

**MATAWA LEARNING CENTRE (MLC) 1ST ANNUAL REPORT ON FOLLOW UP TO JURY
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS OF SEVEN FIRST NATIONS YOUTH**

June 21, 2017

Between 2000 and 2011, seven (7) youth from remote First Nations in northwestern Ontario died while attending high school in Thunder Bay. One (1) of those students was Jordan Wabasse. Jordan was a member of Webequie First Nation. He was fifteen years old and a student at the Matawa Learning Centre (“MLC”) at the time of his tragic death.

The Inquest into the deaths of the seven (7) First Nations youth (the “Inquest”) began on October 5, 2015 and ended on June 28, 2016. The purpose of the Inquest was to determine why these youth died and what can be done to prevent similar deaths in the future. MLC sought and received standing to participate in the Inquest. MLC presented evidence at the Inquest through Sharon Nate, Manager of the Education Department, and Brad Battiston, Principal of MLC. Their evidence focused on: the unique needs of MLC students; the services currently in place at MLC; the overwhelming need for stable, reliable ongoing funding instead of proposal based, annual funding; and the overwhelming need for significant increases in funding to better meet the unique cultural, emotional, physical, recreational, social, health and intellectual needs of First Nation students from Matawa First Nation communities.

There were more than sixty-seven (67) days of hearing at the Inquest. One hundred and sixty-five (165) witnesses gave evidence and one hundred and eighty-five (185) exhibits were considered. On June 28, 2017, the Jury released 145 recommendations. Eighty-two (82) of the recommendations were made to the Federal Government of Canada (“Canada”). Twenty-four (24) recommendations were made to MLC.

Staff at MLC has worked tirelessly to implement every Jury recommendation that offers the possibility of improving services and supports available for MLC students. The Jury recommendations are of vital importance and MLC is committed to doing everything in its power to improve the experience of Matawa First Nation students in Thunder Bay; however, many of the Jury recommendations directed to MLC cannot be achieved without increased funding and support. MLC’s primary funder is Canada.

MLC has spent countless hours in academic 2016/2017 in discussions with Canada and other partners with a view to making sweeping changes to education services and supports at MLC. MLC has a concrete plan for change that would meet and exceed all of the recommendations the Jury made.

At the beginning of May 2017, Canada asked MLC to submit a work plan indicating the immediate, short term and long term funding MLC requires to implement the Youth Inquest Recommendations. The work plan was submitted to Canada on May 31, 2017. The workplan submitted to Canada identified immediate, short-term and long-term funding needs as set out below:

MLC needs approximately \$1.4 million dollars in **immediate funding** to implement the following programs and services and help students as recommended by the Jury:

- Critical Thinking Consortium: Will help MLC adapt and develop independent learning resources that are tailor made for Matawa First Nation students; as well as, facilitate professional learning sessions with our educators and engage in community consultation sessions;

- St. Joseph's Care Group: Will deliver holistic programming and services from professional Psychologists, Family Therapists, Counsellors, Nurse Practitioners, Recreation Therapists, and Youth Workers who will provide assessments (before and after coming to Thunder Bay), health care, mental health and addiction treatment, life skills, spiritual and cultural programming as well as recreational activities;
- Grade 8 High School Transition Course: Will assist in preparing Matawa Students for the transition from their home communities into an urban/provincial secondary school; and
- Recreation and Healthy Active Living Leadership Course: Will have students canoeing from one Matawa First Nation to another and teaching students lessons on leadership and healthy active living.

MLC needs approximately \$2 million dollars in **short term funding** for the 2017-2018 school year to continue to support and implement the following programs and services and help students as recommended by the jury:

- Critical Thinking Consortium & St. Joseph's Care Group: Continuation of services;
- Elders, Mental Health and Cultural Worker's: Provide cultural, addiction and mental health programs and services to MLC students which will serve as the foundation to academic accomplishment;
- Recreation Program: Offers a variety of programs to appeal to all of the interests of MLC students and will expose them to a myriad of positive spaces and opportunities across the city;
- Student Transportation: Will help students attend appointments, special events, and will also increase student safety;
- Visual Art Program & Learning Kitchen: MLC students will make connections with themselves, each other and community through the arts which will promote sharing, communication, knowledge and personal development. MLC's Learning Kitchen will build life skills and create a culture of health and wellness through the joy of cooking; and
- Special Education: Students with special needs will have the support they need for long term success.

MLC needs approximately \$7 million dollars annually in **long term funding** to operate per year.

This funding must be stable and reliable because it will go towards sustaining the holistic programs and services MLC will deliver to students for years to come. To date, the only increases in funding that MLC has actually secured from Canada are as follows:

- Funding of for one (1) full-time cultural worker for academic 2016/2017;
- Funding for two (2) full-time mental health workers for academic 2016/2017; and
- Funding to develop curriculum for a land-based credit for academic 2016/2017.

