

GROUP COURSE PURCHASE SUCCESS STORY 2015



Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) also known as Sandpoint First Nation, is a community of nearly 250 members. The First Nation is located on the southeast shores of Lake Nipigon. BNA just recently had its land returned to them in April 2010 following years of displacement at the hands of the provincial and federal governments. The community and its leadership are now forging ahead with major economic development initiatives, and re-establishing the community for the eventual return of the membership to their homeland.

In partnership with WZI and Confederation College, BNA utilized the Group Course Purchase Program to support the training of six community members in heavy equipment operation. The project provided BNA band members with valuable hands-on work experience in the operation of four pieces of equipment - Bulldozer, Grader, Excavator, and Backhoe. They trained from 7 am to 7 pm for eight weeks resulting in a certificate for 220 hours of heavy equipment operation. Bonus training was given in forklift operation as well.

Danelle Clarke, upper right photo, was the top trainee of the program! At project end, three of the six participants obtained employment and two went on to Sawmill Training.