

# An Introduction to the Matawa Water Futures (MWF) Project

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Developing an Indigenous-Informed Framework for  
Watershed Monitoring and Stewardship

*Global Water Futures Operations Meeting, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, January 23, 2019*





**Matawa**  
FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT

**LAURIER**   
*Inspiring Lives.*

# WHO:

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# Indigenous Co-Investigators

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Peggy Smith  
Professor Emerita, Faculty of  
Natural Resources Management,  
Lakehead University



Miguel Sioui  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Geography and  
Environmental Studies,  
Wilfrid Laurier University



Darren Thomas  
Lecturer, Indigenous Studies  
PhD candidate, Community  
Psychology,  
Wilfrid Laurier University

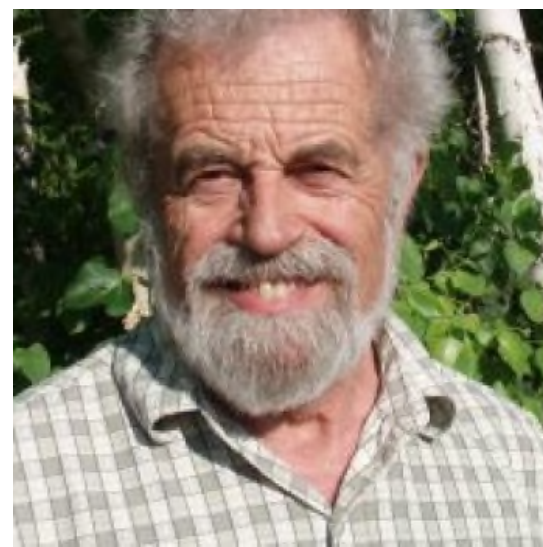




Alex Latta  
Wilfrid Laurier University



Kelly Munkittrick  
Wilfrid Laurier University



David Pearson  
Laurentian University



Chantal Sarrazin-Delay  
Laurentian University



Robert Stewart  
Lakehead University



Andrew Conly  
Lakehead University



Michael Rennie  
Lakehead University

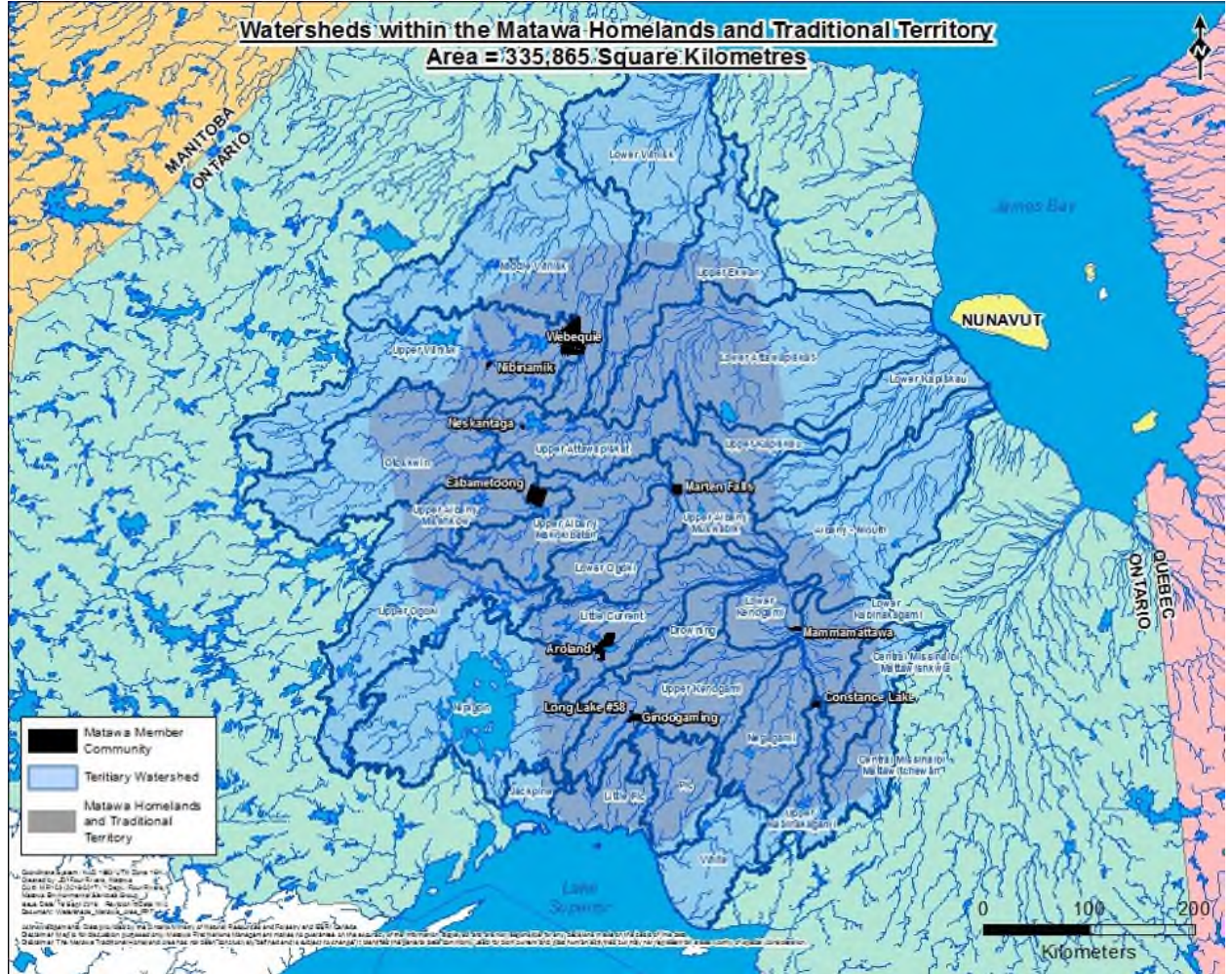


Amanda Diochon  
Lakehead University



## WHERE:

The Matawa member First Nations (MFN) Homelands & Traditional Territories lie within the Treaty 9 area (1905-06, adhesions 1929-30), the ancestral home of Anishinaabe (Ojibway), Mushkegowuk (Cree) and Oji-Cree Nations.



***WHEREAS the watersheds associated with the traditional homelands of the Matawa member First Nations span over 300,000 square kilometers across Northern Ontario***



# WHAT:

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Matawa Water Futures will advance Indigenous-informed water science to address the need for a more robust and effective water monitoring and governance system that will support Indigenous decision making and water stewardship.