None of this additional funding had any relationship to the Jury Recommendations. As of the date of writing of this report, MLC has not been advised as to whether those increases in funding will continue into the coming academic year. At this time, MLC does not know what funding it will receive from Canada for its summer programs (that are scheduled to begin immediately) or its fall programs.

MLC remains hopeful that dramatic increases in funding commitments will be announced shortly by Canada and that MLC will soon be in a position to implement the type of programming that the Jury Recommendations of June 28, 2016 envisioned.

In the interim, MLC continues to work diligently to implement the Jury recommendations.

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June 21, 2017

RECOMMENDATION 6		
<p>In order to commemorate the lives of Jethro Anderson, Curran Strang, Paul Panacheese, Robyn Harper, Reggie Bushie, Kyle Morrisseau and Jordan Wabasse, and in consultation with their families, memorial scholarships should be awarded to students in high school who excel at the talents in which the seven (7) youths were gifted.</p>		
PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
<p>Canada, Ontario, Northern Nishnawbe Education Council ("NNEC"), Keewatinook Okimakanak ("KO") and MLC</p>	<p>The Chief' Council of Matawa First Nations Management directed the Matawa Education Department, in consultation with Jordan Wabasse's family and the Regional Advisory Committee on Education, to develop criteria for a scholarship in Jordan's name to be awarded annually to a student from a Matawa First Nation. The Chiefs Council acted by way of resolution dated July 28, 2016.</p> <p>MLC requires funding to implement this recommendation in a timely way. To date, no new funding has been provided to MLC from Canada or Ontario to assist in this regard.</p>	<p>1A Recommendation will be implemented.</p>
RECOMMENDATION 7		
<p>In moving forward with any initiatives that respond to the Inquest recommendations, the parties should be guided by the following statements:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. All of the Treaty Partners, including Indigenous communities and governments, Canada and Ontario, must respect the treaty rights of others and work together towards fulfilling treaty obligations; ii. First Nation governments exercise inherent control over their education systems; iii. First Nation communities seek to have greater responsibility to govern their own spiritual, cultural, social and economic affairs; iv. Without improvement of conditions in First Nations reserve communities, a gap in education outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students will remain; v. Canada should support individual First Nations Communities as they develop local solutions to the effects of colonial policy; and 		

<p>vi. In order to ensure timely delivery of publicly funded services to First Nations children, where jurisdictional divisions or disputes within or between governments threaten to delay or impede the provision of services, Jordan's Principle should apply.</p>		
PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
<p>Canada, Ontario, the City of Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Police Service, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC</p>	<p>The MLC has always and continues to: support treaty rights, First Nation control over First Nation education, spiritual life, cultural life, social life and economic affairs. The MLC is painfully aware of the need for Canada's support on these fronts and that a lack of improvement on these fronts will mean the gap in education outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students will persist. MLC believes in Jordan's Principle.</p> <p>Past failures to respect treaty rights and First Nation control over education, spiritual life, cultural life, social life and economic life have resulted in the underfunding of on and off-reserve education for First Nation youth. In the experience of the MLC the most significant funding barriers have been and continue to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vii. The failure to fund MLC directly because it is off-reserve; viii. The failure to extend funding to students attending provincial high schools who are between the ages of 19 and 21; ix. The failure to fund MLC (directly or indirectly) to educate students who live in Matawa First Nation communities that are accessible by road; x. The failure to fund MLC (directly or indirectly) to educate students who are members of a Matawa First Nation but do not live on-reserve. <p>MLC is currently engaged in discussions with Canada and other partners, with a view to working together to ensure that the above-noted issues do not create funding barriers for First Nation youth from Matawa First Nation communities. IF these discussions are successful, MLC's funding partners will be taking significant, concrete steps towards respect for treaty rights and First Nation control over education.</p>	<p>8/3/4B</p> <p>MLC has always been guided by the statements contained in this recommendation. MLC looks forward to all parties accepting this recommendation and acting accordingly.</p>

RECOMMENDATION 49

In order to provide students from First Nations communities in NAN territory and their families with firsthand information regarding the community supports and opportunities that are available when they attend school in Thunder Bay, consult with other community partners to encourage and facilitate visits by those community partners to the NAN communities to speak and engage with students prior to their move to Thunder Bay.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, Ontario, the City of Thunder Bay, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC	<p>MLC is working with NAPS, the City of Thunder Bay and the Thunder Bay Police to accomplish this recommendation.</p> <p>Since the conclusion of the Inquest, the MLC has sent teachers and its cultural worker to Matawa First Nations to talk about Thunder Bay and the supports and opportunities available for students who attend high school at MLC or elsewhere.</p> <p>To date, the MLC has not received any additional funding from Canada or Ontario to support this recommendation.</p> <p>The City of Thunder Bay has provided MLC with approximately \$6,600.00 for the purpose of allowing Matawa First Nation students to prepare a video/brochure for students in Matawa communities who will be moving to Thunder Bay to attend school. The final product will be available for use in January of 2018.</p>	<p align="center">1A</p> <p>This recommendation is in the process of being implemented.</p>

