**Bio Mike Metatawabin**

Mike Metatawabin is from the First Nation community of Fort Albany located along the western James Bay shore of Northern Ontario.

He is a survivor, like all of the community members who attended the Ste Anne’s Residential School that operated in the community.

Mr Metatawabin’s background is in communications, broadcasting in the Cree language for radio and television. He currently serves as President for the regional Wawatay Communications Society serving 49 communities in the treaty 9 territory in Northern Ontario.

He is also currently the board chair for the board of directors for Nishnawbe Aski Police Services that provide policing in 34 communities in Nishnawbe Aski Nation that is commonly recognized as the Treaty 9 territory.

Also known as NAPS in their region, NAPS is the second largest First Nation Police Services in North America second to Navaho Nation’s police service, the Navaho Nation Police Department.

Mr Metatawabin has always been involved in community development and advocacy at the community and regional level.

He also served as board chair for Five Nations Energy, Kimesskanamenow Winter Road Corporation, and the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

Mr. Metatawabin was also a Deputy Grand Chief for Nishnawbe Aski Nation between the years of 2009 to 2012 and served as chief for his home community for four consecutive terms back in 1998 to 2006.

Through his work in community development and advocacy, Mr. Metatawabin has assisted in creating success to bring reliable energy to their coastal region through Five Nations Energy,

fibre optic cable and technologyto the homes of Fort Albany with work continuing for Kashechewan and Attawapiskat through their First Nation owned Western James Bay Telecommunications Network.

Mr. Metatawabin has worked on a voluntary basis as board member with the corporations that have provided these opportunities in their region. This forms the basis and platform for his presentation on lived experiences in remote communities.