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By Sandi Krasowski, CJ Staff |  0 comments

A pilot leadership development program is in need of youth coaches, mentors and funding sponsors to help the program continue to run.

John Degiacomo, the executive director of Anishinabek Employment and Training and program and co-chairman of the Dinowigehmin Aboriginal Youth Leadership program, said they are making a call out to organizations to help sponsor the program to make it sustainable.

He said Leadership Thunder Bay, in collaboration with the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre, was able to get some Ontario Trillium Foundation funding to start the program but they need organizations to help sponsor the initiative so that youth don't have any barriers to get into the program.

"We can't always build a future for youth but we can help youth build their future," said Degiacomo. "That's why we have this program — to help youth in their journey for leadership."

The program was launched in 2013 for aboriginal youth between the ages of 16 to 19. Based on the Leadership Thunder Bay program, it involves a retreat, learning days and a graduation. Cultural, mental, spiritual, physical and emotional well-being is taught through the framework of the Seven Grandfather Teachings and the Medicine Wheel. The interactive program prepares young people to find positions from government and politics to skilled trade jobs.

Visit leadershiptb.com to become a member, youth coach or a champion of the program.



Sandi Krasowski, CJ Staff

Looking for support

Precious Anderson, a graduate of the Dinowigehmin Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program, and John Degiacomo, the executive director of Anishinabek Employment and Training and program