RECOMMENDATION 51

Canada, NNEC and MLC should form a working group to establish a mutually beneficial relationship regarding sharing of resources in one central facility in Thunder Bay.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, NNEC and MLC	MLC and NNEC have an excellent working relationship and regularly consult on many issues; however, given the sheer magnitude of the number of students who must leave their home communities to attend high school (because their home communities do not have high schools) in NNEC and Matawa First Nation communities,	<p align="center">4A</p> <p>Rejected due to flaws.</p>

	it is not practical to believe that these students can be safely or appropriately accommodated in one facility.	
<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 64</p> <p>In order to improve education outcomes of First Nations youth who attend secondary school in Thunder Bay and to develop important values, in consultation with NNEC, KO, DFCHS, PFFNHS and MLC, provide on-going, predictable and reliable funding to ensure there is appropriate staff complement and programs to address the cultural needs of DFCHS, PFFNHS and MLC students starting for the 2016-2017 school year, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Appropriate ratio of education assistants to students; ii. Appropriate number of Elders (male and female) to be available during school hours; iii. Dedicated space for Elders to spend time with students and resources for the activities that they wish to engage in with the students; iv. Curriculum development that supports language, culture and traditional activities; v. Regular professional development for teachers regarding how to incorporate traditional language, culture and activities in day-to-day teaching; vi. Additional staff member or members required for each school whose sole role is to take the lead in teaching traditional skills, culture and land based learning; vii. Funding for land-based learning; and viii. Funding to facilitate development of Ojibway/Cree immersion programming. 		
PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, NNEC, KO and MLC	<p>The MLC currently does everything within its power to meet the cultural needs of its students. This goal is extremely difficult to accomplish given MLC's minimal resources.</p> <p>The MLC does not receive predictable and reliable funding. Funding remains year-to-year and proposal based.</p> <p>To date, the MLC has not received any funding of any kind to secure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education Assistants; - Elders; - Dedicated space for Elders; - Regular professional development to support teachers to incorporate traditional language, culture and activities in day-to-day teaching; <p>or</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3/4B</p> <p>Unresolved issues around funding severely limit MLC's ability to implement. MLC wishes to accept and implement the recommendation; however, in the absence of new and stable funding, MLC cannot achieve this recommendation.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curriculum development to support language, culture and traditional activities; or - Ojibway/Oji-Cree immersion programming. <p>For academic 2016/2017, new funding was provided to the MLC by Canada to support one full-time cultural worker for the academic year. At this time it is unclear whether this funding will continue into academic 2017/2018.</p> <p>In 2016/2017 new funding, in the approximate amount of \$30,000.00 was provided by Canada to permit MLC to develop a land-based out-door recreation credit. The program was developed in collaboration with Lakehead University. It is unclear whether this funding will continue beyond the current academic year.</p> <p>MLC is currently engaged in discussions with Canada and Ontario and others with a view to ensuring that MLC students receive the cultural support they need to successfully complete their studies. IF these discussions are successful, MLC will be in a position to fully implement this recommendation. However, in the absence of additional funding and other support from Canada, it will be very difficult for MLC to fully implement this recommendation.</p>	
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RECOMMENDATION 65

All intake forms, behaviour contracts, report cards and any other documentation that is given to the parents regarding their children should be provided to them in their preferred language.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
NNEC, KO and MLC	The MLC cannot implement this recommendation in a timely way without additional funding.	<p align="center">3/4B</p> Unresolved issues around funding severely limit MLC's ability to implement. MLC wishes to accept and implement the recommendation; however, in the absence of new and stable funding,

		MLC cannot achieve this.
RECOMMENDATION 71		
<p>In order to ensure that any special needs or supports required by First Nation students are identified and addressed while attending secondary school in Thunder Bay, ensure that funding and resources are in place upon arrival of students in Thunder Bay to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Special education needs; ii. Substance and/or alcohol abuse issues; iii. Mental health issues; iv. Any other supports required, including gaps in academic achievements that require additional supports or additional time for achieving necessary credit for graduation 		
PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, NNEC, KO and MLC	<p>MLC currently does everything within its power to ensure that it has funding and resources in place to assist its students with all of their needs including but not limited to: special education, substance and/or alcohol abuse, mental health issues and academic supports. However, it is very, very difficult to achieve this goal given the limited resources of MLC.</p> <p>Canada provided new funding for two mental health workers at MLC in academic 2016/2017; however, it is unclear whether this funding will continue beyond the current academic year.</p> <p>Otherwise, the funding to MLC for the purpose of meeting the special needs and providing supports for its students as outlined in recommendation #71 , remains unchanged.</p> <p>While funding remained largely unchanged, MLC did form new partnerships with mental health organizations in academic 2016/2016. These partnerships will likely assist MLC staff and students to identify student needs earlier and more accurately. Some examples of the new partnerships are set out below.</p> <p>In academic 2016/2017, the Thunder Bay Health Unit visited MLC for the first time and spoke to students about the resources it offers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> xi. Sexual health; xii. Mental wellness; 	<p>3/4B</p> <p>Unresolved issues around funding severely limit MLC's ability to implement. MLC wishes to accept and implement the recommendation; however, in the absence of new and stable funding, MLC cannot achieve this recommendation.</p>

