



Northern  
COLLEGE  
northernc.on.ca

# THE Feather

INDIGENOUS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3 FALL 2015

## INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AWARENESS WEEK

A HUGE SUCCESS ACROSS

ALL CAMPUS LOCATIONS

## LIGHTNING TRAIL 2015

BOTH PARTICIPATION AND DREAMS CONTINUE TO

GROW DURING THE THIRD ANNUAL RETREAT

## A TRIP UP NORTH

STAFF MEMBERS EXPLORE THE NORTH DURING

AN AMAZING TRIP AND OPPORTUNITY

## WoW

A NEW WELCOME FOR STUDENT ORIENTATION



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## TRADITIONAL **territory** ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We acknowledge the traditional territory of the Indigenous people of the area.

# about NORTHERN COLLEGE

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**HAILEYBURY**



**KIRKLAND LAKE**



**MOOSONEE**



**TIMMINS**

At Northern College, we provide an educational experience that will enrich your spirit, heart, mind and body. We offer a variety of preparatory, post-secondary and apprenticeship programming that can help you walk your path in a balanced, wholistic way.

Our Indigenous Council on Education guides us, and advises us on First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives in our curriculum. We appreciate and respect the Indigenous worldview and its contributions to contemporary thinking, and are driven by the core values of strength, honesty, sharing and kindness.

All of our campuses have cultural spaces used for gathering, celebrating, healing and sharing. In addition to canvas tipis at each campus, our Timmins Campus is home to Mamawi Kee Kee Nao, a unique permanent tipi where we host inspiring cultural events year round.

To discover how a Northern College education can lead to new opportunities for yourself, your family and your community, visit [northernnc.on.ca](http://northernnc.on.ca).

# NORTHERN *hosts third* INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AWARENESS WEEK

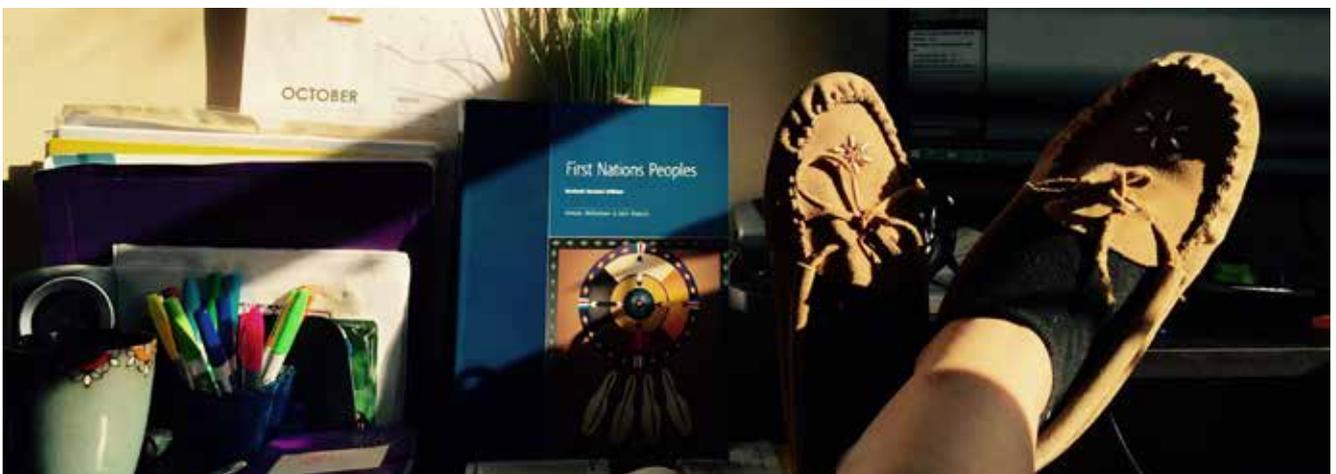
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*By: Kathy Gagain*

The Northern College Indigenous Council on Education makes it a point to meet with students to find out how they are enjoying their experience at Northern College. They also ask the students for suggestions that would make their time at the college even better. At one of these meetings, a student made the suggestion that there should be a day set aside near the beginning of the school year for Indigenous cultural awareness. The Indigenous Council on Education agreed and because of the enthusiasm, one day turned into a week.

This year marked the third annual Indigenous Cultural Awareness Week at Northern College, held September 21 to 25, 2015. Events were held at Northern College Campuses in Haileybury, Kirkland Lake, Timmins and Moosonee and were well attended by students, staff, high school classes and members of the community. Some of the activities that took place included cultural teachings, arts and crafts workshops, traditional food preparation, live music and information sessions with community organizations.

