



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, June 11, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**KIIKENOMAGA KIKENJIGEWEN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES
PARTICIPATES IN PANEL AT NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP CONFERENCE**

THUNDER BAY, ON: Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS) announced that at 4:00 pm EST today they participated in a panel at the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum's (CAF) National Apprenticeship Conference showcasing the work the KKETS Employment Integration Services Program has been undertaking in the area of Indigenous apprenticeships within the Matawa region over the past 2 years.

CAF's annual event highlights initiatives, programs and strategies that contribute to Canada's apprenticeship system including innovative on-the-ground approaches that reflect how traditional models and methods are evolving. This year, it is highlighting innovative approaches to training, workplace and mentoring activities, and the engagement of under-represented groups and youth. More than 500 delegates are expected to participate in the conference taking place from June 10 – 12 in Montréal, QC.

Andrew Regnerus of the Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) and Karen LeBlanc of the Joint Economic Development Initiative joined Andy Nieweglowski of KKETS in the panel entitled, "Initiatives to Engage Indigenous Apprentices" which was around finding innovative ways to engage and retain Indigenous apprentices.

As part of the panel, KKETS discussed how they were able to identify and address common challenges by developing a culturally appropriate approach. They also discussed challenges/barriers faced when working with Indigenous communities, factors contributing to success, measuring results and their experience in relationship building with key industry and training organizations mostly in Northern Ontario.

This is the first time that KKETS has participated in this manner in the CAF.

QUOTES

"As an organization dedicated to increasing the number of Indigenous peoples in the trades in the Matawa region in Ontario, KKETS is pleased to play a meaningful role in this year's National Apprenticeship Conference in the panel regarding the engagement of Indigenous apprentices. In the 2 years we have run the apprentice program, we have met some success and we are happy to share some of the best practices the KKETS Employment Integration Services Program has grown to learn. The shortage of skilled workers, especially in Matawa, is a gap that we have been addressing and we are grateful for the relationships we have been building with key industry and training organizations to help us fill this gap."

- Roger Wesley, KKETS Executive Director

Established in 2012, **KKETS** is an Aboriginal Skills Employment Training Holder for Matawa First Nations. It assists Matawa members in attaining trades skills and other training including independent programming, employment integration, employment readiness/life skills training, basic employment certifications, and academic upgrading. The SAO-KKETS Program is funded by the Government of Ontario – Employment Ontario. Follow them on Facebook at: Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services – KKETS

Matawa First Nations Management is a Tribal Council providing a variety of advisory services and programs to 8 Ojibway and Cree First Nations in James Bay Treaty No. 9 and 1 First Nation in the Robinson-Superior Treaty area. Follow them on Facebook or Twitter at: @MatawaFN

For more information, please contact Carol Audet, Communications Manager – Matawa First Nations at (807) 632-9663 or by email at caudet@matawa.on.ca.



Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services
Matawa First Nations Inc. | 28 Cumberland Street North, 3rd Floor
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4K9
Tel: (807)768-4470 | **Fax:** (807)768-4471 | **Toll Free:** 1-888-688-4652

www.kkets.on.ca