	<p>xiii. Tobacco; and xiv. Nutrition.</p> <p>In academic 2016/2017, MLC was approached by the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy to participate in its committees. MLC is now an active participant on the committees of the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy.</p> <p>In academic 2016/2017, MLC was invited by the Canadian Mental Health Association to participate in the creation of the Situation Table Partnership. The intention of the partnership is to form an emergency strike force to assist students who appear to be at imminent risk in respect of health and wellness. This Partnership is in the planning stages.</p> <p>In academic 2016/2017 the Canadian Mental Health Association approached MLC to offer training to MLC staff.</p> <p>MLC is currently engaged in discussions with Canada and Ontario and others with a view to ensuring that MLC students receive the care and support they need to complete their studies. IF these discussions are successful, MLC will be in a position to implement this recommendation. However, in the absence of additional funding and other support from both Canada and Ontario, it will be very difficult for MLC to fully implement this recommendation.</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATION 73</p> <p>In order to ensure that students receive orientation at the time of their arrival as well as ongoing support as they transition to life in Thunder Bay, in addition to the current orientation sessions conducted by DFCHS, MLC and the City of Thunder Bay and other community partners, new students should be partnered with peer mentors who have experience in Thunder Bay and are willing to assist with day-to-day issues that may arise, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Resisting negative peer pressure; ii. Reporting incidents of racism; iii. Encouraging students to attend school and apply themselves to their studies; iv. Reporting concerns regarding boarding homes; v. Promoting healthy lifestyles; and vi. Organizing activities to reduce risk factors. 		
<p>PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED</p>	<p>MLC RESPONSE/ACTION</p>	<p>STATUS OF RESPONSE</p>

<p>NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC</p>	<p>To date, the MLC has not received sufficient resources to provide new students with formal peer mentors.</p> <p>The MLC has increased training and workshops for students to assist them with day-to day issues. For example, MLC students now participate in the P.A.R.T.Y. program offered by the Hospital. NAN Legal Services has provided MLC students with some education on how to interact with the police. The Thunder Bay Police have continued to meet with MLC students to discuss safety issues and advise how to interact with the police.</p> <p>MLC has worked closely with the City of Thunder Bay to increase recreational opportunities for students, see recommendation 107.</p> <p>MLC is currently engaged in discussions with Canada and Ontario and others with a view to ensuring that MLC students receive peer mentoring amongst other things. If these discussions are successful, MLC will be in a position to implement this recommendation more fully.</p>	<p>3/4B</p> <p>Unresolved issues around funding severely limit MLC's ability to implement. MLC wishes to accept and implement the recommendation; however, in the absence of new and stable funding, MLC cannot achieve this recommendation.</p>
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RECOMMENDATION 81

In order to ensure the safety of all First Nation students while going to school on-reserve or off-reserve, conduct annual training of all staff and boarding parents associated with First Nation schools with respect to:

- i. Recognition, management and care of intoxicated students;**
- ii. Crisis intervention;**
- iii. Suicide prevention; and**
- iv. First aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation.**

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
<p>NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC</p>	<p>At this time, MLC does not operate a boarding home.</p> <p>There has been no new or additional funding provided to MLC to achieve this recommendation. Without additional funding, MLC cannot afford additional training on the recognition, management and care of intoxicated students for its staff. Similarly, the MLC cannot afford to provide crisis intervention training. The cost of crisis intervention training is approximately \$3000 per person.</p> <p>The MLC has continued to seek free training and has secured the following in academic 2016/2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> xv. ASK Training (Assessing Suicide in Kids) was provided to MLC staff; xvi. SafeTALK training which is designed to provide tools to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and to connect them to resources. Training provided by NorWest Community Health Centre; xvii. Life Promotion and Suicide Prevention Framework was provided by Dr. Kathy Short through the Ministry of Education; xviii. CPR training for staff and students; and xix. mental health first aid training from NAN. <p>MLC is currently engaged in discussions with Canada and Ontario and others with a view to ensuring that MLC staff students receive the training and support they need to help MLC students. If these discussions are successful, MLC will be in a position to implement this recommendation. However, in the absence of additional funding and other support from both Canada and Ontario, it will be very difficult for MLC to fully implement this recommendation.</p>	<p>5/3/4B</p> <p>Because MLC does not operate boarding homes, it is likely not the correct party to train boarding parents.</p> <p>Unresolved issues around funding severely limit MLC's ability to implement further training.</p> <p>MLC wishes to accept and implement the recommendation; however, in the absence of new and stable funding, MLC cannot fully implement this recommendation.</p>

