



K·K·E·T·S KIIKENOMAGA KIKENJIGEWEN
Employment & Training Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services' (KKETS) Aboriginal Skills Advancement Pilot Program Holds Graduation

Thunder Bay – Friday April 4, 2014 - Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services proudly recognizes approximately 46 adult learners, members of Matawa First Nations communities, who completed the Aboriginal Skills Advancement Pilot Program (ASAPP). Many are now graduates with a General Education Development Diploma (GED) or Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

The Ceremony took place today from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm in the Airline – Madrid Room, 698 West Arthur Street, Thunder Bay.

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen means 'Teaching Knowledge.' KKETS was established by the Matawa First Nations to ensure its members receive the training and education they need to secure jobs, and to capitalize on opportunities from the Ring of Fire developments. The Aboriginal Skills Advancement Pilot Program's primary objective is to develop an educated and highly skilled workforce in the north and to structure attainable learning achievements geared to the learner for entry into the labour market, further post-secondary, apprenticeship trades or specialized training that is synchronized with the growth of the mining sector and other supportive industries.

"When an opportunity to improve the quality of our lives presents itself, our people take that opportunity. The KKETS ASAPP program has been set up to help our community members get the skills and training they need to improve their lives in the new economy that is emerging due to resource development. It is great to see 46 of our community members graduate and move on to more training. I believe the KKETS approach is going to help hundreds, possibly thousands, of First Nation members achieve a better life for themselves, their families and their communities" said David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO Matawa First Nation Management.

"The Aboriginal Skills Advancement Pilot Program is a wonderful example of our government's support and collaboration with Aboriginal peoples to help students obtain the skills needed to support economic development across Northern Ontario. I'm very proud that our government is able to provide an additional \$565,000 in support for KKETS programming; ensuring that even more Matawa First Nation community members will have access to the remarkable and unique opportunities that they provide," said the Honorable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

“This is a proud day for many of us. Ensuring our Matawa First Nation members have the education, training and skills to fully participate in today’s economy and labour market is integral to KKETS mission -To provide culturally appropriate opportunities for education, training and employment by providing professional advisory support services, relevant systems and programs to empower individuals to take initiative for change in their own lives. The graduating students will now be ready for whatever comes their way whether it’s post-secondary, training or employment. Acquiring a high school diploma is the start of a promising life for the student and also brings hope and inspiration to current and future generations to nurture and excel at their hopes and dreams” said Elsie MacDonald, KKETS Board Member President.

“KKETS is making progress to ensure Matawa First Nation members are prepared, educated and trained for employment resulting from the Ring of Fire. Through the pilot year, ASAPP has seen 63 adult learners graduating with a high school diploma out of 101 participating students which is tremendous success from a flexible and unique program. These great results prove that ASAPP is working and meets the needs of the individual learner in a culturally appropriate manner. It is KKETS anticipation to only see the number of adult high school graduates continue to increase for Matawa First Nations” said KKETS Program Manager, Morris Wapoose.

“It warms the ASAPP team’s heart to see positive changes occurring in each student’s lives and each will continue that momentum while pursuing the correct path whether it’s post-secondary, employment, specialized training or apprenticeship trades” said ASAPP Project Coordinator, Carolyn Zadnik.

ABOUT ASAPP

ASAPP is an exciting initiative assisting members of Matawa First Nation communities in pursuing their education, employment and career goals. It is innovative, collaborative and integrated approaches with “cutting-edge” practices that will help learners build pathways to positive educational and employment outcomes using a skills laddering approach in a culturally appropriate manner. The foundational block component includes a flexible, one of a kind approach to the delivery of academic upgrading (Literacy Basic Skills), GED, and/or Ontario Secondary School Diploma with incorporating full wrap around team supports (social, emotional and cultural), and basic industrial certifications to ensure the program is relevant to support the academic learning needs, career and employment choices of the learner. This will ensure the learner is prepared for entry into the labour market that is synchronized with the growth of the mining sector and other supportive industries resulting from the Ring of Fire.

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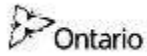
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KKETS is a Matawa employment and training non-profit corporation, supported by our Chiefs, that offers our First Nation members opportunities to advance their skills and employability to get meaningful jobs in all industries, but particularly in the growing resources sector. KKETS will positively change lives and communities through education, individual skills development and training.



ASAPP is funded by the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU)



Lakehead Adult Education provides instructional services for the delivery of OSSD accreditation.

Matawa First Nation Management (MFNM): MFNM is a non-profit corporation and Tribal Council that provides advisory services to its nine member First Nations.



The Nine Member First Nations of MFNM: Remote (accessible by air or winter ice road) - Eabametoong First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Webequie First Nations. Road Access (accessible by provincial highways and roads) -Constance Lake First Nation, Aroland First Nation, Long Lake # 58 First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation.



Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS) is an Agreement Holder with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) under the Aboriginal employment and training program “Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS)”.

KKETS

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