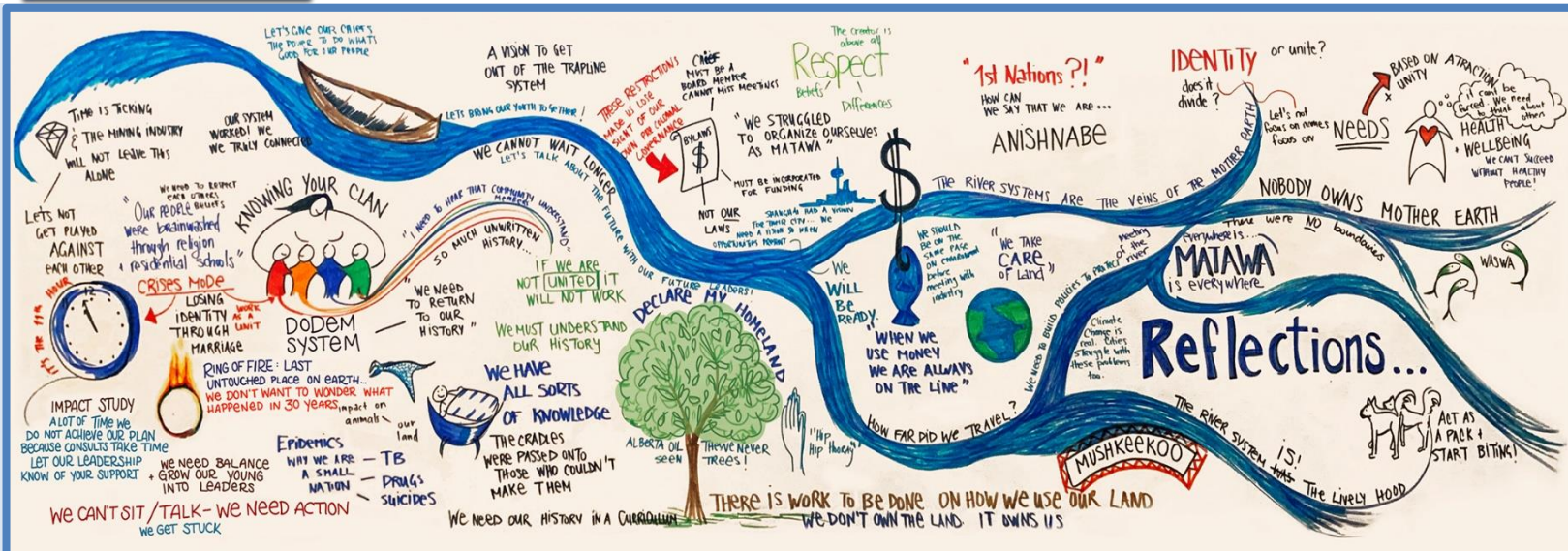




REGIONAL PRIORITIES & JURISDICTION NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 4 – NOV 2019-JULY 2020 EDITION



REFLECTIONS from the MAMOW WINTER GATHERING – Jan 14-16 2020 – Nor'Wester Hotel

For 3 days, over 50 community members met to continue work toward a community-led regional decision-making framework. Through the helpful facilitation of the Watershed Partners team, Matawa members were able to focus on the biggest challenges of their specific communities, and then compile the biggest common concerns/challenges in the Matawa region. After 3 days of hard work, the group arrived at 7 priority topics they felt needed to be addressed:

1. Addictions
2. Cultural Practices
3. Family Unit Breakdown
4. Health & Housing
5. Restrictions to Funding
6. Skills & Education
7. Working Together

At the end of the third day, the group had arrived at a possible model to illustrate the region's major challenges, along with a list of immediate solutions. Each member offered one way they can start to personally contribute to tackling the identified issues through the group's proposed solutions. The group also worked on the components of what a regional community-led decision-making process might look like... which is intended to build self-sufficient and self-sustaining communities, create well-being and move toward economic prosperity for the future generations.



A VERY BUSY WINTER...

The 2019-2020 winter so far has been a very busy time for the Matawa leadership, members, Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Working Group (RPJWG), Mamow Community Coordinators (MCCs) and RP&J dept staff.

Chiefs appeared before 2 different Provincial Standing Committees, meetings and major gatherings were held, a community inventory of needs was collected, and the RPJWG and MCCs groups met several times to move important agendas forward. Below is a schedule of winter events so far...