RECOMMENDATION 83

In order to increase awareness regarding risks related to alcohol, substance and solvent use and ensure consistent mandatory education of First Nations students attending school in Thunder Bay, in consultation with community partners, including the Centres for Addiction and Mental Health, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Dilico ensure that students are provided with regular, appropriate, accurate, up-to-date information relating to:

- i. The health and social issues associated with alcohol, substance and solvent use;
- ii. The legal consequences of underage drinking;

- iii. The resources available in the community to address issues relating to alcohol, substance and solvent use;
- iv. Current misconceptions relating to accepted drinking practices; and
- v. The importance of assisting and staying with intoxicated peers and reporting any concerns to boarding parents, on-call workers and other support workers.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
<p>NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC</p>	<p>MLC works closely with community partners to ensure that students are provided with the information they need around the risks relating to alcohol, substance and solvent use.</p> <p>Community partners have provided the following free workshops and presentations for MLC staff and students in academic 2016/2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (delivered by P.A.R.T.Y. Program – Thunder Bay Regional Hospital); - Indigenous Party Program (delivered by P.A.R.T.Y. Program – Thunder Bay Regional Hospital); - Knowing Yourself (delivered by Ontario Aboriginal HIV/Aids Strategy); - Harm Reduction (delivered by Ontario Aboriginal HIV/Aids Strategy); - Self-Care; - Nutrition (Thunder Bay District Health Unit); - Healthy Relationships (Thunder Bay District Health Unit); - Thunder Bay Drug Strategy; and - Thunder Pride. <p>Discussions between MLC staff and students on these issues occur daily.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>This recommendation has been implemented.</p>

RECOMMENDATION 84

In order to allow students to continue their education in Thunder Bay while dealing with substance or alcohol issues, in consultation with local community partners, NNEC, KO and MLC should continue to develop harm reduction programs to address alcohol and substance use by students. The development of such programs should consider including a day program (if necessary) or a course option for students at the school. Canada should sufficiently fund MLC for these activities.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC	<p>Currently, MLC works closely with community partners to address substance or alcohol issues for students. MLC makes every effort to accommodate students to complete their studies at the same time that they address substance and/or alcohol issues.</p> <p>To date, MLC has received no additional funding to address this recommendation.</p> <p>MLC has strengthened existing partnerships and embarked on new partnerships aimed at addressing alcohol and substance use by students. However, in the absence of additional funding, it is very difficult to implement this recommendation.</p> <p>MLC is currently engaged in discussions with Canada and Ontario and others with a view to ensuring that MLC students receive the care and support they need to complete their studies. IF these discussions are successful, MLC will be in a position to implement this recommendation. However, in the absence of additional funding and other support from both Canada and Ontario, it will be very difficult for MLC to implement this recommendation.</p>	<p>3/4B</p> <p>Unresolved issues around funding severely limit MLC's ability to implement. MLC wishes to accept and implement the recommendation; however, in the absence of new and stable funding, MLC cannot achieve this recommendation.</p>

RECOMMENDATION 85

In order to assist First Nations students in Thunder Bay with alcohol/substance use and addiction problems, in consultation with community partners, including the Centres for Addiction and Mental Health, Dilico, and St. Josephs' Care Group, explore alternatives to sending students back to their home communities, including treatment programs that would allow students to pursue their studies in Thunder Bay.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
NNEC, KO and MLC	<p>The MLC continues to explore alternatives to sending students with alcohol or substance use and addiction problems home.</p> <p>MLC has strengthened existing partnerships and embarked on new partnerships aimed at addressing alcohol and substance use by students. However, in the</p>	<p>3/4B</p> <p>Unresolved issues around funding severely limit MLC's ability to implement. MLC wishes to accept and implement the</p>

	<p>absence of additional funding, it is very difficult to implement this recommendation.</p> <p>MLC is currently engaged in discussions with Canada and Ontario and others with a view to ensuring that MLC students receive the care and support they need to complete their studies. IF these discussions are successful, MLC will be in a position to implement this recommendation. However, in the absence of additional funding and other support from both Canada and Ontario, it will be very difficult for MLC to implement this recommendation.</p>	<p>recommendation; however, in the absence of new and stable funding, MLC cannot achieve this recommendation.</p>
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RECOMMENDATION 86