Join us next year as we celebrate Northern College Indigenous Cultural Awareness Week from September 19 to 23, 2016.



# TIMMINS CULTURAL awareness week A HUGE SUCCESS

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By: Joseph Nakogee

## WACHAY AHNII BONJOUR MISIWAY

This year's Indigenous Cultural Awareness Week at the Timmins Campus was a huge success.

Activities held during the week included cultural teachings, arts and crafts workshops, traditional food preparation and information sessions with community organizations. The week's events were open to the general public as well as college students and staff.

Throughout the week, local high schools dropped in to observe and learn traditional ways of cooking wild meat in the shaputuan such as Canada goose, rabbit, moose, trout, partridge and of course, bannock on a stick.

Demonstrations in making dreamcatchers, soapstone carvings, and painting traditional art - as well as hand drum songs performed by Elder David Faries and student Nathan Naveau - added to the atmosphere of Indigenous culture.

## ELDER DAVID FARIES AND STUDENT NATHAN NAVEAU, ADDED TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF INDIGENOUS CULTURE.

Traditional ways of hunting including the use of a bow and arrow, slingshot and the luring of game through moose and goose calling were demonstrated by students Matthias Koostachin, Nathan Naveau and myself to the claps and cheers of attendees.

Workshops by Liz Babin, Roberta Oshkawbewisens, Alice Sutherland, Carmen Edwards, David Faries and Mushkegowuk Grand Chief Jonathan Solomon were very informative and traditionally based Indigenous teachings.

Other activities included a sweat lodge conducted by Elder David Faries which was well attended by our Indigenous youths, local Indigenous organizations in the foyer and the always popular daily traditional breakfast.



The most important aspect of the week was the socializing and sharing of humour between different cultures through storytelling, sharing our history and engaging in discussions related to our unique culture within the mainstream culture of Canada.

During this week, the cultures were one and together, one race, the human race and it brought us all closer to walk as one and we all walked away with the feeling and memory of being one big family for one week to last a lifetime.

## MEEGWETCH MISIWAY

# NURSING STUDENTS *visit* MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION

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*By: Kathy Gagain*

Johanne Carbonneau, Professor and Program Coordinator, developed an elective that would provide Bachelor of Science in Nursing students with opportunities to learn more about Indigenous culture. The overarching principle of this course is that understanding and respecting Indigenous culture will lead to better patient care. The students who enrolled in the course, called Rural and Remote Nursing Experience, recently had the opportunity to visit Mattagami First Nation.

The day started with an Opening Prayer by Elder Morris Naveau. Elder Naveau and his wife Halina then shared teachings and their great wisdom.

Councillor Jennifer Constant held the students' attention as she told what it was like to be a proud citizen of Mattagami First Nation. She talked about the history of the community and how the Nation met and overcame challenges. With leaders like Jennifer, we have no doubt that the goals set for the community will be achieved.

## THE OVERARCHING PRINCIPLE OF THIS COURSE IS THAT UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECTING INDIGENOUS CULTURE WILL LEAD TO BETTER PATIENT CARE

Julie McKay, Program Manager, Non-Insured Health Benefits / Accreditation at Wabun was present and explained to the class how Wabun Tribal Council Health Services worked hard to establish an umbrella program that runs service programs including: Community Health Nursing Program, Patient Transportation Program, Diabetes Strategy, Crisis Team Coordination and Long Term Care.

Mary Boyden, Indigenous Community Relations Manager, Goldcorp, joined the group as she saw great benefit of having future nurses coming into the profession with a genuine awareness of First Nations of the region. Mary shared her story which was well received by all who attended.

Thank you to Eileen Boissoneau, Health Director for setting up the day for us. It was very much appreciated and the students came away with an experience that will set them up well as they begin their careers in nursing.

Thank you also to Darlene Naveau and Gary Naveau for preparing the wonderful lunch.



This experience was made possible thanks to the generous financial support of Goldcorp and Kidd Operations.

Meegwetch to the community of Mattagami First Nation for having us and treating us well and to Goldcorp and Kidd Operations for helping us get there.

# INDIGENOUS-FOCUSED underground HARD ROCK MINER at primero mine

meet

## ELDER JEANETTE GILBERT

By: Jennifer Nadeau

By: Christine Heavens

Northern College, in partnership with Primero Mining Corporation and Wahgoshig First Nation, has offered the first of two intakes of its Basic Underground Hard Rock Miner Common Core program tailored to Indigenous learners.

