

Township of Matachewan
Community and Economic
Strategic Plan Draft



January 2026

Land Acknowledgement

The Township of Matachewan recognizes Indigenous Peoples as the original inhabitants of the land and acknowledges the history of colonialism and honours the continuing presence of Indigenous peoples, their relationship to the land and stewardship of it. The Township of Matachewan recognizes that it is settled on the lands of the Anishinaabe people of Matachewan First Nation within the Treaty 9 territory. Matachewan First Nation is one of the six (6) First Nation communities of the Wabun Tribal Council.

Mission Statement

Matachewan's mission is to advocate for a better community, by listening and bringing the community together and pursuing opportunities which create prosperity for the future.

We will invest in the community, by providing programs, infrastructure, education, and experiences for all and maintaining these to a high, sustainable standard.

We will lead by example and make decisions which add value and direct efficient and effective services.

Vision Statement

Matachewan strives to be a community of richness, where stable and sustainable growth and development has created prosperity for residents and businesses, strong tourism showcases the wealth of culture, heritage, northern experience and outdoor adventures that await; and simple living and the northern "frontier spirit" have been maintained and balanced as the Township grows for future generations.

Values



Matachewan is a community that values...

Inclusivity	Fostering an environment where everyone feels welcome, respected, and able to participate fully, and where each person's background, heritage, and identity is celebrated. This involves removing barriers to access and ensuring that people are able to participate in the ways of their choosing. In Matachewan, this looks like recognizing Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage, welcoming new residents and tourists, and programs to support residents to age in place.
A Frontier Spirit	Describes the grit and “can do it” attitude that comes with living in Northern Ontario. Living in the community, particularly during Winter, requires a true love for the area and is not for the faint of heart, but it shows a “frontier spirit” that is shared by all who love Matachewan.
Supportiveness	Offering help, encouragement, and resources to others to help fill needs. In Matachewan, this looks like neighbours helping neighbours, residents taking on volunteer roles, supporting local businesses, and finding creative solutions to shared challenges.
Resilience	Reflects the ability to adapt, recover, and build capacity to thrive in the face of challenges. For Matachewan, this involves maintaining self-sufficiency and the ability to solve problems locally. It can also mean practicing autonomy and thinking creatively about local challenges, strengths, and opportunities.
Impact	Refers to the desire to create effective decisions which make good use of modest municipal or community investments to bring a greater return of resources, programs, and positive outcomes for the community.
Wealth	Reflects an abundance of resources, from financial to cultural, natural, and social. For Matachewan, this involves pursuing financial growth and stability, while also continuing to appreciate the wide range of assets and richness in the people and social connections, beauty of nature, and local heritage and ways of life.

Values

Seven Grandfather Teachings

Truth – To speak the truth at all times.

Honesty – To be honest and trustworthy.

Respect – To respect others, oneself, and the Earth.

Humility – To remain humble and thankful to serve the community.

Love – To show love and kindness.

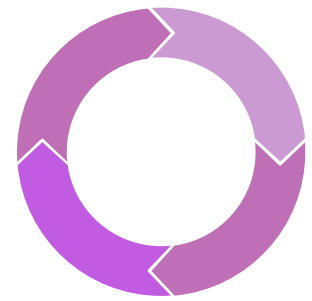
Courage – To face challenges with courage.

Wisdom – To find wisdom in all experiences.

The Teachings of the Seven Grandfathers are a set of principles to teach how to lead a good life commonly shared among Anishinaabe peoples. The Township also identified these teachings as a meaningful framework for decision-making which both reflects community's history and strengthens the Township's commitment to reconciliation.

Strategic Priorities

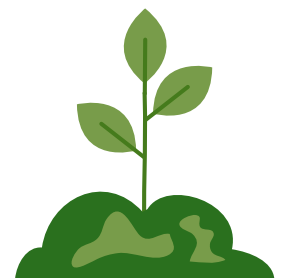
In 4 years, Matachewan will have achieved...



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



MORE FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS AND
CITIZENS



MUNICIPAL WEALTH VIA FUNDING,
INVESTMENTS, AND GROWTH

SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY



THE BEST NORTHERN COMMUNITY
EXPERIENCE



PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS



Sustainable Social Responsibility

The Township aims to continue to clarify and demonstrate its commitments to the community and to good governance. This includes open, honest, and transparent communication to the public and community stakeholders around Council decision making, formal processes, and regular municipal activities.

What might this look like?

BE A STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

MAINTAIN BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS WITH CONSTANT COMMUNICATION

SHARE TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC

“HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY” FOR COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING

HOLD REGULAR DISCUSSIONS WITH MFN

Actions

To accomplish this over the next 4 years, Matachewan will...