In order to increase awareness of DFCHS and MLC students regarding the risks associated with the purchase of alcohol through second party purchasers (“runners”), consider incorporating the Crimestoppers video made by DFCHS students into the orientation session held upon the arrival of new students in Thunder Bay each September. If the Crimestoppers video is not incorporated, include information in the orientation regarding the risks associated with the purchase of alcohol through second party purchasers.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
NNEC, KO and MLC	<p>MLC , DFC and the LCBO are together creating a video which will addresses the risks associated with purchasing alcohol from runners.</p> <p>MLC students are excited to create their own product and will use it in their orientation process and information sessions going forward.</p>	<p align="center">1B</p> <p>Alternate recommendation is in the process of being implemented.</p>

RECOMMENDATION 87

In order to ensure continuity of care and increased prospect (where desired) of a return to Thunder Bay for those students who are sent home due to health and safety concerns, make all efforts to ensure that community supports, including a continuing education, health and mental health plan, are in place prior to sending a student back to his or her home community. Canada and Ontario should ensure that there is sufficient funding and resources in place for these support programs.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, Ontario, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC	MLC strives to ensure that students who are sent home for health and safety concerns continue their education and have the supports they need at home; however, the MLC is under-resourced and for the most part it is limited to providing lessons by skype, and providing e-mail and telephone support. Unless new resources are provided to Matawa First Nation communities so that these supports actually exist in the home communities, it will not be possible to achieve this recommendation.	<p style="text-align: center;">4B</p> MLC wishes to accept and implement the recommendation; however, in the absence of new and stable funding, MLC cannot achieve this recommendation.
<p>RECOMMENDATION 90</p> <p>In order for First Nations youth to have a voice regarding decisions relating to their education off-reserve and to ensure that there is accountability in decisions made regarding their education and well-being, NNEC, KO and MLC, with the support of Canada and NAN, should consider creating a special seat on their Board of Directors for a youth representative who is a student or former student of DFCHS or MLC under the age of 25. Canada should provide the funding for any costs associated with this position.</p>		
PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC	<p>Student participation in the day-to-day operation and direction of MLC activities is already significant. The students work directly with the MLC Activities Coordinator and the MLC Cultural Coordinator to determine the school's activity schedule and priorities. Former students also participate in this forum.</p> <p>In addition, there is a youth advisory group that is made up of people aged 21 and under from Matawa First Nations. This youth advisory group helps to guide the overall direction and goals of MLC.</p> <p>This high level of student involvement existed before the Inquest began.</p> <p>MLC continues to seek leadership opportunities for its students within MLC and outside of MLC.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> MLC believes that the content or intent of the recommendation is already in place.

RECOMMENDATION 91

In order to ensure timely reporting of missing students and consistent practice among institutions when students are reported missing or during sudden death investigations, the City of Thunder Bay; TBPS; NAN; NAPS; NNEC; DFCHS; KO; and ML should establish a working group to discuss best practices applicable to their respective roles pertaining to students from remote First Nation communities attending secondary school in Thunder Bay.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
<p>NAN, City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC</p>	<p>MLC does not provide boarding home program services. Accordingly, there are aspects of this recommendation that do not really fit in MLC’s mandate. MLC has none-the-less participated in the establishment of a working group and it participates in the working group in an effort to ensure best practices are applied to missing person investigations and searches involving its community members and its students.</p> <p>MLC staff have been working on data collection in relation to MLC students. MLC staff have also been attending meetings of the larger working group. MLC staff also liase with Matawa First Nation Education Counsellors to ensure that knowledge from the working group is shared with the communities who are responsible for arranging for boarding homes for MLC students.</p>	<p align="center">1A/5</p> <p>Aspects of the recommendation that apply to MLC will be implemented.</p>

RECOMMENDATION 107

The City of Thunder Bay Aboriginal Liason, NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC should work together – perhaps through designated contact people in the schools – to co-ordinate participation of DFCHS and MLC students in Thunder Bay recreation programs and City sponsored events that students may be interested in attending throughout the school year – for example, the use of skating rinks in the winter.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
<p>City of Thunder Bay, NNEC, DFCHS, KO and MLC</p>	<p>MLC and the City of Thunder Bay have worked together to coordinate the participation of Matawa First Nation students, including MLC students, in City recreation programs and City sponsored events throughout the school year. Some examples of their work are set out below:</p>	<p align="center">1</p> <p>This recommendation has been implemented.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MLC staff had the opportunity to contribute to the Thunder Bay Master Plan regarding how the City can provide positive recreational opportunities for Indigenous people in Thunder Bay; - MLC students had increased access to City events at discounted prices (or for free); - Increased access was achieved through: the provision of chaperones by the City (for free) when required, discounted prices and ensuring that venues are aligned with the expressed interests of MLC students; - MLC students had increased access to City volunteer opportunities; - Relationships between MLC and service groups within the City that offer recreational activities and spaces have been strengthened (for example MLC's relationship with the Kinsmen); - The input of students at MLC was been sought and received with respect to Parks and Recreations Planning; - The City provided \$11,000.00 in funding for an equipment lending library to be established by and for Matawa First Nation community students and other youth; - the City provided discounted or free transportation to support students to attend events; - the City of Thunder Bay has approved a strong box at Wilson Park to permit students to store their athletic equipment at the park. <p>MLC students in academic 2016/2017 have had greater opportunities to participate in recreational activities in Thunder Bay.</p>	
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RECOMMENDATION 114

