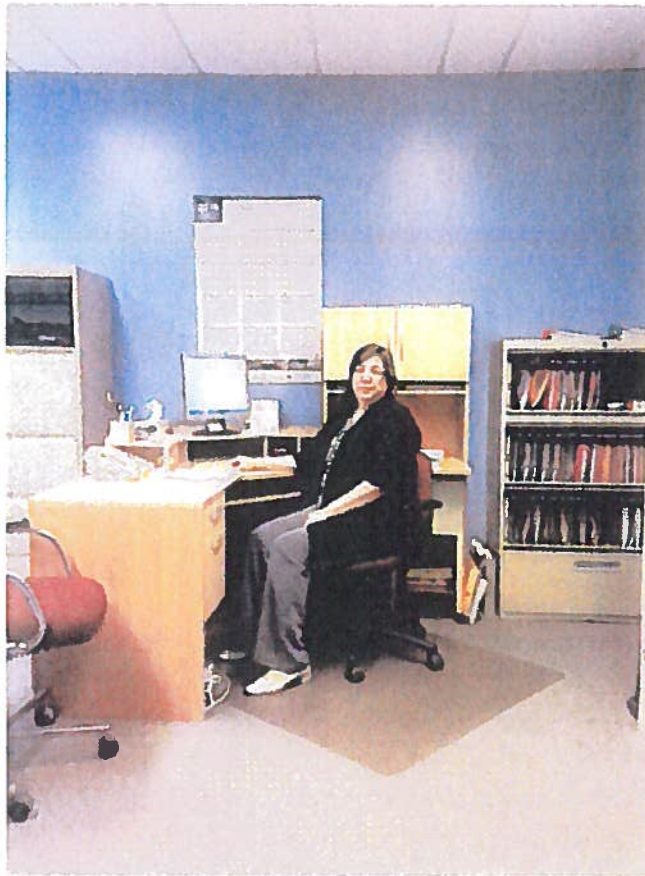


*Success*

*Stories*

2013/2014

**Course Purchase**



**Roanna Martin – Bingwi Neeyaashi Anishinabek**

**Bookkeeper**

My name is Roanna Martin and I am from Sandpoint First Nation. I grew up in Rocky Bay and attended high school in Red Rock, Ontario. The road to education has not been a simple walk in the park. The bus left our community at 7:30am daily and we were back at home by 4:45pm. As the years went by, I watched silently as my peers from the community move away or drop out. I managed to graduate high school with a diploma in grade 12.

I decide to attend college when I was living in Sioux Lookout. I realized my high school education wasn't enough to obtain employment and I had no real work experience. After three years I graduated with a diploma in Business Management, which led to a job in bookkeeping. After ten years of work with various companies and First Nation, I was more equipped for the work world. The company I was working for had to restructure its organization resulting in downsizing. However, I was able to secure funding through the Second Careers program offered by Employment Ontario. Having secure additional funding from Anishnabek Employment and

Training Services, I was enrolled in the Business Administration program offered by Progressive Training College of Business and Health (PTC) in Thunder Bay.

My education has been very beneficial and I have learned new accounting programs that will enable me to apply my skills and broaden my range of business when job searching. My success at PTC earned me high marks close to honours. The struggles I faced were studying the material in some courses and concentrating on tests. On a positive note, I hope I have been a role model for my teenage daughter and son who just recently graduated from the Electrical Engineering program.

Without the rest of the funding approved by AETS, I would not have been able to learn the accounting programs I desired. I can now do bookkeeping in Simply Accounting and QuickBooks and very proud to report that I received a 99 to 100 percent mark in both. Currently I am working part-time as a payroll clerk for a logging company and enjoy it very much. Thank you so much for this opportunity. Without AETS's assistance, none of this would have been possible.

2013-2014  
Employment Start-Up



**Janine Desmoulin – Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation  
Assistant of Women & Youth Development**

My name is Janine Desmoulin, I am a member of the Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation and have lived in Thunder Bay since I was 6 years old. I have been employed with Nishnawbe Aski Nation as the Assistant of Women & Youth Development since December 2013.

