

MIZIWE BIIK

Newsletter

North Edition

2014



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The Ngindaasmin Academic program continues to offer upgrading to those who wish to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

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Introduction

Welcome to MIZIWE BIIK's Newsletter. Our purpose is to serve as a resource to the Aboriginal community by providing information and updates pertaining to our programs and services.

Our collection of employment, business development and program co-ordinators related insights and developments cuts through information clutter to bring you illuminating news. Each quarter we will feature client success stories and provide details on the programs and services offered through Miziwe Biik. From Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training, Miziwe Biik Development Corporation and Thunderbird, we will provide the community answers to frequently asked questions through tips and tricks.

Thank you for reading on!
Nancy Martin, Executive Director

Four directions

The Four Directions of East, South, West and North carry many teachings. These teachings reflect the four seasons and the four stages of life: childhood, adolescence, adulthood and Elder. The Four Directions also give teachings about the four parts of human personality – the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual – and they show us how all peoples are connected.

Our newsletter will honour these teachings by referencing each edition with a direction and provide the associated teaching. In this edition, as with the medicine wheel, we provide teachings based on the East direction.

North Edition

North is the place of winter. This reminds us to stop and listen. That we must have prepared for the long time of winter. Having been in action the other seasons we now rest and contemplate to understand the wisdom we have been given.

Now we have time to rest and contemplate the lessons. North is purity and wisdom, a great place of healing.

Jimmy Dick, Traditional Teacher of James Bay Cree Nation

Featured program

The Ngindaasmin Academic program continues to offer upgrading to those who wish to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. What makes the program unique is that the students learn about who they are as First nations people; the history, treaties and traditions of the Anishnawbek. The course is designed to bring about an understanding of the complex issues facing First Nations people in Canada.

For more information, please contact Carol White, Ngindaasmin Coordinator at Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training. Telephone (416) 591-2310 extension 2257 or Email: carol.white@miziwebiik.com

Client Success Stories

James C. Miles

Miziwe Biik Employment and Training Success Stories

James Miles is a Toronto born urban Aboriginal belonging to the Mohawk nation of Akwesasne Ontario. Jim enrolled in Miziwe Biik's 2013 Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program with specific goals in mind; earning level one certification in general carpentry and to secure membership with Toronto's union hall IATSE Local 873 (The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees)

Jim endured our challenging yet rewarding program, he was met with adversities and challenges that initially acted as barriers. Through hard work and dedication, Jim manages to overcome those barriers. He did so by remaining focused on this academics while also acquiring technical trades' skills. With the guidance and support of the Program Coordinator and the Job Coach, Jim successfully completed each program component, ultimately allowing him to accomplish his goals.

Jim graduated at the top of his class with our training partner George Brown College and Jim was successful earning his Level One certification in general carpentry. Encouragement and Job coaching sparked the initiative for networking. Jim responded by establishing a connection that led to a referral to his ultimate goal, membership within the union hall Local 873 IATSE.

A loud thank you is echoed by James Miles as he now swings a hammer as a Lead Carpenter on the set of Toronto's based television show Nikita.

It's Back for 2014

Bursaries for Post Secondary Students and Registered Apprentices

In the spring of 2013, Miziwe Biik established a bursary program that provided monetary assistance to 85 Aboriginal post secondary students, studying in the GTA.

We are happy to announce the Bursary Program is back for 2014 and this year we are able to extend the program to registered Aboriginal apprentices as well.

For eligibility requirements and application forms please visit our web site at www.miziwebiik.com

Tips and Tricks

The workforce of today is ever evolving. Employers have higher expectations and standards of their staff than ever before. As employers are continually tasked with doing more with less, understanding these basic expectations and what they mean will enable you to be better prepared for long term employment

- **People who will be an asset to their organization**

Employers want to know what you are going to contribute to their department and organization goals. What skills and experience are you bringing to the team? You will likely be asked this question in a job interview, so being self aware is the key. Know yourself.

- **Passion**

Are you looking for a job or a career? Employers today are seeking career minded people who are passionate about their careers and experts in their field. Formal training and a consistent employment history is the best way to prove your passion.

- **Self Awareness**

Whether you live in a big city or a small rural community, be aware that you're always representing the organization you work for even when you are off the job.

- **Dependability**

- Willingness to produce
- Being at work regularly and on time
- Completing tasks
- Abiding by company policies
- Meeting work deadlines and schedules
- Punctuality is the bottom line

- **Ability to get along with co-workers**

Being able to maintain the TEAM spirit is necessary for the success of every organization. A willingness to co-operate for the good of the team and the organization helps ensure a cohesive workforce.

- **Assertiveness**

Not being overly bold, arrogant and "super ambitious" in an effort to meet your own needs.

- **Initiative and Tact**

Show enthusiasm in getting things started and/or completed. We may need to wear many hats in a day, depending on the size of the organization you work for. Sometimes we need to step out of our job description and comfort zone to keep things running.

Online Employment Job Boards

- [Workopolis](#)
- [Monster](#)
- [Job Bank](#)
- [Aboriginal Job Centre](#)
- [Inclusion Network](#)
- [First Nations Jobs](#)
- [Amik](#)
- [Indeed](#)
- [Wowjobs](#)
- [Eluta](#)
- [Nonprofit Jobs](#)
- [City of Toronto](#)
- [Ontario Public Service](#)
- [Federal Public Service](#)

What's Happening in January?

January 9 – 6:00 to 8:00

Seminar - Home Ownership for Aboriginal families

January 15 – 2:00 to 3:30

Effective Cover Letters and Resumes

January 16 – 2:00 to 3:

Interview Skills

January 17 – 2:00 to 3:30

Networking / Self Marketing / LinkedIn

January 20 – 8:30 to 4:30

Dress to Impress

January 21 – 1:00

Info Session – Self Employment for Youth

January 22 – 9:00 to 3:00

Food Handlers

January 23 – 10:00 to 12:00

Job Fair – Bring your Resumes

January 28 / 29 – 9:00 to 4:00

Red Cross First Aid/CPR

January 30 – 2:00 to 3:30

- Second Career Info Session

