

WAGE SUBSIDY SUCCESS STORY 2015/2016



Anna McCrady/Brideau

Ann's Diner is the only restaurant in Beardmore, Ontario. Owner/operator Annette Brizard approached her First Nation - Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek – for assistance in hiring and training a short order cook. With the summer season quickly approaching Annette would need help at her restaurant. To sustain a viable local business and the only restaurant establishment in Beardmore, AZA approved her request for funding. Great timing because along comes Anna McCrady/Brideau, band member of BZA, who had decided she wanted to return to work after being a full time mother for the past 19 years, raising five children. With her last two children 13 & 18 years of age now attending high school, she applied for the position. Although Anna was a cook 20 years ago at another restaurant in Beardmore, she felt she needed training to refresh her skills and learn some new techniques. She was successful in her application and began her training on April 26, 2015. Upon completion of her Wage Subsidy program in October, Anna is now employed full time for Ann's Diner.

I asked Anna what she likes about her job and she stated “when its slow, she likes being out in the public and meeting new people. All kinds of people come through those doors...from across Canada, coast to coast, and the States, hitchhikers and truck drivers too”. She was shy at first, not anymore! She finds it easy now and talks to everybody. She happily provides tourist information on parks, lakes, fishing spots, blueberry spots and swimming holes. And she loves to cook, very good at it.