The 14-week program is delivered onsite at Primero's Black Fox Complex, with curriculum and instructors provided by Northern College. Elder David Faries provided regular support through motivational video recordings and local program and student support was provided by Wahgoshig First Nation.

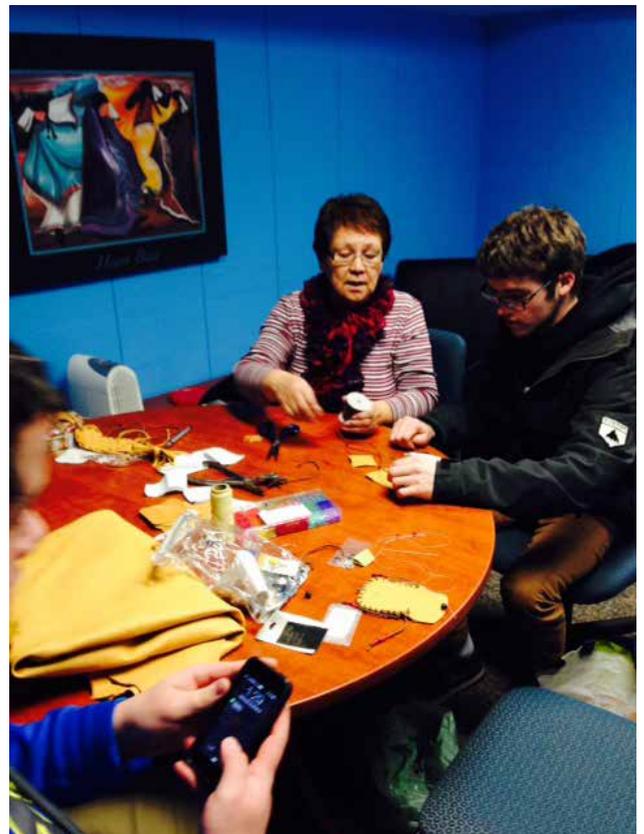
Christine Heavens, Executive Director, Community, Business Development and Employment Services at Northern College notes that the college is very fortunate to be able to offer this innovative training opportunity for local Indigenous learners. The College's partnership with Primero and Wahgoshig First Nation reflects their commitment to providing innovative education and training opportunities for Indigenous learners.

Full funding for six students per intake was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure's Aboriginal Economic Development Fund.

Indigenous learners interested in taking this program are invited to contact the Northern Training Division at [training@northern.on.ca](mailto:training@northern.on.ca).

Jeanette Gilbert is a member of Matachewan First Nation, she presently resides in Matachewan with her husband and has four children and seven grandchildren. Jeanette grew up on the banks of the Montreal River where she learned her wealth of knowledge about the land. Jeanette is an avid hunter, trapper and fisher. Jeanette's passion and connection to land has remained with her since a young age and she was instrumental in acquiring the rights to rebuild on traditional land after a long battle.

She is presently involved in the Elders on Campus program at Northern College in Kirkland Lake, where she is available to students on a one-on-one or group basis for support and discovery of cultural identity.



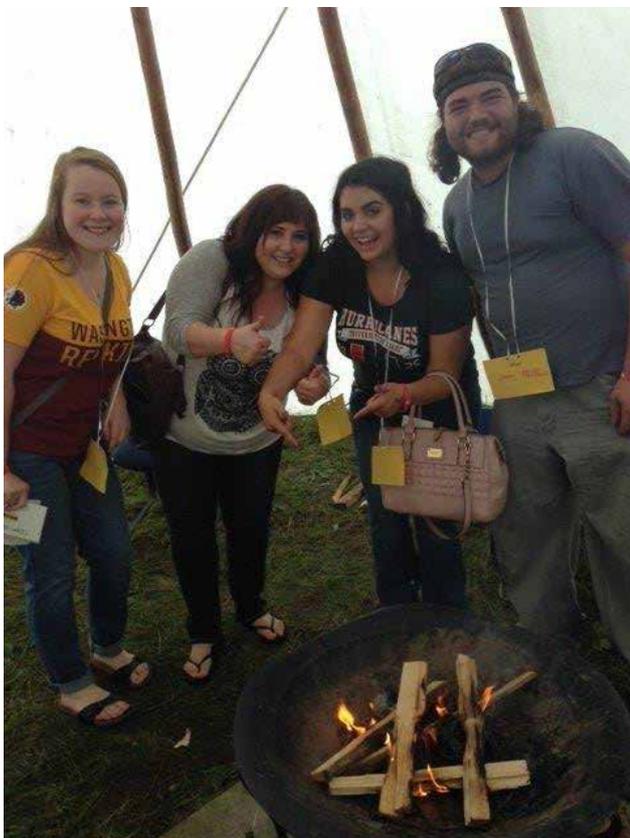
## students CHALLENGED to build FIRE at KIRKLAND LAKE ORIENTATION

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By: Jennifer Nadeau

During this year's student orientation, students participated in the first "Amazing Challenge" at the Kirkland Lake campus. In teams of four, students had to find 16 stations located in various places around the campus. Each station had a challenge that the students could complete for points.