***WHEREAS our communities intend to take a leading role in the active stewardship of the watersheds associated with the traditional homelands of the Matawa member First Nations.***

# WHY:

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The combination of changing climate with forecasted Ring of Fire development in northern Ontario means that watersheds within the MFN territories will be subject to change.

There is an urgent need for Indigenous values and traditional knowledge (ITK) to be linked with Western science to respond effectively to contemporary challenges and opportunities in water governance both regionally and nationally.

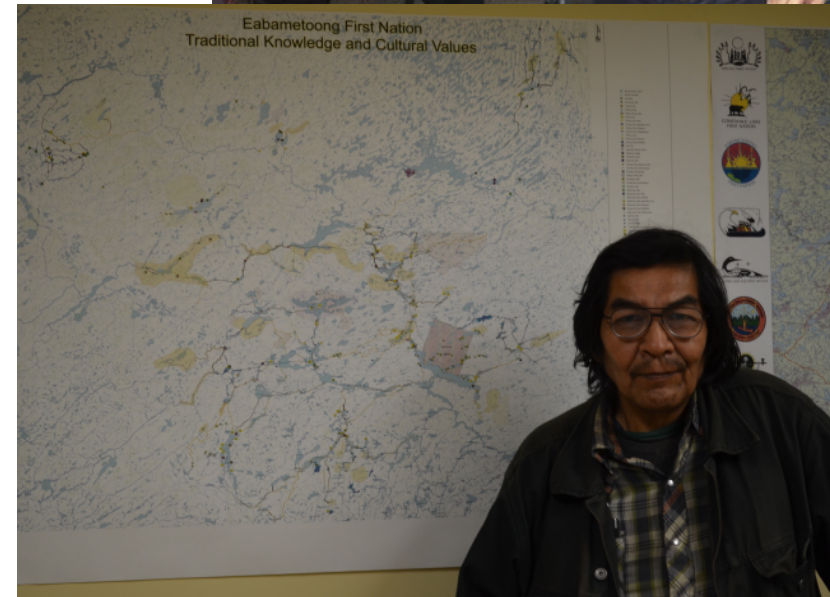
## Potential Threats to Area Watersheds





# HOW:

**A. Water Stories Mapping (objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)** Three of the MFN communities (EFN, WFN, CLFN) will be engaged in data collection to produce maps of important locations for water monitoring within their watersheds. MFNM employees will lead data collection and mapping, with support from faculty and graduate student research assistants.



***FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that watershed stewardship projects provide opportunities to engage our Elders and other Elders and other appropriate community members to obtain Traditional Knowledge and build capacity;***



# HOW:

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## **B. Consolidating and Mobilizing Scientific Data (objectives 2, 3, 4)**

All partners, Laurentian, Lakehead and Laurier Universities, will work to bring together existing water data across all MFN-related watersheds.



***FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that watershed stewardship projects provide opportunities to engage our Elders and other Elders and other appropriate community members to obtain Traditional Knowledge and build capacity;***

# HOW:

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**C. Knowledge Sharing and a Two Row Wampum Monitoring Design (objectives 1, 3, 4, 5, 6)** Annual water gatherings drawing participants from across all MFN will promote Indigenous -to- Indigenous knowledge sharing. Western science will also be incorporated into the gatherings, providing opportunities for sharing across knowledge systems around mutual concern for aquatic health.



***FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that all watershed stewardship initiatives will be guided by and centred in community values, priorities and processes;***

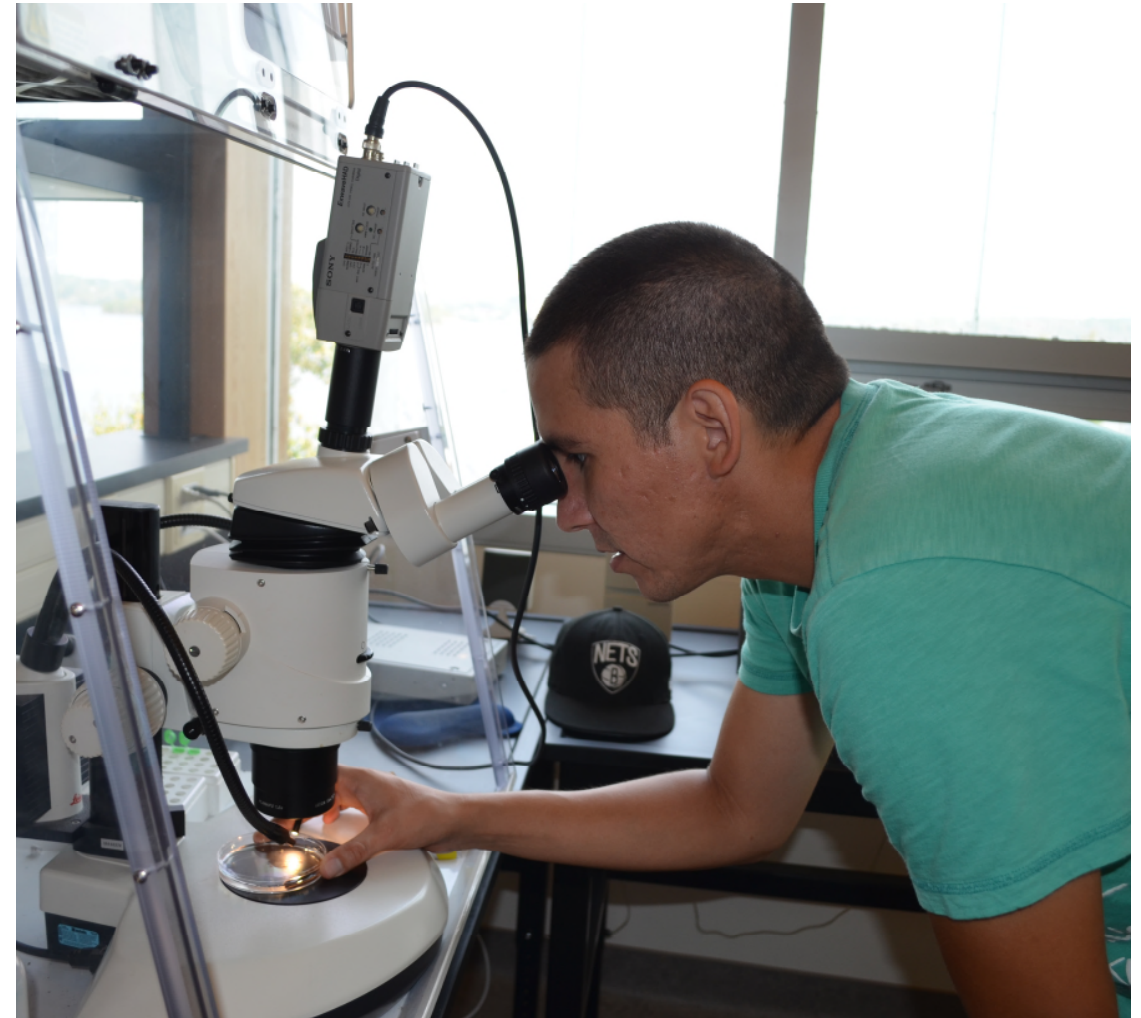


# HOW:

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## D. Training and Capacity Building (objective 2)

MFN members and MFNM employees will be engaged in Indigenous focused water science degree or certificate programs developed through a partnership with Laurier, Lakehead and Laurentian Universities.



***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa First Nations Management will see opportunities and applicable funding for our member First Nations to increase capacity to actively steward our community watersheds;***



## SO WHAT:

*(WHEREAS) These watersheds form an integral part of our shared culture and heritage, and the sustained health of these waters is connected to the well-being and long term sustainability of our communities;*