Consultations should occur between the City of Thunder Bay through the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy, the TBPSB, Health Canada, the Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care and Child and Youth Services, the Northwest Local Integration Network (NWLHIN) , EMS, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC), NAN, NNEC, KO, Shibogama, Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA) and MLC in order to develop an alternative facility for intoxicated Youth, including remote First Nation students who cannot return home until their intoxication level has subsided. Such an alternative facility could include a shelter or detox unit, open to Youth who are 25 years or younger, with appropriately trained staff.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDED DIRECTED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, Ontario, the City of Thunder Bay, NAN, NNEC, KO and MLC	This is an important initiative. MLC will participate in discussions around this initiative; however, MLC has insufficient resources to lead such a discussion or to implement such a facility.	3/4B Unresolved issues
RECOMMENDATION 115		
<p>The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NNEC, DFCHS, KO, IFNA, Shibogama and MLC should consult on the terms of reference for a safety audit of the river areas frequented by First Nation students and youth in the evenings. The consultation and resulting audit should be undertaken as soon as practicable. Subject to the findings of the audit, some possible responses to identified issues could include improved lighting, emergency button poles, under-bridge barricades, or increased police patrols.</p>		
PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NNEC, DFCHS, KO, IFNA, Shibogama and MLC	MLC participated in the planning and execution of the safety audit of the river areas. MLC participated in the training organized by the City of Thunder Bay. The final report is due shortly.	1 MLC has implemented the portions of this recommendation that apply to MLC.
RECOMMENDATION 116		
<p>In order to increase public awareness in the City of Thunder Bay regarding the issues raised during this Inquest, including the obstacles and challenges faced by First Nation students from remote communities who re residing in Thunder Bay, the City should work with First Nations expertise to develop a local and social media campaign as well as a public forum which highlights and addresses:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the obstacles and challenges faced by First nations students in Thunder Bay; ii. the health and social issues often experienced by First Nations students in Thunder Bay; iii. the subject of this Inquest through a discussion of the various roles and responsibilities of community partners and members of the community in assisting First nations students in Thunder Bay; iv. the current misconceptions relating to First nations students from remote communities who are residing in Thunder Bay; v. racism experienced by First nations students in Thunder Bay; and vi. facilitates discussion regarding how to address and report racism towards First Nations students in Thunder Bay. 		
PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE

The City of Thunder Bay, NAN, DFCHS and MLC	MLC is working very closely with its partners to develop the recommended social media campaign and other public forum to increase awareness regarding issues raised during the Inquest.	1B This recommendation is in the process of being implemented.
RECOMMENDATION 117 The City of Thunder Bay, NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC should consult with community partners to arrange for speakers or skills instructors to attend the schools in order to make presentations on topics which are aimed to engage and provide information to the students.		
PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
The City of Thunder Bay, NNEC, KO, DFCHS and MLC	<p>MLC continues to work very hard to achieve this recommendation. In academic 2016/2017 MLC introduced “Workshop Wednesdays” as a forum for such presentations. In addition, many after-hours workshops and presentations have been organized. Workshops, activities and presentations included but were not limited to the following:</p> <p>Cultural Presentations/Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional pipe teachings; - Traditional drum teachings; - Traditional drummer; - Elder lead prayers; - Sharing circles – drumming; - Traditional medicine box making; - Traditional clan teachings; - Traditional beadwork classes; - Hand drum making workshop; - Big drum making workshop; - Traditional teachings from Elder; - Smudge Bundles; - 7 Grandfather Teachings; - Elder lead fish fry taught fishing skills; - Participation in Fall Harvest programs at Fort William highlighting tanning, wild rice harvesting, wild medicines, smoking meat and bannock making; - Cultural Workshop: Art & Identity; - Fort William First Nation Pow Wow; 	<p style="text-align: center;">1/8</p> <p>MLC was already doing this; however, arising from the Inquest, MLC has been able to forge new partnerships and therefore provide a broader spectrum of presentations and workshops.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NAN Youth Gathering. <p>Health and Well-Being Presentation/Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (delivered by P.A.R.T.Y. Program – Thunder Bay Regional Hospital); - Indigenous Party Program (delivered by P.A.R.T.Y. Program – Thunder Bay Regional Hospital); - Knowing Yourself (delivered by Ontario Aboriginal HIV/Aids Strategy); - Self-Care; - Nutrition (Thunder Bay District Health Unit); - Healthy Relationships (Thunder Bay District Health Unit); - Worm composting for MLC garden (provided by Eco-Superior); - Students volunteered at Gammondale Farm for the fall harvest; - Rock Climbing (Boulder Bear Climbing Gym); - Complex tour; - Hockey for Development Clinic with drills, coaching certification, skating socials and cultural activities; - Outdoor education (Quetico College School); - Spring Training (provided by Right to Play in Winnipeg); - Mental Health Jeopardy (game show style learning). <p>Community Safety Presentation/Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your rights and the Police (delivered by NAN); - Sharing Circle with students regarding experiences with police in Thunder Bay (OIPRD); - Regular meetings with Thunder Bay Police. <p>Career Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - College and university fairs; - Leadership Thunder Bay re youth leadership; and - Outdoor Education Outing (provided by Lakehead University). 	
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RECOMMENDATION 143

