



**Alice Sasines – Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek  
Community Planning Assistant**

Alice participated in the Wage Subsidy program at AZA in 2008. It was quite a challenge for the 52 year old grandmother who has never worked in an office environment before. However, those obstacles did not hinder her ambitious nature.

In Alice's words....."AETS made it possible for me to be employed with AZA. It gave me the opportunity to be involved with planning and development of a whole new community. Life couldn't get any more exciting and challenging than that! As well as giving me this opportunity, it forced me to make changes in my life that I never would have otherwise done. The last two years I provided childcare for my granddaughter in Thunder Bay. I moved to Beardmore, as this where I now work. My husband and I bought a restaurant in Beardmore and he is now self-employed. Without the help of AETS I would still be in Thunder Bay doing very little with my life. I now have a career, a business and a whole lot of excitement and challenges. I love every aspect of trying to engage our members in the Community Planning Process."

Upon completion of her Wage Subsidy program, AZA continues to employ Alice. She has had the pleasure of meeting a lot of people and looks forward to meeting more people from other First Nations. She has gone from unemployed babysitter to Community Planner. How rewarding is that!!! She thanks AETS for her "new career and essentially a new life".

**2008 - 2009**



**John Cooke – Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation  
Feepayor, Employment Start-Up and Mobility Assistance Programs**

John grew up in his home community of Pic River First Nation. He remained at home till Grade 13. He realized during this time that he enjoyed helping people and always pictured himself working in a hospital setting. Once graduated from high school he decided to start his journey in health care by becoming a Registered Nurse by enrolling into the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Lakehead University.

With the assistance the AETS Feepayor program, John was able to cope with one of his barriers..”not having enough financial resources to last the school year”. The Feepayor program allows individuals to receive Employment Insurance benefits while in a skills training program. Other barriers were leaving home to attend school and learning how to be successful in University studies.

AETS also insisted John with summer work experience opportunities through the Employment Start-Up and Mobility programs.

John graduated from Lakehead University this spring is presently working at the Sudbury Regional Hospital (SRH). “I enjoy working for SRH because of the support and guidance I receive on the job to assist my transition from student to professional. “



**Louis Kwissiwa (second on the left) - Pic Mobert First Nation  
Basic Underground Hard Rock Miner Common Core**

With financial assistance through the AETS Course Purchase program, Louis graduated from the Common Core program offered by the Northern Centre for advanced Technology Inc of Cambrian College in 2008. He has now been gainfully employed at Williams Mine "Belt Crew" for the last three months.

Louis had many barriers to overcome before he could participate in this program. In particular, he had an addiction to pills, weed and alcohol from the age of 15. Now at 26 years of age, Louis is living a sober life and enjoys it immensely. He felt it was absolutely necessary for him to get treatment and later a recovery home helped him to focus on sobriety and get away from "old routines". "It was the best thing that happened to me...a life lesson...the greatest gift". His experience is not a negative thing anymore and he hopes to help others who are struggling with addiction.

Now sober, Louis thought the best option for him was working in the mining field and searched out the Cambrian College program for Common Core. He now resides in Mobert, supports his three children, and says "the pay is great". The physical exercise and meeting new people are other aspects of the job he likes.

**No Photo Available**

**Marcel Christianson – Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation  
Straight Truck Driver Program**

Thirty-six year Marcel has worked with the Pukaskwa National Park for many years as a seasonal employee. During this time he has worked as a Park Maintenance Person during the summer months, laid off in the winter season. Before this he worked as a seasonal road construction labourer travelling anywhere between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay for work. Again, only to be laid off during the winter seasons.

Marcel's goal was to find full time employment. Seasonal jobs are a norm in Northwestern Ontario. From previous seasonal hires, Pukaskwa Park knew that Marcel showed good organizational skills, good supervision skills with summer students, and mechanical skills. He was very knowledgeable, safe, dedicated and reliable, maintaining an excellent attendance record.

Marcel read a few newspaper articles on truck driver training and was encouraged to discuss this with his employer. They both agreed that a DZ license would provide more growing room and opportunities for Marcel. He applied Service Canada and AETS to cost share his training program request and was successful. One month upon completion of training, Marcel is now a full-time Park Maintenance Supervisor with "benefits" and that is what he loves the best, besides the increase in pay.

Truck Driver training filled a void for this laid off seasonal worker!

2008 - 2009



**Michael Wardell – Michipicoten First Nation  
Long AZ Program**

Michael was a 20 year old youth living in Sault Ste Marie with nothing to do. His job was a part time dock labourer, working one week out of the month and barely making ends meet. He had his grade 12 diploma but with no real skills or experience he was unable to obtain a decent job.

With career counselling and much thought, Michael decided to enrol in the Long Haul AZ Program with Transport Training Centres of Canada right in his home town of Sault Ste Marie. Originally he wanted to learn to operate a dozer but decided the AZ program would provide him with many more employment opportunities. With his AZ license Michael figured he could transport dozers and operate them on site.

While in the AETS Course Purchase Program, Michael's trainer stated "Michael is a good student, never missing a day of training. He's always early and is doing just great."

Michael went on to achieve his AZ truck driver license and today is employed with Lock City Dairies. He operates a tractor trailer delivering milk products, pizza sauce and cheese to various grocery stores in and around Sault Ste Marie. His three shifts per week give him 40 hours of pay, enabling him to save for his future goals.