

## A WAGE SUBSIDY SUCCESS STORY 2014



Lee-Ann Andre-Swanson

**Michipicoten First Nation** saw a need for an intern to assist a variety of staff members including the Community Health Representative, Community Health Promotion Worker, and the Education and Membership Clerk. With the Wage Subsidy program, the position of “Community Services Intern” was created. The Intern would assist with NIHB-Long Specials and arranging for all out-of-town accommodations for membership; assist with membership database updates; assist with delivering and planning community events such as the MFN Pow Wow, youth Pow Wow, Youth and Elders Gathering, health related awareness events; and provide education and cultural support at the Wawa Elementary/Secondary schools.

Lee-Ann Andre-Swanson was the successful candidate. She was trained and employed for the maximum 52 weeks. When I visited her in August 2014, she had already coordinated a big part of the Youth & Elders Gathering as well as the Pow Wow that was held the previous weekend. During the school year she works with the Michipicoten youth at the elementary school. There are 10 elementary students on reserve. Come September she will be at the school 8:30 to 3 pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Then on Tuesdays and Thursdays she will be at the Michipicoten Health Clinic all day. She loves working with the kids “one on one”. Suicidal issues still pop up in the community, it's not just a problem of the northern communities. She wants to ensure the youth have someone to talk to, who will listen to them, be sympathetic, non-judgemental and offer hope.

“I love that they call me the “CSI”...for Community Services Intern, rather funny”

At project end, Lee-Ann continues in her position as “CSI” and is a vital member of the Michipicoten First Nation Band Administration staff.