One of these stations was in our tipi. Once there, students were given a small amount of wood, paper and a match. The students were then challenged to light a fire in an allotted amount of time. When the judges were satisfied that the students fires were properly lit, they were then given their next clue.



## northern STUDENT HOSTS dreamcatcher WORKSHOP

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By: Kathy Gagain

Every spring the employees of Northern College have the opportunity to participate in a variety of professional development workshops. A very popular event this year was the Dreamcatcher Workshop, taught to the staff by one of our students, Kelsey Chookomolin.



Pictured are Phil Bowles and Eric Lapajne from the Information Technology Department.

## oess LEADERSHIP GATHERING

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By: Kathy Gagain

The Timmins Campus of Northern College played host to the Omushkego Education Student Success Leadership Gathering held September 11 to 13, 2015. Approximately 50 educators participated. Northern College was pleased to be able to welcome the group into our facilities.

Groups interested in using the college's facilities should contact the campus at either Haileybury, Kirkland Lake, Moosonee or Timmins.

# northern signs INDIGENOUS education PROTOCOL

By: Kathy Gagain

A special event was held in June at Northern College to celebrate the signing of Colleges and Institutes Canada's (CICan) Indigenous Education Protocol. The protocol was developed by CICan's Indigenous Education Committee, which is comprised of representatives from colleges and institutes across Canada, as well as through consultations. The college has formally adopted the following principles:



MICHEAL MILLER, CHAIR; FRED GIBBONS, PRESIDENT; ELDER DAVID FARIES

1. Commit to making Indigenous education a priority.
2. Ensure governance structures recognize and respect Indigenous peoples.
3. Implement intellectual and cultural traditions of Indigenous peoples through curriculum and learning approaches relevant to learners and communities.
4. Support students and employees to increase understanding and reciprocity among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.
5. Commit to increasing the number of Indigenous employees with ongoing appointments, throughout the institution, including Indigenous senior administrators.
6. Establish Indigenous-centred holistic services and learning environments for learner success.
7. Build relationships and be accountable to Indigenous communities in support of self-determination through education, training and applied research.

# northern's MOOSE FACTORY SITE named ACCESS CENTRE

By: Veronica Turner

Northern College's Moose Factory site is now known by a new official name – the Northern College Access Centre. The Northern College Access Centre is located at the Moose Cree Education Authority, in the Chief Munro Linklater Memorial Education Centre in Moose Factory, Ontario.

The unveiling of the new Northern College Access Centre sign took place during the Chief Munro Linklater Memorial Education Centre's 20 Year Celebration on August 19, 2015. Northern College has been a tenant in the building for 20 years. The unveiling was attended by Mike Baker, Vice President, Finance, Administration and Indigenous Services; Diane Ryder, Manager, Moosonee Campus; Miranda Cheena, Program Assistant; and Veronica Turner, Literacy and Basic Skills Instructor.

The Northern College Access Centre provides students with academic, career and employability skills training; post-secondary and community-based programming; and access to Employment Ontario.

Access Centre staff are pleased with how the centre has grown over the years; they are now serving over 100 clients per year. The centre is a very busy place, helping residents of Moose Factory with resume writing, printing, career planning, academic and employment upgrading, providing employment readiness training and much more.

Thank you all for your continued support! Please feel free to drop in anytime, you can't miss us with our new sign outside the front door.



# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE available to COLLEGE STUDENTS

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If you are a Northern College student, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance in the form of bursaries. Bursaries can help you with the costs associated with your studies.

## WHAT IS A BURSARY?

A bursary is a monetary award that is granted on the basis of financial need. Bursaries are different from scholarships, as scholarships are awarded in recognition of academic or personal achievement. Bursaries are financial-need based awards that do not have to be repaid.