- Nov 25 2019 – Matawa Chiefs appeared before a Standing Committee to oppose Bill 132
- Nov 26-27 2019 – RPJWG and MCCs met at Prince Arthur Hotel in Thunder Bay to discuss major policy changes impacting the north
- Dec 11 2019 – RP&J dept presented at Four Rivers' Environment conference at Valhalla Inn on potential impacts of policy changes & emerging northern economy
- Dec 2019 - Feb 2020 – various meetings with financial and construction industry reps to look at potential development options & to compile needs inventory
- Jan 9 2020 – RP&J dept presented to Matawa Chiefs at Thunder Bay meeting on potential new structure for infrastructure development
- Jan 14-16 2020 – large Mamow Winter Gathering at Nor'Wester Hotel
- Jan 21 2020 – Matawa Chiefs appeared before the Provincial Standing Committee to present on proposed provincial budget
- Jan 28 2020 – RP&J dept on Wawatay radio to highlight Mamow Winter Gathering
- Jan 28-30 2020 – RPJWG meetings in Thunder Bay to provide input on emerging northern economy
- Feb 3-4 2020 – Matawa Chiefs met in Ottawa to give direction on potential infrastructure development options
- Feb 5-6 2020 – Matawa Chiefs, members and staff attended Chiefs of Ontario meetings in Ottawa

A Very Productive 2019-2020

Matawa leadership, members, Regional Priorities & Jurisdiction Working Group (RPJWG), Mamow Community Coordinators (MCCs) and RP&J department staff worked very hard on moving important items forward during 2019 and into 2020. The Matawa Chiefs Council presented before 2 Ontario government Standing Committees on concerning regional issues, many meetings and major gatherings were held, a community inventory of infrastructure needs was collected, a business model was formed, and the Chiefs, RPJWG and MCC groups met often to move important priorities forward and to officially respond to critical developments.

Matawa Chiefs Council Presentation at Queen's Park

At Queen's Park in Toronto in November 2019, Matawa Chiefs Council presented to the Provincial Standing Committee outlining the significant concerns on mining, lands and rights impacts of the proposed Bill 132 – "Red Tape Reduction" bill.

Chief Harvey Yesno of Eabametoong, the late Chief Celia Echum of Ginoogaming and Chief Veronica Waboose of Long Lake #58 presented on behalf of the Matawa Chiefs Council and told the provincial committee that:

- Matawa First Nations will lead and deliver the next economic boom of this province and that equitable partnerships will result in investment opportunities on a national and international scale.
- Matawa First Nations is fully aware of the potential impacts to Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.
- Matawa First Nations are the partners and **'investors of certainty'** required for economic and social prosperity.



Matawa Chiefs Address 2nd Standing Committee

In January 2020, the Chiefs of the Matawa First Nations presented to the Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, saying that certainty from First Nations is the key to the emerging Northern Ontario economy. The presentation was made by Chief Harvey Yesno of Eabametoong First Nation, and Chief Cornelius Wabasse of Webequie First Nation on behalf of the Matawa Chiefs Council, and included these main points:

Certainty from First Nations is the key to the emerging northern economy.

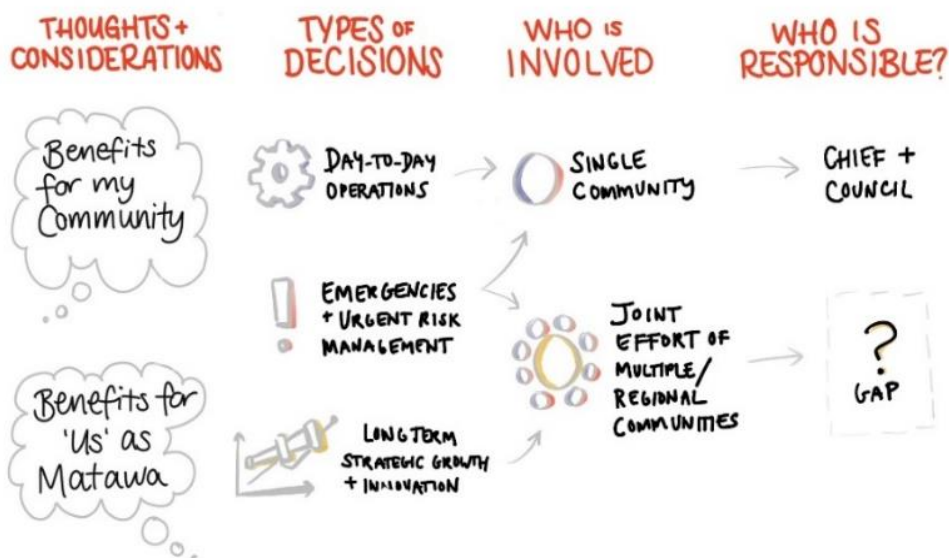
- The true potential of the development of the North of Ontario may be in the trillions of dollars and must be considered in its full potential for wealth creation and revenue generation that will benefit First Nations, government and industry as a whole.
- The development of the North will be multi-generational and international in scope.



On Dec 11th 2019, the RP&J dept presented to the delegates at the Matawa Environment Conference at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay. New policies & legislation were reviewed and potential positions for the Matawa communities to consider were discussed - regarding the emerging northern economy.



DECISION MAKING Perspectives



MCCs & RPJWG Meeting Nov 26-27 2019

On day 1 of the meeting, the group met at the Prince Arthur in Thunder Bay and was provided an update by Matawa RP&J dept Policy Coordinator Alanna McKenzie on recent policy and legislative changes.

Day 2 was a workshop facilitated by Watershed Partners titled:
VISION TO ACTION!