- Prepare more public notices
- Use public media to share Township updates (KL Radio, social Media)
- Establish norms for clear communication between staff and Council
- Focus on the positive, to spread positivity in the community
- Say more about what the Township can do, rather than focusing on what is out of its control
- Meet with MFN to discuss a regular meeting schedule and preferences for updates
- Send letters to MFN related to:
 - an Intergovernmental committee agenda
 - Economic development initiatives
- Commit to following Council and staff ideas through to a decision
- Practice transparency for Council decisions and public communications
- Consider adoption of a Reconciliation Action Plan



Opportunities for Economic Development

The Township recognizes that growth in one sector can have positive ripple effects across other sectors of the local economy. The Township aims to support the community in creating new or expanding existing opportunities for housing, local businesses and tourism, and civic and community engagement, particularly for youth.

What might this look like?

SEE 25 NEW HOUSING STARTS

SEE SUSTAINABLE JOBS THROUGH NEW BUSINESSES

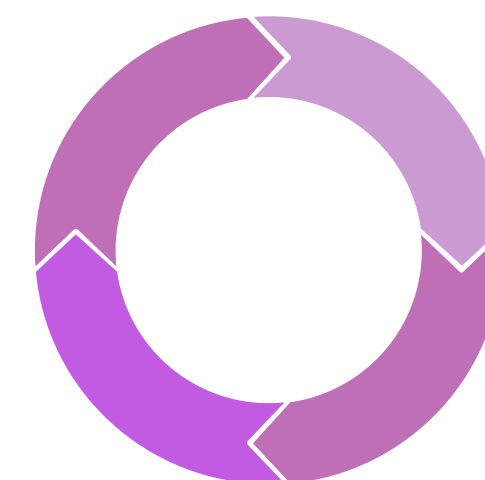
ENCOURAGE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY TO GET MORE INVOLVED

OFFER SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMS AND EFFICIENT SERVICES FOR BUSINESSES

SUPPORT THE CREATION OF NEW HOTELS/ LODGING

Actions To accomplish this over the next 4 years, Matachewan will...

- Prepare a new Zoning By-law
- Through an Official Plan review:
 - review lands supply for residential development and to identify possible acquisition (e.g. Crown land), and
 - review opportunities to right-size infrastructure for targeted growth
- Work with Temiskaming Municipal Services Association to commit to fast building permitting and Planning Act application timelines and keep track of application and approval timelines
- Maximize membership with KDCDC to offer, host, or advertise entrepreneurship and business services to Matachewan residents and businesses (e.g. preparing business plans, assisting with permits, social media marketing, etc)
- Consider subcontracting services from KDCDC or other regional business centres to offer business supports in Matachewan
- Contact KDCDC, YD Mine, Northern College, to identify expected skill shortages and identify opportunities for apprenticeships, coop placements, or youth training opportunities
- Consider advertising and incentivizing strategies for potential housing and commercial opportunities
- Consider opportunities to encourage non-traditional housing opportunities (e.g. cooperative ownership, corporate ownership, long-term rental options, a camp for YD Mine)
- Continue recognition of volunteer contributions to encourage volunteership
- Create an incentive program for youth volunteership (prizes, activities, trips)
- Through alignment with other priorities, join one or more regional tourism associations to increase promotion of Matachewan's businesses and tourism opportunities
- Consider adoption of a Community Improvement Plan



The Best Northern Community Experience

Living in the Matachewan means embracing the beauty of the “Northern Experience”. The Township aims to create a strong community identity around this shared experience and the adventures it brings. This identity will both boast the community’s pride in Matachewan and be a showcase the opportunities just waiting for visitors and newcomers to explore.

What might this look like?

BE A BEAUTIFUL AND WELCOMING
COMMUNITY

HAVE A REPUTATION AS A POSITIVE
NORTHERN EXPERIENCE

HAVE THE BEST TOWN WORKS
CREW EVERYWHERE

BE A SAFE AND HEALTHY
COMMUNITY

Actions

To accomplish this over the next 4 years, Matachewan will...

- Increase opportunities for local ATVs, fishing, camping
- Develop and maintain a walking trail network
- Create a staff role or recruit volunteers for trail grooming and maintenance year round (ATV, Skidoos)
- Create seasonal staffing opportunities for peak-season roles, dependent on funding
- Increase media coverage about recreation in Matachewan
- Reach out to Alamos to request hosting support for local fishing derby
- Create brochures showcasing local attractions, activities, and businesses for visitors and residents
- Post an Information Bulletin at the YDMC
- Consider adoption of a Sports and Recreation Plan



More Facilities for Tourists and Citizens

The Township recognizes that public spaces are vital for social wellbeing. The Township aims to create public spaces and facilities that the public can make better use of to support year-round enjoyment and draw in visitors, bring the community together to foster connection, and elevate the overall experience of its natural and cultural offerings.

