

SAYbiz SUCCESS

SUMMER ABORIGINAL YOUTH BUSINESS PROGRAM

SAYbiz is an exciting entrepreneurial program for Aboriginal Youth aged 15-29 who want to be their own boss. The eight week program kicks off with a one week retreat where the participants have a chance to network with other business owners and get hands on training. The following weeks are spent refining business ideas, working on business plans, and running your business. In 2014 16 out of 18 participants graduated from the program.

“One is struck by the dedicated altruism exhibited by those young women and men. Each Learner spoke passionately about their vision and their willingness to direct their energies and talents to bettering their community’s socio-economic or socio-cultural realities. Many admitted to an increased level of confidence about business in general and that their “understanding had changed”. They described their SAYbiz experience as a “stepping stone” to their future plans”. John Hodson PhD - Director of Maamaawisiwin Education Research Centre. Thunder Bay, Ontario.

BUDDY’S BURGERS



Cynthia Goodchild, Pays Plat First Nation, is a recent graduate from the Culinary Program at Confederation College. She participated in the SAYbiz program for two cycles and each time she stuck to her idea of running a food truck. She blossomed in this entrepreneurial journey by planning in the first year, to bringing her dream to life during the second year. She was successful at her community Pow Wow in 2014, making a profit of \$108.60. “I would like to plan for my community’s next year’s Pow Wow.” Said Cynthia. Since the end of SAYbiz 2014 Cynthia has been an entrepreneurial role model in the community of Thunder Bay by speaking at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School about the entrepreneurial skills she developed from the SAYbiz Program.

Andrew's Premier Studio Project

Andrew Sutherland of Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek

Andrew's love of music inspired him to start Andrews Premier Studio, a music studio to record your music. Currently he records out of his home but would like to expand so anyone could record their music, poetry, or anything they want.

M.Bead Jewelry

Megan Borysewicz of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

Megan plans to sell her own homemade jewelry out of her home. With the SAYbiz grant she plans to buy the materials needed to start crafting her own jewelry to sell. She plans to sell her jewelry on sites such as Etsy, Pinterest, Kijiji, Twitter, and other social media.

Bryton & Mommy Clothing

Mariah Wigwas of Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek

Mariah wants to bring a mommy and me clothing store to Thunder Bay so mothers of young children could wear matching outfits. Mariah has teamed up with her grandma to design their own clothing.

CAITLIN'S CRAFTS

Caitlin Craig's love of crafting inspired her to start Caitlin's Crafts. Caitlin, a Pic Mobert First Nation band member, dreams of owning her own craft store selling homemade crafts and supplies such as raw hide, various beads, and other crafting products that cannot be found in the Sault St. Marie area. During her summer in the Summer Aboriginal Youth Business Program Caitlin hosted a craft table at the Winnie the Pooh Festival in her hometown of White River. She sold dream catchers, beaded jewelry, hide flowers, frames, blankets, doilies, small drums, medicine bags, and various other products. In the end she sold more than she could have imagined and was very proud and excited to see how successful one small event could be. The event inspired her to go ahead with her plan to start a craft store one day in the future and is still crafting at home.



Hesh Skate Shop

Travis Jordan of Pays Plat First Nation

Travis loves skateboarding but can't find the products he desires in Thunder Bay. As a skateboarder himself Travis wants to open a skateboard shop that offers easier access to difficult to find imported products in the West Fort area of Thunder Bay. "Hesh is based on principles of unique selection, great prices, better customer service, and a different area than other competition." Travis Jordan.

Claire's Day Camp

Claire Auger of Pays Plat First Nation

Claire wants to help working parents in her community who struggle with childcare over the summer months. Claire has written her business plan and estimated the cost of running her day camp. She returned to school in the fall but plans on visiting other day camps and daycare centers as well as research regulations to get her project up and running soon.

DIY Decorations

Jade Gilbert of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

Jade's passion for environmental awareness inspired her to start selling her own unique upcycled furniture and decor items on Kijiji. Her goal is to keep old outdated items from ending up in landfill sites by creating unique quality product to be sold at a lower cost than the competitor. Her target market is young women who have just moved into their own space and want to decorate with a little feminine flair.

SAYbiz 2014 Graduating Class

