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2019
THUNDER BAY'S

Finest

Anishinabek Employment and Training Services

Anishinabek Employment and Training Services continues to strive toward providing Indigenous people with the skills and confidence to enter the workforce while maintaining traditional values and heritage.

"AETS has been around for over 20 years and we realize the Indigenous population is a growing population and some have barriers, like any individual looking for employment, so we are here to help reduce those barriers, improve skills and employment outcomes" said John DeGiacomo, executive director with AETS.

Serving nine First Nation communities, AETS provides holistic programs, cultural sharing, and skills training to employment. AETS recently signed an Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ISETS) agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada, AETS will continue to improve the skill levels of Indigenous people and improve employment outcomes.

"As a federal agreement holder, we are now among 120 agreement holders across Canada. We can work with employers, organizations, colleges, universities, and training institutions, to help individuals move from being out of school and out of work to employment," DeGiacomo said.

"As a new ISET agreement holder, we've been provided a 10-year funding model so we can continue the services and programs to the nine communities we serve."

AETS provides job seeing services, employer services, continuing education options, career and entrepreneurship pathways to employment.

DeGiacomo said AETS works with a variety of employment sectors in the region that are in

demand for employees and works to train and develop the workforce that is needed.

"We know in the nine communities there is activity happening across many sectors. In forestry, mining, the environment and health care, there are increasing career opportunities." DeGiacomo said. "We know there are a number of different occupations available and we are there to bridge the training gap to ensure that population in the region can be gainfully employed in meaningful work and stay in the region."

Bele Wigwas, a recent graduate of the Personal Support Worker program is employed with St Joseph's Care Group in Thunder Bay.

"They, AETS, were able to support me in a holistic view," she said. "There was always someone with us 24/7 and it was really good. I feel like I wouldn't be able to do it at College just on my own because of the barriers First Nation people face."

AETS recently opened a new training space at the Waverley Resource Library.



AETS
Anishinabek Employment
and Training Services
Your path. Our ways.

For more
information,
visit their website
at www.aets.org.