Previously, I was a recent graduate from Confederation College in the Native Child and Family Services Program. I have always been a people person and have been employed in many customer service fields along with employment with working with First Nations peoples; the most rewarding would have been working with the youth of Pic River during the 4 years I lived there until 2008.

I had done work with NAN in 2013 during the Women's Council Forum, I would not say I choose my present career, I believe it chose me. It just so happened that this field of work encompasses all employment sectors I have recently had and have always been of interest to me.

Barriers I had to overcome to get where I am now, is not unlike most First Nations Youth, I chose to attend Iris Treatment Centre for Women in Sudbury in October and November of 2013, under no one's direction but my own in order to help deal with my struggles with drugs, alcohol, depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts that I disguised mainly through

humor, friends and a mediocre work ethic. I learned that I suffered a great deal of identity loss growing up in the city and I didn't even know this was the core of most of my problems.

It was not easy to keep employment for many years and I found it very hard to even graduate during these struggling times, but I learned skills and tools to help deal with my past issues along with finding my true identity and spirituality.

AETS contributed to my success by always having a professional counsellor available to work with me on resumes, job searches and providing a safe place to talk to someone about my own personal barriers with keeping employment. AETS also helped me with clothing allowances and First Aid Training for past positions over the years. They even offered me a summer student position during college.

In my present position not only do I work with exceptional people with the same desire to help First Nations Women & Youth it has been a place where I am able to facilitate workshops that are beneficial to anyone especially those who are in or have been in the same struggles as me and allowed me to travel to different communities and meet more youth. Not only do I get to help others I learn more about myself each day I am in this position. I have had nothing but a good experience in this position.

**2013 – 2014**  
**Mobility Assistance**



**Pat Nawegesic – Kiashke Zaaging Anishnabek**  
**Executive Director**

Pat is a mother of 3, two sons and a daughter. She hails from Kiashke Zaaging Anishnabek. She is the daughter of Doris Michel and Narciste Nowegejick, granddaughter of Agnes Magdens and Paul Michelle. Prior to returning to Thunder Bay, Pat worked as a Mental Health worker for White Owl Native Ancestry in Kitchener, Ontario. After her contract ended, Pat pursued her Masters in Social Work at Laurier University after obtaining her HBSW from Lakehead University. She was a Board of Director with Beedigen Inc., where she is currently the Executive Director. Being a student and working part-time to provide a good life for my family was a challenge at times. Upon completion of the Masters programs, I applied and was the successful candidate for the position of Executive Director at Beendigen Inc. With the help of Anishnabek Employment and Training Services, I was provided assistance to relocate back to Thunder Bay. For that, I am grateful. My current position with Beendigen Inc. gives me the opportunity to work with and for my people. It allows me help find solutions to end violence against women. Pat says that “she is proud to be a part of the legacy of women, past and present, who continue to act on making the foundation of Beedigen and what it stands for our Aboriginal families in the region.

## First Nation Natural Resources Youth Employment Program 2014



L- R Brittany Nayanookeesic (AZA) Bart Hardy-Lynch (BZA) Kyler Tyance (KZA) William Michano Jr. (PR)

The First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program (FNNRYEP) is a 2-year pan-Boreal program with the affirmed goal to create awareness, generate interest and provide the pathway for First Nations youth between the ages of 16 to 18 to pursue education, training and employment in natural resource science based sectors such as forestry and mining.

It offers First Nations youth a safe, structured and predictable work environment in order to gain a head start in securing eventual employment in the natural resource sectors and promotes secondary and post-secondary education to attain these goals. The program is conducted during the months of July and August in a field camp setting where program supervisory staff maintains complete control over daily work / training schedules, meal times, recreation time and curfews.

Additionally, the FNNRYEP promotes science and technology as an education and/or career choice especially during the Natural Resources Science Camp week held at Confederation College. During this time, through "hands on" workshops and demonstrations First Nations youth are provided the opportunity to acquire information on a variety of science and technology

based programs available at Confederation College (such as the Forestry and Environmental Technician programs). In addition, tours of Confederation College, the Aviation Centre, and Lakehead University are also conducted. By illustrating the availability and range of science and technology based educational/career choices, these youth are given the tools so that they are able to make knowledgeable decisions regarding their career and future life aspirations.



