spend the majority of their lives living all by themselves. Moose are usually slow-moving animals, but they can also be very aggressive and move quickly if they get angry or scared.

Matawa wishes all hunters a successful fall hunt and offers best wishes to communities holding festivals!



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