## I'M SPONSORED. CAN I APPLY FOR BURSARIES?

Yes! Whether or not you are a band sponsored student, lack of money is the greatest barrier to completing post-secondary education for Indigenous people. Indigenous students do not receive full funding for their education, contrary to popular belief.

## WHAT IF I AM NOT STATUS?

Anyone who self-identifies as Indigenous (either First Nation (Status, Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit) can apply for Indigenous specific bursaries.

## REMEMBER!

While there are many bursaries available to you through Northern College, there are also a wide variety of bursaries offered externally. You may be eligible for some of these bursaries, depending on your area of study or affiliation with various groups or organizations. Be sure to ask your Student Advisor about what bursaries you may be eligible to apply for – they are happy to help you!

## TIPS ON APPLYING FOR BURSARIES

1. Be complete! The bursary committee has to read your application before making a decision. It's hard to assess your application if you've left information out.
2. Submit your application on time. The deadline is important – late applications are not considered.
3. Be realistic. When you are filling out the academic year budget, be realistic about how much you spend. Indicating that you spend \$300/month on entertainment might help show that you have more expenses than resources, but it probably won't get you a bursary.
4. Don't forget your resources. Make sure you tell us how much money you have. If you tell us you have \$10,000 worth of expenses and \$0 worth of resources we're going to think you forgot to fill in half the application.
5. Our Student Advisors are available to help you complete the application – never hesitate to ask for assistance.

# a **NEW APPROACH** to student **ORIENTATION**

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By: Nichole Roy

## **A NEW DIRECTION! WELCOME! WACHEY!**

Gone are the days of welcoming students with a mind-numbing lecture style discussion of why Northern College is great, how we are small and friendly and how students made the best choice by choosing us.

This year, we worked to show students what we're all about! Let me tell you about some of the highpoints...

Included in our new welcoming direction, we invited all staff on-deck to welcome students (with extreme enthusiasm I might add) at our main doors, direct them to student services and walk and talk about all the mixed emotions including nervousness, anxiety, excitement and turbulence.

## **GONE ARE THE DAYS OF WELCOMING STUDENTS WITH A MIND-NUMBING LECTURE STYLE DISCUSSION**

Our Northern College Student Association (NCSA) created a "Passport" activity where students received a paper booklet leading them to all the student "hot spots" including Mamawi Kee Kee Nao, our campus tipi (Cree for Together Our Home), where Campus Elder, David Fairies was present to welcome all students and share what students can expect in the tipi as well as Indigenous culture on campus.

In the gym, our activities continued! We had vendor booths galore to show students the many supports and services that are available on and off campus. Included were: computer supports, health and wellness supports, continuing/alternative education, student advocacy, campus advising, alumni, Timmins Tourism and more! To highlight, we were also host

to the Timmins Native Friendship Centre (TNFC), represented by Stephanie Fisher and Trudy Wilson, who were thrilled to be a part of the team in showing what we have to offer!



"Stephanie Fisher and I were very honoured to be invited to participate in Northern College's WOW: Week of Welcome," said Wilson. "The Timmins Native Friendship Centre (TNFC) is committed to promoting positive Indigenous images, self-respect and expression through a variety of cultural programs and activities and offers a range of services that meet the special needs of Indigenous people who require assistance adjusting to an urban environment...like college. We had a lot of students come to our table to chat and they were very happy to be at Northern. The energy and excitement of the students and staff the day we were there was palpable!"

Fisher is the Literacy Basic Skills/Academic Career Entrance instructor at the TNFC and supports students by providing help with everything to do

# a NEW APPROACH to student ORIENTATION (cont.)

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with words, numbers and workforce preparation. Programs from the basics up to General Education Diploma preparation and beyond are designed with the individual in mind and delivered in a learning environment that is culturally sensitive and relaxed.

Wilson is the Employment Counsellor in the Apatisiwin Program at the TNFC, an Urban Aboriginal Employment Services Provider that offers supports designed to provide opportunities for Urban Aboriginal Peoples to better their economic standing through culturally based services. The Apatisiwin Program also has a Career Developer who assists people with outreach to employers in order to match clients with positions that are in line with their training and experience. The idea is to make excellent matches between employers' needs and clients' abilities, skills and potential, in order to promote long term employment.

## WELCOME TO THE BEGINNING OF YOUR FUTURE!

"I applaud Northern College and their commitment to do things in the best interest of all their students. By inviting outside service organizations to participate in their WOW: Week of Welcome Northern has gone above and beyond to make sure that their students, especially the ones who are leaving their homes, families and communities for the first time to come to college, feel welcome in their new and, from their perspective, often scary, environment," said Wilson. At Northern College, we aim to create "Northern Experiences" for all. Everyone will experience them differently. We are a small college and pride ourselves on the ability to capture moments of familiarity and provide time to build relationships. We support students and their individual journeys and promise to continue our never ending journey to learn.

