

Anishinabek Employment and Training Services



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aboriginal Group and Partners Collaborate to Develop a PREP (**PR**e-Employment & **E**ducation **P**ilot) Project to help with Career Paths

September 15, 2014 --- Anishinabek Employment and Training Services (AETS), in partnership with the Lakehead Adult Education Centre (LAEC) and the Margaret Anderson Foundation, are proud to announce the launch of the PREP program focusing on preparing First Nation Citizens for employment through education. The collaboration will engage at least 20 urban Aboriginals in a holistic approach to service co-ordination that has the following objectives:

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or academic upgrading
- Cultural programming and co-ordination
- On-going support and case management
- Customized action plans that could include apprenticeships, post-secondary education and/or meaningful employment pathways

AETS and the LAEC in collaboration with the Margaret Anderson Foundation are working together to provide employment counselling services and education pathways for off-reserve adult learners from the partnering First Nation communities. The learner will develop a customized action plan with his/her employment counsellor to reach targets towards his/her desired career goal(s). “This initiative will provide First Nation Citizens with the stepping stones required to build skills and gain the knowledge needed to realize their employment and training goals and dreams. It’s important that we continue to be the leader in the development of training programs that meet the needs of the First Nation communities,” said John DeGiacomo, AETS Executive Director.

“We are expecting this partnership to address a need for First Nation Citizens to complete their diploma and enhance their pathways to employment, by offering Monday to Friday classes starting at 3:30pm until 6:30pm at the LAEC 125 South Lillie Street location in Classroom 3” said Daniel Denommé, LAEC Manager.

“We look forward to continuing this initiative and accepting applicants for this intake until next Monday September 22nd and securing more interested applicants for the next intake later this Fall 2014 or Winter 2015” said Vernon Ogima, PREP Project Co-ordinator.

Mutually beneficial partnerships like this one with LAEC and the Margaret Anderson Foundation will increase First Nation self reliance and contribute to ongoing improvements to the overall well being of First Nation individuals, families and communities in Northwestern Ontario. The vision of the Margaret Anderson Foundation is to work alongside First Nation communities to foster and enhance education and pre-employment training opportunities for the adult learner.

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For more information, please feel free to visit during the orientation of this project anytime between 5pm and 6pm on Monday September 15th, 2014 in Classroom 3 at the Lakehead Adult Education Centre on 125 South Lillie Street in Thunder Bay, Ontario or contact:

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Notes to Editors:

PREP (**P**RE-Employment & **E**ducation **P**ilot) Project is funded by the Anderson Foundation.

About the Anishinabek Employment and Training Services (AETS)

The vision of AETS is to lead in the development of a skilled Aboriginal Workforce empowering the Anishinabek, respectful of culture and heritage. AETS was established in 1997 and has assisted First Nation Citizens for over fifteen years to stay in or re-enter the labour force. It acts as a Local Delivery Mechanism (LDM) under the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) Anishinabek Aboriginal Skills and Employment Strategy (ASETS), which includes nine member First Nation communities or over 7,600 First Nation citizens. For more information, visit www.aets.org

First Nations PRE-Employment and Education Pilot Project 2014 Information:

- <http://www.aets.org/FNPEEPPBrochure.pdf>
- <http://www.aets.org/FNPEEPPPoster.pdf>
- <http://www.aets.org/FNPEEPPPosterLarge.pdf>
- <http://aets.org/FNPEEPPApplication.pdf>