All organizations that receive recommendations should prepare an annual report following up on the recommendations that:

- i. Indicates whether each recommendation is accepted, accepted in part or rejected;
- ii. Provides an explanation for any recommendations that are not accepted in whole or in part and indicates an alternative approach to achieve the same aim;
- iii. Indicates, for all recommendations that are accepted, whether the implementation is pending, in progress or complete;
- iv. Provides a detailed update regarding the steps that have been taken and are planned with respect to the implementation of the accepted recommendations;
- v. Is sent by email to any person who requests to receive a copy;
- vi. Is prepare each year for delivery at 10:00 a.m. on the anniversary date of the release of the inquest recommendations until the party has provided an annual report indicating that all of the recommendations it received have either been rejected or implemented.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, Ontario, the City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC, LCBO, P.A.R.T.Y. Program, Office of the Chief Coroner	MLC has prepared an annual report to indicate its follow up on the recommendations that were aimed at the MLC.	<p align="center">1</p> This recommendation has been implemented.

RECOMMENDATION 144

The Organizations receiving recommendations should endeavour to agree on a process whereby the annual reports will be posted in a central location on the internet (e.g. on a website of one of the organizations). Acknowledging that the First Nations parties who receive recommendations have limited resources, those parties should prioritize actual actions responding to recommendations over reporting on those actions and should only be expected to provide annual reports if they have the resources to do it.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, Ontario, the City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC, LCBO, P.A.R.T.Y. Program, Office of the Chief Coroner	MLC will post its annual report on its web-site and will cooperate with other parties regarding posting its annual report in a central location.	<p align="center">1A</p> This recommendation will be implemented.

RECOMMENDATION 145

Organizations that accept recommendations should revise their current policies to reflect new tasks and procedures.

PARTIES TO WHOM RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED	MLC RESPONSE/ACTION	STATUS OF RESPONSE
Canada, Ontario, the City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC, LCBO, P.A.R.T.Y. Program, Office of the Chief Coroner	MLC will continue to update its policies to reflect new protocols and procedures.	8/1B The intention of this recommendation was already in place and it will continue to be implemented.

**MATAWA LEARNING CENTRE (MLC) 1st ANNUAL REPORT ON FOLLOW UP TO JURY
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS OF SEVEN FIRST NATIONS YOUTH**

On Template Provided by Ontario Chief Coroner

**Seven First Nations Youths Inquest Q2016-26
(Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper, Kyle Morrisseau, Paul Panacheese, Curran Strang &
Jordan Wabasse)**

MATAWA LEARNING CENTRE – June 28, 2017

Recommendation #:

6, 7, 49, 51, 64, 65, 71, 73, 81, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 90, 91, 107, 114, 115, 116, 117, 143, 144, 145.

Recommendation #	Matawa Learning Centre Response	OCC Response Code
6	See Attachment A: Response to recommendations directed to Matawa Learning Centre	1A
7	See Attachment A	8/3/4B
49	See Attachment A	1A
51	See Attachment A	4A
64	See Attachment A	3/4B
65	See Attachment A	3/4B
71	See Attachment A	3/4B
73	See Attachment A	3/4B
81	See Attachment A	5/3/4B
83	See Attachment A	1
84	See Attachment A	3/4B
85	See Attachment A	3/4B
86	See Attachment A	1B
87	See Attachment A	4B
90	See Attachment A	8
91	See Attachment A	1A/5
107	See Attachment A	1
114	See Attachment A	3/4B
115	See Attachment A	1
116	See Attachment A	1B
117	See Attachment A	1/8
143	See Attachment A	1
144	See Attachment A	1A
145	See Attachment A	8/1B