

Construction Craft Worker Training Success Story April – August 2015



Sage presenting a speech to the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Sage Thompson learned about the Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program at the very outset of the recruitment process and he was very quick to come into the Anishinabek Employment and Training Services office to discuss it with the program coordinator and then complete his application which was one of the first ones received. The program start date was postponed slightly and Sage took it upon himself to contact the office on numerous occasions indicating his ongoing interest and inquiring as to his status.

He was selected as one of the applicants to have an interview and he came in well prepared for the interview and was subsequently one of the applicants chosen to participate in the program.

Sage is a member of Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek which is located on Hwy 11 and he is from Beardmore ON. He currently resides in Thunder Bay and has lived here off and on for the past 15 years and has found securing permanent employment to be a challenge.

Sage completed the seven week Construction Craft Worker training program along with a two week welding exposure. He feels that "the program was very beneficial, not only to me, but to the 11 other people that participated. It provided us with the necessary skills and certifications to begin our journey in achieving a trade through apprenticeships." He really appreciated the hands on training that was provided by instructors that had worked in the field for 25+ years.

Finally, in Sage's own words, "I feel that doing the Level 1 Construction Craft Worker through AETS helped a lot. AETS provided accommodations, transportation to and from the training hall, 3 square meals a day and a training allowance. Along with the great direction and support from the staff responsible for this program and the new friendships with the other trainees, this was a very rewarding and positive experience." Sage plans to pursue this apprenticeship until he completes the goal that he set forth for himself in becoming a Journeyman able to mentor an apprentice himself someday.