Thank you for choosing Northern College and welcome to the beginning of your future!





# NORTHERN STAFF enjoy unique development OPPORTUNITY in MOOSONEE

By: Kathy Gagain

For the third consecutive year, Northern College provided a unique cultural awareness opportunity to nine employees. Knowing that the Indigenous culture is closely tied to the land, two faculty, six support staff and one administrator visited the communities of Moosonee and Moose Factory.

A charter flight left the Timmins airport on Wednesday, August 12, 2015. After a tour of Moosonee, the staff met with a boat driver who took the group on a tour of Ship Sands Island, located at the mouth of the Moose River, 19 km downriver from Moosonee-Moose Factory. The group was awed by the natural beauty and appreciated hearing their guide talk about the area.

The group stayed at the Cree Eco Lodge, the first Indigenous owned Eco Lodge in the northern hemisphere. This modern building is a state of the art eco-tourism facility, designed and operated by

the MoCreebec people in accordance with traditional values and a focus on Cree cultural and ecological sustainability. The accommodations were excellent and the service second to none.

After feasting on bannock and sugabon, the group had the pleasure of listening to Greg Spence and learning more about the local culture and traditions.

Tours of Weeneebayko Hospital, Moose Cree Education Authority, Delores D. Echum Secondary School, Cree Cultural Centre, and the Moose Cree First Nation Band Office took place.

One of the participants, Professor William Durocher says that the trip was, "by far one of the most enlightening experiences I've had with another culture. We were welcomed with open arms and hospitality."

That is because at each and every stop, the people of the community warmly welcomed the group. Our goal was to learn about where our students come from so that we can better understand them and be of greater assistance as they achieve their educational goals. Thanks to the communities of Moosonee and Moose Factory, we achieved our goal and can't wait to go back.

## MEEGWETCH



# ABORIGINAL ENTREPRENEURIAL learning PATH program

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By: Christine Heavens

Held in the spring of 2015, the Aboriginal Entrepreneurial Learning Path Program was part of the Strategic Community Youth Entrepreneurship Program (SCEP) and was funded by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Trade & Employment. The program provided eligible participants with financial support to cover the cost of registration fees, training materials, meals, travel and accommodations.

This program is intended for aspiring Indigenous entrepreneurs who wish to learn the entrepreneurial skills needed to successfully launch a new business venture. Students obtained skills in market research, analysis and strategies; financial literacy, analysis and planning; commerce; various computer applications and systems; human resource planning and operation management. The program also employed a combination of lecture and group work that blended contemporary and traditional teaching methods with Indigenous cultural values and perspectives.



The Aboriginal Entrepreneurial Learning Path (AELP) Program took place at the Timmins Campus. As part of the training, students had access to specialized mentors who provided expert advice and support during both the in-class training sessions and self-study intervals. These trained mentors are leaders in their respective communities, with high levels of business knowledge and experience.

The four-week entrepreneurship program was delivered in an innovative format over a four-month period. Students attended class for one week each month, spending the remaining time in their home communities establishing their new businesses with the assistance of their community mentors.

**THIS PROGRAM IS INTENDED  
FOR ASPIRING INDIGENOUS  
ENTREPRENEURS WHO WISH TO  
LEARN THE ENTREPRENEURIAL  
SKILLS NEEDED TO SUCCESSFULLY  
LAUNCH A NEW BUSINESS  
VENTURE.**

Students were also able to access entrepreneurial resources from the newly-launched Northern College Entrepreneur Centre and the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund.

The Northern Training Division was also proud to include keynote speakers as a part of the program including Forrest Willett, author and motivational speaker.

Ten students celebrated the completion of the program as they prepared to be their own boss as a young entrepreneur.