2014 First Nation Natural Resources Youth Employment Program



# Program focuses on natural resources

The First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program (FNNRYEP) helped 30 participants learn about sustainable energy sources as part of their Natural Resources Science Camp training on-site at Confederation College last week.

A partnership between Outland Camps and the college, FNNRYEP has provided employment and learning opportunities for First Nations youth since 2000. Since its inception, the program has successfully trained over 325 participants, launching numerous careers in the Natural Resource sector.

"The goal of the First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program is to expose students to natural resources career paths," said John Hatton, director of training and development at Confederation College.

"At the same time, we have designed the educational component in such a way that we are developing the participants' skills through their engagement in revenue generating work projects. This provides participants with a 'real-world' experience and makes the program self-sustaining," he added.

Other skills are also developed, said Anya Scheibmyr, field supervisor at Outland Camps.

"The program empowers Aboriginal youth by focusing on leadership development and teaching skills such as social skills and work ethic," she said. "We enjoy watching the participants build up their self-esteem and grow throughout the program; specifically seeing them learn the values of ownership, pride and accomplishment while practicing safe working procedures."

Participants learned about solar and wind energy aboard the EcoBus. The program welcomed guest speakers from Con-



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ASHLEIGH QUARRELL

First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program participants test their handmade wind turbines.

## YOUR STORIES

News written by our readers on Northwestern Ontario events. [YOUR.CHRONICLEJOURNAL.COM](http://YOUR.CHRONICLEJOURNAL.COM)

federation College and from the natural resources industry. Topics included den-

drology, health and fitness, biomass energy, entrepreneurship, aboriginal mentorship and more. Participants also had an opportunity to tour the college campus, the Aviation Centre of Excellence and Lakehead University.

FNNRYEP will continue through mid-August with closing ceremonies taking place at Marina Park on Aug. 14.

Funding for the program is provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Canadian Forest Services and industry partners.

— Submitted by Ashleigh Quarrell, Confederation College



2013 – 2014  
WAGE SUBSIDY PROGRAM



**Georgina Nayanookeesic - Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek**

Thanks to her sister, who is employed at the Thunderbird Friendship Centre in Geraldton, for seeing a posting recruiting for a training position at Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabekn (AZA). Originally from Jellicoe, Georgina applied for the "Office Worker" trainee position and was successful in the competition. Upon completion of the Wage Subsidy program Georgina is now a full time band office employee who lives in Beardmore, Ontario.

Georgina had no computer skills and only had experience as a cashier at Extra Foods in Geraldton. With four children and 2 grandchildren she wanted a better life for her and her children. When she started training, it was hard at first as she would travel approximately 25 minutes to get to Beardmore from Geraldton, rain or shine or snow. AZA allowed her to work on her Grade 12/GED and enrolled her in "Office Procedures & Etiquette" and "Microsoft Office" courses.

She enjoyed her training position and states "Thank you AETS and AZA for the funding this training opportunity which allowed me to move here to Beardmore and raise my kids here, closer to schools and with more for them to do".

2013 – 2014  
WAGE SUBSIDY PROGRAM



Before



After



During the summer of 2013 **Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek** employed two of their keener younger community members for a period of twelve weeks to restore the Welcome Building. This building underwent a new roof, painting, windows, doors and landscaping. Chief and Council agreed that this building was very important to restore as this is the first building seen as members and visitors enter the community and has a historical significance as it was used by Parks Canada as camping grounds prior to the lands being returned as reserve lands.

2013 – 2014  
WAGE SUBSIDY PROGRAM



Black Thunder Enterprises, Michipicoten First Nation



Elizabeth Miller, Sales Manager



Black Thunder Enterprises is owned and operated by two Michipicoten First Nation band members. The store operates just at the junction as you turn onto the main road coming from the Michipicoten First Nation community and is a needed addition to the community.

