

Hands-on training

Program gives leg up in food, support areas

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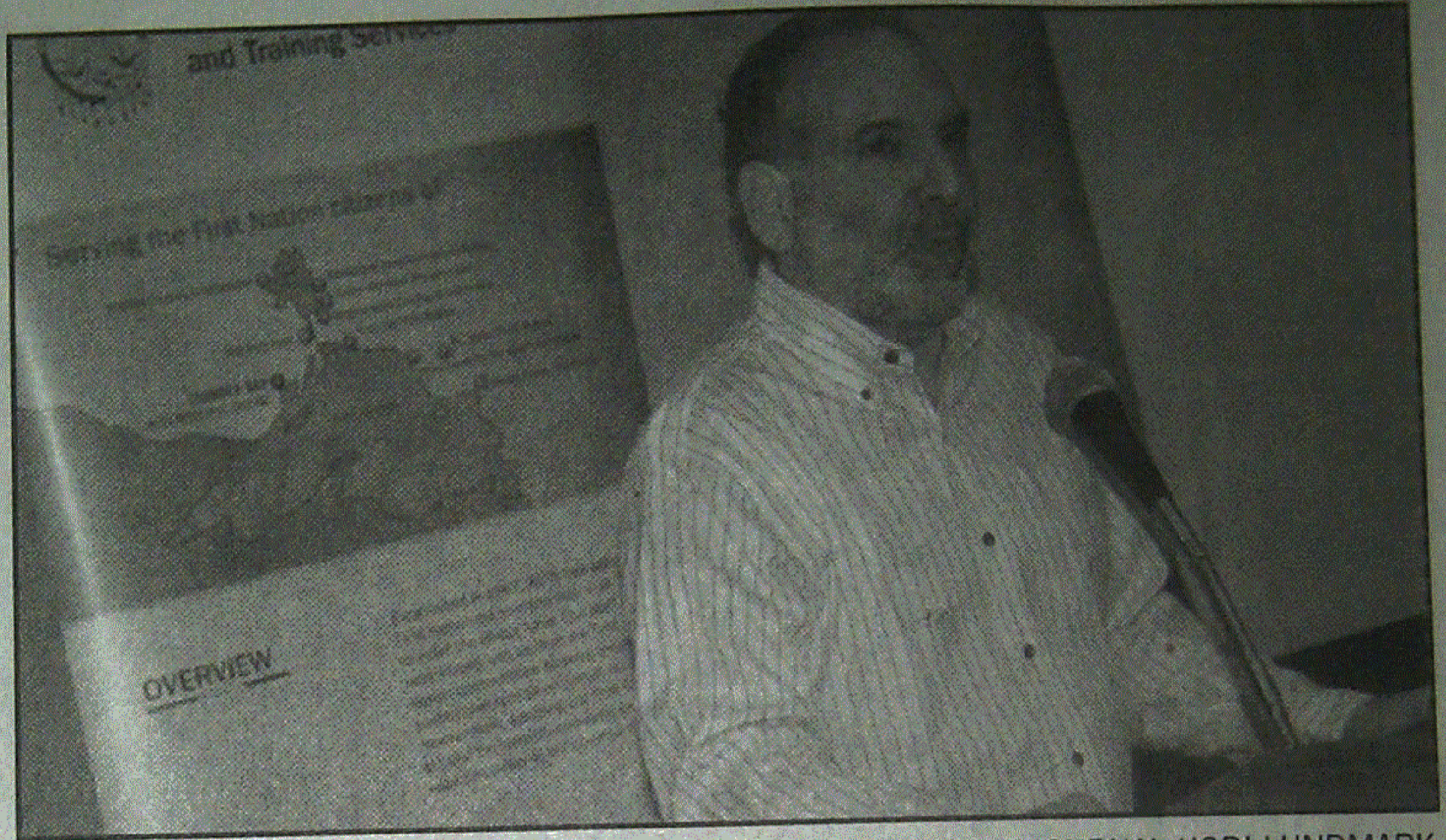
A new training program will help First Nation youth build careers in the health-care sector.

Anishinabek Employment and Training Services (AETS) launched new Food Service Worker and Personal Support Worker training programs this week in Thunder Bay.

Through partnerships with Confederation College and St. Joseph's Care Group, 44 First Nation learners from nine communities in the North Superior region can take part in the program with 22 spots available per program.

The training will be done in partnership with AETS and the college and St. Joe's will provide job placement opportunities for students to get hands-on experience.

"AETS has been around for 15 years and we've been training in different sectors," said executive director John DeGiacomo. "The health-care sector is one area that we have



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Anishinabek Employment and Training Services executive director John DeGiacomo helps launch new training programs this week for food service workers and personal support workers.

not done training in so we're looking forward to working with St. Joe's and Confederation College to help train these First Nations individuals . . . in careers they aspire to, to help them build their dreams and help them in their career pathway."

The programs will begin in May and are scheduled for six months or less. They are also culturally aware and responsive, involving an Elder, facilitators and instructors, a program co-ordinator and monitors to assist each student.

The training programs are funded through Ontario's Target Initiatives

Fund at a cost of about \$629,000.

FSW and PSW worker programs were chosen as they are in-demand programs, said DeGiacomo.

St. Joe's president and CEO Tracy Buckler said the demand goes both ways as they are always looking for both FSWs and PSWs to hire.

"It's a great partnership as far as opportunities for people to come in and learn in our sites," she said. "It's a great opportunity for future employment. We have employment needs and this partnership will allow future prospects for us. It's truly one of those win-wins."