PDAC Media Event and Panel Presentation

In March 2020, Matawa Chiefs Council presented at the Prospectors and Developers Association Conference (PDAC) in Toronto to share their comprehensive approach to 'Development of the North'. Components considered includes resource development, employment and training, community decision-making, environmental, financial management, infrastructure, and governmental requirements and opportunities. The work done prior to the event specifically focused on being community-driven and was directed by the Matawa Member First Nations. The current assessment is that Matawa First



Nations are at the center of the new emerging northern economy, and are working to position Matawa member communities for the long-term benefits that are anticipated and expected by members and future generations.

Enterprise Canada, PCL Constructors Inc, EPCOR, Ontario Power Generation, Matawa Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) signed to Develop Matawa Economic Stimulus Recovery Plan

MOU signatories developed understanding of potential roles going forward i.e. training, infrastructure, health, environment, education etc. Information was compiled to feed into a database for a regional strategic plan, with focus on community infrastructure. Business structure concepts created with each signatory to the MOU being tasked to submit a draft business structure and concept for discussion.

IN MEMORIAM

We would like to acknowledge the life and work of Chief Celia Echum who passed away suddenly on May 9, 2020. She was Chief of Ginoogaming First Nation from 2007 to her passing, being re-elected 7 times. She was pre-deceased by her husband Gabriel and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.



RP&J Department Work Continuing Through Pandemic

The RP&J department's mandate is to focus on regional topics of jurisdiction, governance and opportunities while respecting the autonomy of each Matawa member First Nation. The department is responsible to ensure the Matawa member communities have quality information on emerging issues that may positively and/or negatively impact them. Throughout the pandemic, connecting by phone or computer, the RP&J department has continued to:

- Track political and governmental developments and their directives.
- Prepare and distribute detailed briefing notes, original supporting documents and updates
- Gather and present comprehensive, current research and information on regional priorities, jurisdiction and governance, lands and resources.



- Continue toward regional planning and preparation of rights-based strategies to move forward with regional planning re: business, decision-making, governance and jurisdiction.

- Research, review and analyze information regarding inherent aboriginal rights, treaties, government legislation, policy and regulations, past and present.
- Maintain regular communication with Matawa departments, Chiefs Council, community members and working group members.



RP&J DEPT KEY PRIORITY AREAS:

✓ Regional Priorities

The Matawa Member First Nations people are committed to working collectively with regard to regional priorities, jurisdiction and governance. The RP&J department is responsible to take communities' direction on identified priorities, provide information and strategic recommendations for consideration, and facilitate change as directed.

✓ Jurisdiction & Governance

The Matawa Member First Nation people are leaders in asserting their Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. It is the department's responsibility to stay informed on the ever-changing political landscape across Canada. This includes all levels of government, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. The RP&JWG is directed to focus on important initiatives that fall within regional jurisdiction and governance.

✓ Assistance During the Pandemic

Throughout the Covid19 pandemic, assistance has been provided to other Matawa departments and to communities whenever possible by the RP&J department - through the procurement of a variety of PPE, securing additional funding for pandemic needs for communities, as well as assisting with stockpiling for a potential "second wave". This work will continue as long as it is needed.



RP&J Department Community Projects:

- Aroland First Nation has no effective cell service so a booster tower is ready to be installed in the community by CRC Communications as soon as the pandemic is over. Community is currently on full lock down and the Chief has asked to wait for the crew to come in and do the installation. The booster should provide cell service for a good portion of the community
- Long Lake #58 has requested assistance with setting up a radio station for the community. The components have been purchased and delivered for the in-studio portion of the station (microphones, cables, mixer board etc) and an antenna to broadcast the signal is available and secured in Thunder Bay at CRC – however it has been extremely difficult to find a low power FM transmitter to complete the setup. We continue to search for an FM transmitter and will also attempt to secure a second transmitter of this type for Marten Falls as they also have the studio components for a radio station but no way to send a signal to the community.

Assistance with Pandemic Needs

- Claudine Santos of VIO Volunteers has assisted with obtaining a variety of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shipped directly to Matawa Health Co-op, including (through Conquercovid19.ca) 2500 + 50,700 masks, 50 Face Shields, 2x4 litre bottles sanitizer, 600 XL gloves. A further shipment of gowns and children's masks is expected.
- Watershed Partners assisted with business contacts, and donated \$1500 in hand sanitizer.
- OPG has agreed to donate (around 40K) to support Matawa off-reserve membership for shelter, food and other items required such as PPE – donation will be direct to Matawa
- RP&J department has also procured other pandemic supplies including liquid hand sanitizer, 150 face shields, 2000 99% BFE surgical masks and 5,850 face masks specifically for Eabametoong, and 1,800 more face shields



MATAWA REGIONAL PRIORITIES & JURISDICTION DEPT CONTACTS:

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How to pronounce Ojibway words.

All consonants sound the same as in English.

“Zh”- sounds like the “su” in measure
 “a”- sounds like the “u” in sun
 “aa”- sounds like the “a” in father
 “i”- sounds like the “i” in sit
 “ii”- sounds like the “ee” in feet
 “o”- sounds like the “o” in go
 “oo”- sounds like the “oo” in food
 “e”- sounds like the “ay” in stay