## SAVE THE DATE

THE 15TH ANNUAL TRADITIONAL POWWOW TO  
BE HELD AT THE NORTHERN COLLEGE, TIMMINS  
CAMPUS ON APRIL 23 AND 24, 2016

HONOURING OUR WARRIORS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

# ELDERS are an IMPORTANT PART of CULTURAL AWARENESS WEEK

By: Willard Small

Elders George and Mary Small, from Moose Factory, ON have been involved with Northern's Indigenous Cultural Awareness Week since it began and Elders Mike and Greta Katapaytuk joined us this year for the first time. The Elders were invited to take part on the last day of the weeklong event to share their traditions, knowledge and skills on traditional food cooking. George, Mary, Mike and Greta arrived on campus early in the morning to help prepare the traditional food and get the fire going in the Tipi where the food was to be cooked, over an open fire. "Sugabon" was on the menu and for those that are not familiar with the term, sugabon is a traditional way of goose cooking. The goose is hung close to the open fire and is spun for approximately two and half to three hours until the goose is thoroughly cooked, hmmm. It is one of the favorite ways the Crees along James Bay enjoy cooking geese. Also on the menu were moose, fish, duck and bannock cooked on a stick, by the open fire. Our day ended by inviting Elders from the community to join us on campus for a feast of traditional food.

**"YOU MUST KEEP THIS GOING – DO IT FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE."**

- GEORGE SMALL JR.

Elders Kenneth and Dorothy Wynne, who are from Moosonee, have also been involved with Cultural Awareness Week since it began. Kenneth helps and guides the Tipi set-up which is raised not too far from the main entrance of the Moosonee Campus. Kenneth also ensures the poles are in place for the sugabon cooking and the fire pit is set and ready to go. Elder Dorothy gets involved by sharing her knowledge, history and teaching about the Tipi, a traditional dwelling used out on the land by the Crees in the past and is still used today. Kenneth and Dorothy Wynne also brought their own set of traditional tools that they have used or collected over

the years, putting them on display in front of the Tipi while the traditional food was being cooked. There was quite the crowd of young children from both local elementary schools as well as college students eager to chat with the Elders about the tools on display and traditional cooking techniques.

On behalf of Northern College, I want to thank Elders Remi Chakasim, Rachel Chakasim, George and Mary Small, Greta and Mike Katapaytuk, and Kenneth and Dorothy Wynne for joining us throughout the week and sharing their invaluable skills, knowledge and traditions with our students, staff and community members during our annual Indigenous Cultural Awareness Week.

I also would like to thank Peter Kapashesit for hosting his tamarack bird making workshop, John Reuben for his art presentation and Victor Weapenicappo and group for providing the fiddle music.



ELDERS KEN AND DOROTHY WYNNE



ELDERS GEORGE AND MARY SMALL

# LIGHTNING TRAIL 2015

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*By: Jaret Dicks*

This summer, Northern College – along with our partners Hydro-One and District School Board Ontario North East – held our third Lightning Trail summer retreat from August 9th to 14th. Students arrived on the Sunday, and were able to meet and make new friends, while many 2nd and 3rd time returning students were able to renew the friendships they had built with fellow students and ambassadors from previous years.

Our opening ceremonies started with the Mushkegowuk Mother Clan Singers who sang a welcoming song, followed by a prayer by Northern College Elder David Faries. Northern College President Fred Gibbons, Northern College Executive Director of Community, Business Development, Employment Services and Training Division Christine Heavens; District School Board Ontario North East's Lisa Yee; and Goldcorp's Mary Boyden all welcomed the students and guests to Lightning Trail. Dr. Emily J. Faries, Associate Professor, Department of Indigenous Studies at Laurentian University was the keynote speaker for the opening ceremonies. Dr. Faries talked about her journey from childhood to where she is today. She was a great inspiration to all who were there that day as she shared her story and insight. Finally that evening there was the blessing of the Sacred Fire, followed by a feast. Students, ambassadors and guests were then invited to a camp fire before the night would end.

During the week students participated in traditional and educational teachings. Students participated in two electrical sessions, one focused on electronics and the other on alternative energy. Other trades and technology subjects that students got to experience hands-on during the week were Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Welding. Skills Ontario also attended for a full day, hosting trades-based team building exercises with the students. Skills Ontario also hosted an evening supper and networking opportunity for women, to promote the many trade and technical opportunities out there for women, while also allowing students to meet female mentors in the industry. At the same time, our male youth attended a True Warriors session and supper with elder David Faries.

Throughout the week our students had the opportunity to learn about Indigenous culture and tradition through Elders David Faries, Marylyn Chevrier and Cheryl Macumber. Students learned about the Seven Grandfathers, Medicine

Wheel, Rites of Passage and the importance of the Sacred Fire, Smudging and also took part in a Sweat Lodge and had opportunities to make crafts.

Students were divided into four teams, based on the four colours of the Medicine Wheel and Four Directions. These teams bonded with one another through the Nish Olympics, where there was one activity per day allowing some extra fun amongst the students. For a fun night students and ambassadors went to the Fun Park and raced go-carts, played mini-putt and also played paintball!

