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Anishinabek Employment  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

AETS makes steps towards digital transformation  
with the support of OTF's Community Resilience Fund

**September 23, 2022, Thunder Bay, ON** - Anishinabek Employment and Training Services (AETS), with the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Resilient Communities Fund (RCF) has announced a new internal Labour Market Information (LMI) Pilot Study Analysis report being circulated to each of the AETS First Nations today through AETS's Annual General Meeting.

In addition to the analysis, the funding supported a digital transformation allowing for a loaner laptop program, professional development online opportunities, LMI online collection of surveys, part-time staff supporting the region as well as training and education pathway to employment.

The analysis in this Interim Report is based on a data extract from the First Nations Labour Market Information (LMI) Survey and Skills Inventory Pilot Project. It includes all questionnaires entered from January 01, 2019, to August 31, 2022.

This interim report has the following purposes:

1. to provide the Indigenous Skills Employment and Training (ISET) Program Agreement Holders and First Nations collecting the data, as well as ESDC, with feedback on the ongoing collection of labour market information. This is annual at a minimum, ongoing (throughout the pilot and beyond) and local (community level) by participating First Nation communities.
2. to help the ISETS and First Nations fine-tune processes and approaches as well as the funding approach required.

Sections of this report describe our progress to date in four major areas:

- Community Profile;
- Labor Market Status—current and past labour market status, traditional skills employment, job search activities;
- Skills Inventory—employment history and preferences, training history and preferences, certifications, and self-employment activities;
- Challenges and Impacts—employment and training challenges, COVID impacts, and physical, emotional, or psychological challenges.

The report presents key interim findings and outlines topics that the community may consider further in the remainder of the study.



“The key findings will help AETS evolve its programs and services to better meet the needs of the First Nation Citizens from each of the nine First Nation Communities we serve,” says John DeGiacomo, Executive Director of AETS.

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### **About AETS**

Based in Thunder Bay, AETS is leading the development of a skilled Indigenous workforce by empowering the Anishinabek through holistic programming, cultural sharing and skills training and employment. AETS provides unique solutions to support Anishinabek to overcome barriers that are customized to individuals in their search for meaningful employment.

- Vision: Skilled Indigenous workforce
- Mission: To provide guided education and training pathways, towards inclusive employment opportunities respectful of culture.

### **About OTF:**

The mission of the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is to build healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario by investing in community-based initiatives and strengthening the impact of Ontario’s non-profit sector. Resilient Communities Fund grants support projects that help rebuild an organization’s capacity, enhance their resiliency, and meet the changing needs of their communities.

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