

MIZIWE BIIK Newsletter West Edition 2015



Inside this edition

Featured program information

Pre-Apprenticeship and Skilled Trades Department

Women in Trades Event

Tuesday November 24th 2015
10:00am-2:00pm

Contact: Brenda Thwaites
Register at - 416 591 0960 or
bthwaites@miziwebiik.com

Client success stories

Miziwe Biik Employment and Training Success Stories

This quarter highlights the success of Melanie McMullen, a Toronto born urban Mohawk belonging to Pinaymootang First Nation, Manitoba. Melanie graduated Miziwe Biik's 27 week Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship Program this year.

Tips and tricks

Pre-Apprenticeship Programs: How to get in and succeed!

Skilled Trades Department provides some tips and tricks for getting into our Pre-Apprenticeship Programs and how to succeed.



Introduction

Welcome to MIZIWE BIIK's Newsletter, West Edition. 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 coordinators 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 West direction.

West direction

The time of fall, the setting sun brings a new awareness in this time of gradual change. When the darkness comes we must look inward to find the light and have courage. To understand what we see in the darkness may not be real but only shadows.

This is the emotional part of ourselves, like the flowing water we must learn to go with the flow of life. The time of the West is when we learn that we are responsible to all things and to each other. It is the time to prepare, to finish things for the time of winter is coming.

Jimmy Dick, Traditional Teacher of James Bay Cree Nation

Featured program

Pre-Apprenticeships and Skilled Trades

Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship

In 2015, Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training was able to offer Pre-Apprenticeship programs in General Carpentry, Painting and Decorating and Construction Craft Worker for Skilled Trades. Our training partners include George Brown College, The Ontario Industrial Skills Finishing Centre, LiUNA! Local 183 Training Centre and Dixon Hall. Our programs offer a slightly different path to the traditional apprenticeship model. Our participants or learners are placed with an employer/sponsor as the final stage of the program. The employer/sponsor is able to register the learner as an apprentice with the Ministry Colleges and Universities so they may start accumulating hours towards their formal certification as a Journeyman or certified Skills Tradesperson. Our process poses less risk to the employer and the learner because we enter into a 3-way partnership between you (the learner), Miziwe Biik and the Employer. This partnership ensures that all parties meet the obligations set out in our placement agreement and provides on-the-job support for both the learner and the employer/sponsor throughout the job placement.

It takes approximately 3 to 5 years of full time employment together with 4 semesters' of in-class academic training in the trade to meet the requirement for full certification as a skilled trade person.

How do you apply for one of our Pre-Apprenticeship Programs?

Accessing our programs is as easy as setting up an appointment with an Employment Counselor who will register you as a Miziwe Biik client. Your Employment Counselor will assess your suitability for the skilled trades and refer you to our Skilled Trades department. Our Trades Program Coordinator will help you determine the appropriate program and guide you through the application process including assisting you with accessing funding opportunities.

To start the process, call our main telephone line and schedule an appointment to see an Employment Counselor. It really is that easy.

Client Success Stories

Melanie Mc Mullen, Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship Program Participant

Melanie is an Urban Aboriginal woman and member of the Pinaymootang First Nation in Manitoba. Melanie decided to pursue a career in the skills trades after enrolling in a program at the University of Toronto. It was through this experience that Melanie decided she wanted a job that was more “hands-on”. After attending an information session at Miziwe Biik, Melanie decided to apply for the Pre-Apprenticeship Carpentry program at Miziwe Biik in partnership with George Brown College. Melanie completed with program with perfect attendance. She went onto an 8-week job placement at “The Furniture Bank” where spent time repairing and reupholstering used furniture to be redistributed to families across the GTA.

Melanie made such an impact that she will back at “The Furniture Bank” supporting our next group of trainees. Great Job Melanie!

Tips and Tricks

How to get into a Miziwe Biik Pre-Apprenticeship Program and Succeed!

1 – Attend an Information Session

Our information sessions provide an overview of the program. We talk about the components of the program, eligibility, and what to expect. This is your opportunity to listen to the information – take notes and ask lots of questions.

2 – Ask if this is right for you – Are you ready?

It is important once you know what it's all about to ask yourself a few things. Is this the right career for me? Is this the right time for me to take a program; am I in the right place? Am I ready to take on a full time commitment at this time? Do I have the supports and personal circumstance that will enable me to succeed?

3- Application

When filing out your application make sure to print clearly in blue or black pen, never pencil or red pen. Make sure you take your time, read and fill in all the blanks. Incomplete applications will not be considered. You will need to provide three references, make sure the people you're referencing know that you will be giving out their contact info and that we will be calling. It is a nice courtesy to them and perhaps they will think of what they might say.

4- Interview

Arrive on time, be dressed to impress, bring a copy of your resume, make eye contact, give a firm handshake and exude confidence. Speak slowly and clearly; try to remain calm. You only get to make one first impression.

5- Accepted

Great! Now showing up every day is the most important thing, working hard and asking for help are too. If you absolutely can't make it to class be responsible and let us know. We do understand that sometimes life happens.

6 – Be Motivated, Reliable and Dependable

The participants that demonstrate these qualities are the ones that will succeed. Miziwe Biik staff and our training partners are very supportive and we want to see you complete the program and go on to be a registered apprentice and eventually a journey person of the trade. Do the work and try your best. Good luck!

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 November/Dec?

Food Handlers

November 11 9am-12pm

December 8 9am-12pm

Smart Serve

December 3 9:30am-3:00pm

December 16 9:30-3:00pm

First Aid and CPR

November 16 and 17 9:00am-4:00pm

December 14 and 15 9:00am-4:00pm

WHMIS

December 17 9am-12pm



Miziwe Biiik
ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING