



The Thunder Bay Police Services Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE COMMUNITY MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

THUNDER BAY, ON, October 21, 2022 — The Thunder Bay Police Services Board is pleased to announce the appointees selected to represent the community as members on its Governance Committee.

The members include David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO of Matawa First Nations, Denise Baxter, Vice Provost of Indigenous Initiatives at Lakehead University and Coralee McGuire-Cyrette, Executive Director of the Ontario Native Women's Association.

The structure of the Governance Committee was revised earlier this year to include three members of the Board and to add three members from the community. The changes were made to ensure that important governance decisions are being represented not just by the Board, but informed and assisted by the community's voice. Community voice in the recruitment of a new Chief of Police and in the development of critical policies of the Board is vital as the Board moves forward.

Denise Baxter and Coralee McGuire-Cyrette will be appointed for a term of two years, and David Paul Achneepineskum for a term of three years. Their appointments are effective on October 21, 2022. The first priority for the committee is the recruitment of a new Chief of Police.

Quotes:

Malcolm Mercer, Acting Administrator, Thunder Bay Police Services Board

"The Board is very honoured to have Denise Baxter, Coralee McGuire-Cyrette and David Paul Achneepineskum join our Governance Committee. Their knowledge, experience and community involvement is significant and we welcome their expertise in the decisions we will make as a Board. We would like to thank the many individuals that came forward to offer their time, experience and insight to the committee. We were extremely fortunate to have so many strong offers of service and support and it is clear that the community is very engaged in this process."

David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO of Matawa First Nations

"With the support of the Matawa First Nations Chiefs Council and Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors—I am pleased to accept the 3-year appointment as

community member of the Thunder Bay Police Services Board Governance Committee (TBPSB-GC) which will work towards modernization. Having been a resident of Thunder Bay for over three decades and with my lived experience as an Indigenous person, I am aware of the systemic changes that are needed to achieve the goal of re-establishing a police service that better meets everyone's interests and needs. We must come together as one to make Thunder Bay the best place to live, work, play and to further educational goals. I look forward to working with the TBPSB-GC and TBPS senior management to achieve this end."

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New Appointee Biographies

David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO of Matawa First Nations



David Paul Achneepineskum is the Chief Executive Officer for Matawa First Nations, a Tribal Council group of nine First Nations located within the Treaty Number Nine Territory. David Paul has been working for his First Nations Peoples since 1971 where he started as Councillor then as the Band Manager for his home community of Marten Falls. Since 1975, David Paul has worked in various management and executive capacities for organizations such as Constance Lake First Nation, Chiefs of Ontario, Rainy River First Nations and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. David Paul has spent more than 45 years working

for his Peoples.

David Paul comes from one of the original families of Marten Falls, the "Achneepineskums". His father and his grandfather's gathering and hunting territory are within the Gichi Siipii and Kenogami River basins where he and his siblings were born and raised on the land. His mother was from the Cree Nation who originated from the English River Post known as Mammattawa.

David Paul attended residential schools during his primary education and went on to graduate from Geraldton Composite High School in 1970.

David Paul can be reached at the Matawa First Nations office where he started in July of 1988 as the Executive Director. David Paul took a 10-year hiatus from Matawa in 1995 to work and gain further experience with other First Nations and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. He has since devoted working with Matawa as Chief Executive Officer since 2006 and loves devoting many hours working for his Peoples. His dream is that someday his Peoples will be self-sufficient and independent like they were more than a hundred years ago.

Denise Baxter, Vice Provost of Indigenous Initiatives at Lakehead University



Denise has served as Vice Provost Indigenous Initiatives since 2017. She has also taught in both the Department of Indigenous Learning and Department of Continuing Education. She is completing her PhD in Equity and Indigenous Education at York University. As an established education leader, Denise has worked in multiple contexts including public school boards, the Ministry of Education, Lakehead University, and First Nations private schools for the past 29 years. Within each of these contexts, she has built capacity and partnerships with multiple community stakeholders. Her work with the community has involved education conferences, workshop presentations, and capacity building.

She currently serves on two service boards in Thunder Bay and an EDI advisory committee provincially.

A Marten Falls First Nation member, she maintains that preserving and practicing cultural traditions and ceremony keeps her connected to the community, Indigenous cultures, traditions, and protocols. She works to establish networks, strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities and governments, and build capacity between Indigenous, public, and private partners which have supported multiple initiatives that advance educational outcomes for Indigenous students.

Coralee McGuire-Cyrette, Executive Director of the Ontario Native Women's Association



Cora McGuire-Cyrette has been serving as the Executive Director of the Ontario Native Women's Association since 2015.

A proud member of the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation), she uses her voice to champion the rights of Indigenous women, cultivate healing, create safe spaces, and support Indigenous women as they reclaim their role as leaders.

As a role model in Indigenous women's leadership, Cora was integral to the development of the Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and serves as Co-Chair of the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council of Ontario, among others.

Cora holds a BA in Indigenous Learning and Sociology from Lakehead University and an MMBA from York University, Schulich School of Business.