With so much happening every day, the week went by very quickly for everyone. At the end of the week all were recognized with certificates, and select students from each group were recognized with an additional certificate of one of the Seven Grandfathers if they showed that trait during the week; 1. Wisdom 2. Love 3. Respect 4. Bravery 5. Honesty 6. Humility 7. Truth

Northern College along with our partners were very happy to give scholarships to four of the students who showed leadership over the week, and we hope to see those students in the Northern College hallways in the very near future. Third time attendee Nathaniel Tinney played the Honour Song during our final evening together. Our three Elders spoke to the students at our closing ceremonies, sharing their wisdom that they were so happy to do over the week, and thanked the students for listening to them and respecting them while they learned about their culture and traditions. Jaret Dicks, Manager of Admissions, Student Recruitment and International Office thanked the students for coming, learning and participating, along with thanking all of those who helped during the week. Mary Boyden of Goldcorp thanked the students for participating, and also acknowledged how Goldcorp employees were happy to participate as mentors at so many of the educational teachings. The Mushkegowuk Mother Clan Singers sang the Traveling Song following our feast, and before students left the following day, all were able to share their thoughts on the week in a Sharing Circle in which so many great things and memories were shared.

Northern College is proud to share that this was the largest attended Lightning Trail to date, with students coming from Kashechewan, Moosonee, Moose Factory, Mattagami First Nation, Timmins, Kapuskasing, Matheson, Iroquois Falls, Kirkland Lake and New Liskeard!

# northern college **INDIGENOUS COUNCIL** on education

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The mission of the Northern College Indigenous Council on Education is to speak with a voice of *debwewin* (personal truth) on behalf of the Indigenous community and assume a leadership role at Northern College to ensure that the educational needs of the Indigenous community are identified, addressed, evaluated, assessed and achieved.

The Council is the formal expression of the ownership of the college by the First Nation, Métis and Inuit people and those who share that ancestry living in the region that the college serves.

The Council works with the Board of Governors of Northern College through both the President and the Indigenous representatives to develop the policies governing Indigenous programs and services offered through Northern College.

The Chair of the Council is a full voting member of the Board of Governors of Northern College.

The collective wisdom of the group has served Northern College well in the progress it is making towards its aspiration to become the college of choice for the Indigenous peoples of northeastern Ontario. Their dedication is appreciated.



## **CURRENT MEMBERS INCLUDE:**

**MICHEAL MILLER**, Chair, Indigenous Council

**FRED GIBBONS**, Northern College President, Indigenous Council Member

**JOHN BECK**, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member

**KIM NAVEAU**, Wabun, Indigenous Council Member

**IRENE TOMATUK**, Mushkegowuk, Indigenous Council Member

**CHANTAL COTE**, Metis Nation of Ontario, Indigenous Council Member

**VERONICA NICHOLSON**, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member

**DOROTHY LARKMAN**, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member

**LILLIAN TRAPPER**, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member

**KATHY CHEECHOO**, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member

**KEN NEEGAN**, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member

# FIND *the* FEATHER CONTEST

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO EDWARD HUNTER JR. OF WEENUSK FIRST NATION!** Edward found the feather that was hidden in the Spring 2015 issue of the Feather!

Edward won a \$100 pre-paid Visa Gift Card and you can too!

In this issue of The Feather, there is a small feather hidden somewhere amongst the pages – like this one here.

Let us know where you have found the feather and we will enter your name into a draw for a **\$100 PRE-PAID VISA GIFT CARD!**

Either email [gagaink@northern.on.ca](mailto:gagaink@northern.on.ca) with “I Found The Feather” in the subject line or complete the ballot below and mail to Kathy Gagain, Indigenous Services, Northern College, P.O. Box 3211, Timmins, Ontario P4N 8R6.

*Good luck!*



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## I FOUND *the* FEATHER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Where I Found the Feather: \_\_\_\_\_



**Northern  
COLLEGE**  
northernc.on.ca

**HAILEYBURY CAMPUS**

640 Latchford St. Box 2060  
Haileybury ON P0J 1K0  
705.672.3376

**KIRKLAND LAKE CAMPUS**

140 Government Rd. East  
Kirkland Lake ON P2N 3L8  
705.567.9291

**MOOSONEE CAMPUS**

James Bay Education Centre  
First Ave. Box 130  
Moosonee ON P0L 1Y0  
705.366.2913

**TIMMINS CAMPUS**

4715 Highway 101 East  
South Porcupine ON P0N 1H0  
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