Mr. Peterson and Mr. Lewis applied to the Wage Subsidy program to employ and train a Sales manager for their store. The main objective of the project is to be financially stable as they build up their inventory and clientele and to train an individual the process of business management at a lower scale at start while running the store. That individual is Elizabeth Miller, originally from Hornepayne Ontario. She moved to Wawa fourteen years ago, was employed part time at the Wawa Daycare Centre. In the beginning, Elizabeth would only be able to work part time at the store and part time at the daycare. With the help of the Wage Subsidy she was able to put all efforts in establishing the store.

Through daily dialogue with Michipicoten band members, Liz determined that cigarettes, pop, chips, beads, potatoes, toiletries, crafts, and artwork were popular items to sell. She tried bread and milk but it would go

stale or sour. She listens to their needs and purchases items the community wants. The store owners are presently in the process of obtaining the license, permit and equipment needed to open a gas station on Tremblay Road, close to HWY 17. She looks forward to this addition to the business.

The wage subsidy contribution ended February 2014 and she is now full time employed at Black Thunder Enterprises. She works from 9 – 4:30 Monday to Friday and 10 – 3 pm Saturdays. When I asked her what she liked about her present job/employer she replied “meeting so many people and seeing their smiles everyday”.

2013 – 2014

**GROUP COURSE PURCHASE – 980 Loader Operator Training**



Stacey Angeconeb with instructor John Kwissiwa



Clinton Bailey

In 2013 Pic Mobert First Nation was working on various economic and community development projects that would bring employment to the area for qualified Operators. In the past two years Pic Mobert has trained several heavy Equipment Operators and lumber Yard Equipment Operators. Stacey Angeconeb and Clinton Bailey were two of the successful participants to complete one of those programs and therefore were selected for the 980 Loader Operator training. The additional specialized training allowed them to increase their skills and competencies as operators for road construction and snow removal. This project was funded together by AETS and Northwest Employment Works.

Stacey Angeconeb is now a Heavy Equipment Operator/Truck Driver for Kabi Lake Forest Products in White River and Clinton Bailey is employed at the White River Sawmill. Both have attained full time employment because of their desire to learn, train and better themselves.

2013-2014  
JOB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



The Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation utilized the Job Development Program to employ a trail Crew made up of 1 foreman and 4 labourers to develop the 10.7 km Trans Canada Trail between the mouth of the Pic River to Heron Bay North. As a member of the Voyageur Trail Association, Pic River First Nation has taken a step towards becoming a tourist destination. They also received funding to build two lookout stations and a section of boardwalks at the mouth of the Pic River. This project is a major part of the economic growth within the next few years as they are currently looking at becoming a stop for the Great lake Cruise ships.

The Trail Crew started on May 1, 2013 and worked for 880 hours. They participated in training to increase their skill level: PNP introduction to types of trails and clearing, chain saw certification, wilderness first aid and on the job trail crew training through Wikwemikong Development Commission. The Trail Crew learnt how to develop and maintain trails using natural materials – stairs, walkways, markings, etc. They also took GPS training and proper clearing and removal of brush.

As additional activities the crew completed the 1.7 km Diabetes trail for the Health Clinic, cleared and marked the Voyageur Trail between the mouth of the Pic River and Heron Bay, and made a 6.67 km loop system to the trail for people who wish not to walk the full 10.7 km to Heron Bay (please see attached map of the trails).

The community elders are now able to get to the beach at the mouth of the Pic River via the 900 feet boardwalk, some whom haven't been to for the past 20 years. As well community members are walking the Diabetes trail to increase physical activity and improve health and wellness.

The Town of Marathon has now contracted with two of the trail crew to assess, clear and fix the Marathon Trail. The rest of the trail crew members are employed with other employers.



**2013-2014  
JOB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Before



After



Before



After



In 2013 **Red Rock Indian Band** employed five community members in the occupation of “renovation labourers” to renovate their community hall. The project took ten weeks of intensive carpentry work and the results are shown above. Renovations included new windows on the main floor, new siding, soffit and fascia, an entire bathroom gutted and renovated and a new front door. The materials and supplies were funding by the Early Childhood Development program. It was a great work experience for the five community members to enhance the building’s longevity and provide for a more updated place for cultural and recreational activities of the youth.