

# aets partnership

## Partnership Acknowledgement in Promoting Inclusion

Anishinabek Employment and Training Services (AETS) celebrated its grand opening on August 13 in the Waverley Community Hub. The celebration focused on the new education to training to employment facility, made possible by the collaborative partnership between the AETS nine member First Nations and the Thunder Bay Public Library (TBPL).

The Honourable Patricia A. Hajdu Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour and Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay Superior North was the special guest, who formally announced AETS as a stand-alone federally funded Indigenous Skills & Employment Training Program (ISETP) Agreement Holder as of July 2019 until March 2029. This ten year announcement valued at approx. \$17 million dollars, was in addition to a separate federally funded Skills Partnership Fund (SPF) approval of \$8.6 million dollars from 2017 through to March 2021 known as the MINO BIMAADIZIWIN - Building Innovative Pathways to Indigenous Employment. Rolling Thunder drum group participated at the event with speakers including Elder Theresa Morriseau, AETS President Sharon Ostberg, Red Rock Indian Band Chief Matthew Dupuis, former Client Bele Wigwas and Lisa Beckwick of St. Joseph's Care Group who shared their respective experiences as a result of being impacted positively by AETS.

As referenced in earlier columns, AETS is part of a national Indigenous Skills and Employment Training network. AETS is one of 20 ISETP Agreement Holders in Ontario and one of 110 distinct based ISETP Agreement Holders in Canada. The delivery of tailored services and programs will continue in the North Superior Region, which include expanding partnerships with other like-minded organizations to empower the Anishinabek and improve the:

- skill levels of First Nation Citizens to reduce skill gaps
- employment outcomes of First Nation Citizens to reduce employment gaps.

The facilities renewal at the Waverley Community Hub including a shared open area with eight workstations, a boardroom, staff offices and a variety of artwork are

now complete, with internal and external signage expected to be done by this Fall.

AETS is delivering a variety of training to employment services, including the G1 and G2 Driver's License program and an upcoming class in Line Crew Ground Support and Personal Support Worker Training. AETS is also offering high school credits and a credit-granting process for mature students to obtain credit for prior learning. For full details on continuing education services see the back cover. AETS will also offer an Indigenous Entrepreneurship Course. Another program is the Dinowigehmin – Aboriginal Leadership Program (ALP), taking place this fall and designed to contribute to the participant's cultural, spiritual, mental, physical and emotional wellbeing. Please contact AETS to discover how we can assist with either training to employment or leadership or continuing education needs.

As a result of the partnership agreement with the TBPL, AETS continues to work co-operatively with the TBPL and the approved Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) to renew the space with four new public and one private washroom in the lower level of Waverley. The washroom project will result in a more accessible and a safer workplace, with renovation scheduled to be completed early this fall. This is yet another example of how the TBPL with AETS are working together to build connection and inclusion in the community.

On behalf of the AETS Board of Directors and Staff, we are energized to make an even larger impact with our education to training to employment programs and services which will benefit the community and North Superior Region.



*John Pateman, John DeGiacomo, Patricia Hajdu, Sharon Ostberg & Matthew Dupuis cut the ribbon at the AETS grand opening celebration.*

Please visit our website at [www.aets.org](http://www.aets.org) for details on our services and/or feel free to drop by in person to the Waverley Community Hub at 285 Red River Road on weekdays from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm or call us at (807) 346-0307. Some of the AETS Staff contacts available to connect with include, but not exclusive to the Elder in Residence, Employment Officer, High School Teacher, Job Development Officer, Life Skills Officer and Project (Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program) Co-ordinator.

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