What might this look like?

UPDATE THE
OUTDOOR RINK

GET MORE USE OUT
OF THE YDMC

RE-IMPLEMENT SKI-
DOO AND ATV TRAILS
FOR TOURISTS

ADD NEW PUBLIC
FACILITIES AND
FURNITURE

Actions

To accomplish this over the next 4 years, Matachewan will...

- Add new picnic tables and seating to public area, especially near natural features
- Update/add public washrooms to areas which are commonly frequented
- Carry out updates to parks
- Acquire new playground equipment
- Take an approach to managing one task at a time
- Use a collaborative approach, with meetings between staff and Council, for fundraising and funding opportunities
- Apply for NOHFC funding to add a roof and changing area to the outdoor rink
- Update buildings for AODA compliance and accessibility for everyone
- Maintain up to date accessibility policies under the AODA and consider adoption of a Accessibility Plan
- Consider adoption of an Age-Friendly Community Plan



Preservation of Heritage for Future Generations

The Township, and the neighbouring First Nation, have a rich heritage and cultural legacy. The Township aims to honour that history by preserving its existing physical and social infrastructure. While doing that, the Township also aims to balance building an inclusive and sustainable future to accommodate future generations.

What might this look like?

PRESERVE OUR
COMMUNITY'S LONG
HISTORY

MAINTAIN EXISTING
BUILDINGS

CREATE A LASTING AND
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
FOR GENERATIONS TO
COME

HAVE PROGRAMS FOR
ALL AGES

PRESERVE LANDS FOR
WILDLIFE

Actions

To accomplish this over the next 4 years, Matachewan will...

- Support marketing for new ideas in the community
- Build trust and respect for youth
- Encourage residents to involve kids in every activity and consider ways to include kids and youth in every activity
- Try out lots of new programs for youth and young adults
- Provide, host, or promote external events, resources, and activities to support mental wellbeing. Make use of existing resources from the Timiskaming Health Unit, Canadian Mental Health Association, or other agencies.
- Update municipal buildings for accessibility to AODA or higher
- Invite new residents to participate in events to create opportunities for new and long-standing residents to interact and build positive relationships
- Develop a local history program for residents to document the history of the Township and Community. Publish the stories in a book, the Township website, the Township office and library, and/or a regional newspaper



Diversified & Strategic Municipal Wealth

The Township recognizes the importance of a well-balanced budget, with a strong return on resident investment and without dependence on any one funding source. The Township aims to actively pursue multiple avenues for short- and long-term growth through strategic funding opportunities, forward-thinking financial investments, and population growth.

What might this look like?

ACQUIRING MORE FUNDING
FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND
COMMUNITY
BEAUTIFICATION

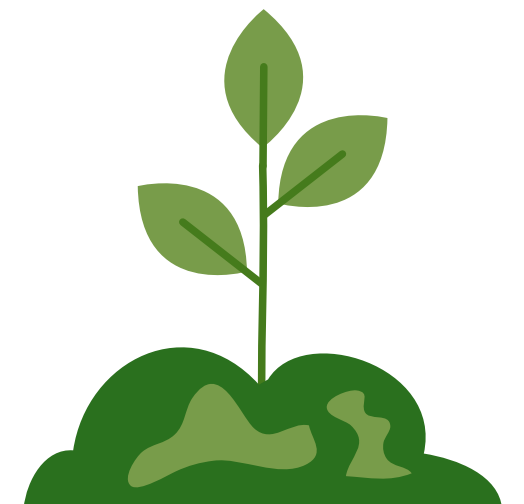
COMMUNITY POPULATION
GROWTH

MANAGEMENT OF
MUNICIPAL FINANCES
THROUGH INVESTMENTS
(THE TOWN'S BALANCE
SHEET)

Actions

To accomplish this over the next 4 years, Matachewan will...

- Plan ahead
- Partner with other communities
- Commit to involving all appropriate department staff in grant funding discussions and applications
- Work with KDCDC to identify funding sources for municipality to support residents and businesses
- Develop a strategy for funding contributions from Alamos Gold
- Partner with Matachewan First Nation for large scale project funding where outcomes would benefit both communities
- Encourage creation of a local not-for-profit to take up community fundraising and distribution of funds



Monitoring

Bi-Annual Reporting

Staff will prepare two updates annually to report to Council on the progress of their assigned tasks.

Annual Budget Review

- Use the annual budget process as an opportunity to:
 - communicate progress on each priority to Council and the public;
 - identify capital and operational budgets to continue associated tasks;
 - evaluate where objectives and actions need to be updated.

