



NETMIZAAGGAMIG NISHNAABEG

UNSURRENDERED

To: Mayor Rick Dumas, Town of Marathon

From: Chief Clyde Jacobs

RE: Town of Marathon Council Meeting Comments

After careful deliberation, consideration and dialogue, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Chief and Council wish to make the following statement:

Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Chief and Council have become aware of the short video clip circulating on social media from a recent Marathon Town Council meeting, in which a senior town staff member can be heard making the remark, “Yeah, we’re just the wrong color.”

We acknowledge the hurt, anger, and frustration this has caused for the people of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. These feelings and concerns are shared by Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg. We have members living in Marathon as well, and our people access Marathon regularly for essential services.

As neighbouring First Nations and regional partners, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg recognizes that comments of this nature are not isolated. They reflect deeper issues that continue to exist in institutions and workplaces across Canada, including within municipal governance and administration. Attempts to minimize or explain away this remark do not address the harm it has caused, nor do they rebuild trust. Regardless of intent, the comment was inappropriate in the context and was received negatively by members of our community and should be addressed accordingly.

Both Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg depend on the Town of Marathon for major supports beyond what First Nations can provide locally, including retail, education, healthcare, and other essential goods and services. Marathon also receives additional supports and funding for providing various services as a hub to the region. This relationship requires mutual respect, professionalism, and accountability.



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Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg stands with Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and supports their Chief and Council's call for meaningful remediation, including accountability for the remark, and steps that demonstrate a genuine reset in the relationship. Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg will follow Biigtigong Nishnaabeg's lead and will suspend any support, funding, or partnership involvement in proposed projects with the Township of Marathon until such time that the Township demonstrates that the situation has been remediated effectively and that trust can be rebuilt.

Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg remains committed to respectful regional partnership, but meaningful partnership cannot exist without trust. Trust must be earned through action.

On behalf of the Council and membership of Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg,

Chief Clyde Jacobs
Netmizaggaamig Nishnaabeg