

2011-2012
COURSE PURCHASE/FEEPAYOR



Anthony Roy – Michipicoten First Nation
Basic Underground Hard Rock Miner – Common Core – Northern College

Anthony Roy is a member of the Michipicoten First Nation and lives in Wawa, Ontario with his fiancé and daughter. Anthony is a recent Grade 12 graduate who always knew that mining was a career he would end up doing. Having family members who work as miners made the choice an easy one for him. After touring Richmond Mines, he applied and was accepted to attend training with Northern College. Anthony was previously accepted to attend in training in 2010 however with the birth of his first child he decided that a job to support his family was most needed at the moment. With another child on the way, Anthony knew that his previous job at Canadian Tire wouldn't be enough to sustain him and his family and decided the timing was right to make a move and applied for training in 2011.

In his current employment with Wesdome Mine, Anthony enjoys the accommodations and loves the work he is doing. The camp includes a bunkhouse, a rec room with all the amenities you might find at home. He works 11hr shifts and usually works the nightshift. After working 10 days, Anthony is off for 11. Although this work schedule doesn't allow him to spend a lot of time with his family, he knows the benefit of having fulltime employment allows him to provide a comfortable living for his growing family. On his days off, he works part-time as a maintenance person for Native Housing in Wawa.

With the assistance of Anishinabek Employment & Training Services, Anthony was able to complete the Basic Underground Hard Rock Miner – Common Core training. The assistance provided helped with tuition, travel assistance and safety equipment. The Feepayor program enabled me to continue receiving my Employment Insurance benefits while in training. When asked what he likes about his present job:

- "Shift work is not bad"
- "The pay is good and provides a comfortable living for my family"

- **WAGE SUBSIDY**



- **Erin Shaw – Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation**

- Erin Shaw left her community for Toronto to enroll in the Law Clerk program. Once completed her program of study she returned to Pic River First Nation. With no jobs available in her choice of career, she approached AETS and applied to the Wage Subsidy program for a position within the Lands and Resources Department of Pic River First Nation.

- Erin thought this training position would only be temporary and planned on returning to school but as she spends more time in the Department she grew into the position. She loves where she is and what she does. “Growing up in Pic River and then moving into the city made my homecoming more appreciative for what we have here that we don’t really notice as a teen that is itching to venture out into the world. I’m fortunate to be given the opportunity to have a career working for the band helping my community.”

- Her take on barriers...”Like any other First Nations, money is the big issue when it comes to employment. With so much that is happening in our territory it takes a lot of juggling to be able to fund positions to help with the increasing workloads in each department.”

- Once the Wage Subsidy funding had ended, she was offered a full time salaried job and a title change. “Without AETS I wouldn’t be in the position I am today. I would probably still be bouncing between jobs trying to find my place.” She had been there ever since!

NATURAL RESOURCES TRAINING STRATEGY



Ken Lees – Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation

Small Business & Entrepreneurship

Prior to taking the Small Business & Entrepreneurship program, Ken Lees, Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation, was on social assistance. His background is in material/inventory management and public relations/education. He is currently back to work in order to raise the funds to make the down-payments for the business he is looking to open. Upon graduation of the program, Ken's plans are to purchase and operate business with 1 to 2 years.

The barriers Ken identified are still the same – lack of funding grants to move his business idea forward. "AETS and this program provided Ken the tools to get things moving". Although success is still to come, AETS put on the correct program with the "right" instructor/facilitator to benefit all who took the Small Business and Entrepreneurship program. "Without the instructor we had, I would not be sitting where I am with the business plan 90% complete.

His current job will most likely lead to full time employment on a 7day shift rotation. "This will be ideal for the business as I will be able to earn extra income to offset the loan payments and hopefully lead to an earlier expansion of the business."

FEEPAYOR and EMPLOYMENT START UP



Mary Ann Nawagesic (on the right) – Kiashe Zaaging Anishinaabek

Working with aboriginal children and families has been her life time work and she remembers this since she was a child. The desire has followed her through the years in various positions she has held, starting from summer jobs, residential worker for youth, child protection and most current - community health.

She entered into a life skills course with Confederation College years back where she was introduced to the native Child and Family Worker Program. She continued on with her education and enrolled in the BSW program at Laurentian University through correspondence. For her final year, she attended full time with the assistance of the Feepayor program. The Feepayor program allowed her to collect EI Benefits while in her last year of study which helped to lift the financial burden she was in. "This relieved a lot of extra stress as it supplemented my income and I believe that is one of the reasons I was able to achieve my degree goal". "Having a solid support team to help you with your education or life goals is always good to have and again I am so grateful for my family, friends and agencies that have helped and encouraged me."

After graduation, Mary Ann accepted the offer of employment as the Health Director of the Gull Bay Health Clinic. She utilized the Employment Start Up program which assists individuals with the initial cost of starting a new job. "Social Work is my chosen career and now I enjoy the fact that I am back home in my own community giving back what I had learned in my education." She is dedicated to working towards building a healthy community for the Gull Bay First Nation residents.

NATURAL RESOURCES TRAINING STRATEGY



Rob Nault – Red Rock Indian Band

Diamond Driller Helper

Rob Nault, a Red Rock Indian Band member, had been working in the manual type of jobs for most of his life, ie roofing, line cutting, dump truck driving, landscaping, and even taxi driving. He was jumping from job to job with no permanency.

He heard about the various Natural Resources training options available to him and after careful thought chose the “Diamond Driller Helper” program. Rob was persistent in sending out his resumes and applying to mining companies. After two months of completing his training program Rob was offered employment with Cobra/Northstar Drilling. “AETS gave me the support and direction I needed. They even followed up with me after to see how the new job was.”

When asked what he likes about his present job/employer...Rob says “the pay, the outdoors and the physical labour”.

ENABLE/FEEPAYOR PROGRAMS



Terry Kwissiwa – Pic Mobert First Nation

Terry Kwissiwa, a Pic Mobert First Nation band member, dropped out of high school at the age of 18. He had worked in mining for most of his life until an accident underground that almost killed him. Mining was no longer an employment option for Terry and without a Grade 12 or GED he ended up working for call centres, five years to be exact.

When the ENABLE program was offered through AETS, Terry jumped at the opportunity to enroll. ENABLE provided him the opportunity to obtain his GED in a class room setting while also providing him with some financial aid. “ENABLE gave me the confidence I needed to enroll in college”. Terry has completed and graduated from the Business marketing program at Confederation College. With the assistance of the Feepayor program, “it eased the financial burden while going to college”.

He always liked working in business and wanted to follow in his father’s footsteps. After graduation he applied for a summer job in the occupation of Community Economic Development with his First Nation. Now he works full time for the White Lake Resource Corporation involved and managing their hydro development project. “My job is in my home community, allows myself to help my community and provides me with a learning experience”.