

On the *Move*

“ The potential of the North to contribute to Manitoba’s economic and social prosperity is exciting. To take advantage of the opportunities that emerge, the North will require a skilled workforce. My Department is committed to working with Northerners to develop innovative training and education approaches to meet tomorrow’s opportunities.”

Diane McGifford
Minister

Training Today for Tomorrow’s Opportunities *(Manitoba’s Northern Development Strategy)*

Enhancing the future of our province’s North is the primary goal of a long-term, cooperative effort known as the Northern Development Strategy (NDS). Developed by Northern Manitobans, for Northern Manitobans, the Strategy reflects five priority areas – housing, health, employment and training, transportation, and economic development – each designed to create prosperity for Northern residents.

With a variety of partners, including Aboriginal communities and organizations, Manitoba Advanced Education and Training is working with Northern residents to identify current and future training needs. The focal point of this activity is located in Thompson where a NDS Education Team has been established. This team includes staff from a variety of branches within both Manitoba Advanced Education and Training, and Manitoba Education and Youth.

To drive immediate and productive change, the Department has introduced a number of new initiatives specifically targeted for Northern Manitoba. Through a partnership with Manitoba Hydro to create a trained Northern workforce for their new developments, Manitoba is committing \$10.0M to a Northern training program, while the recently announced University College of the North (UCN) will provide easier access for Northern residents to post-secondary education with program offerings determined by Northerners.

In order to facilitate access and equity to education and training across Northern Manitoba, the Department has expanded adult upgrading programs, facilitated a growth in Adult Learning Centers, introduced Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition, and supported literacy programming. It has also supported classroom technical skill training at both high schools and colleges, high-needs work experience and trades qualification training, and introduced an Aboriginal Apprenticeship program.

It is acknowledged that the demand for specialized professionals also remains high in the North, with health care and teaching being two priority areas. The Department continues to support programs that allow Northern residents to obtain university degrees in these professions and to work in their home communities.

The successes of the past have been acknowledged as the stepping stones for the future. Manitoba Advanced Education and Training is committed to continue working with Northern communities to provide relevant and high quality education and training opportunities that lead to economic and social growth.



Life Skills Training at Nisichawayasihik Cree Nation: Preparing for the Future

Nisichawayasihik Cree Nation (NCN - Nelson House) introduced a mandatory Life Skills program for its residents. In preparing for the program, NCN worked with Westhau Consulting in creating a personal development component in the curriculum. Twenty-one local residents were trained as Life Skills trainers for one week a month over six months. These 21 certified trainers are now available in the community to provide the Life Skills program for area residents.

The Life Skills program is designed to teach NCN members about the challenges and opportunities associated with the wage economy and to introduce participants to the coping skills and personal development tools that will help them participate in the construction industry. The curriculum provides insight into self-assessment and motivation, problem solving and decision-making skills, work ethics, stress management, family integrity, and financial management. Occupation-specific material is integrated into the course.

The first two-week session of the Life Skills program took place in Nelson House in June 2003, with 12 Heavy Equipment Operator and nine Security Guard trainees participating.

"It has given me hope for my future," said one participant. *"I didn't realize that what I did made such an impact on the whole community."*

"I have a whole different outlook on life after this training," said another. *"Do you know how much better this community would be if everyone here had the opportunity to attend a session?"*

For more information about training activities in Manitoba's North, contact Debbie Sapergia at 204-627-8134 or at dsapergia@gov.mb.ca

Tomorrow's Labour Market in Northern Manitoba: Current and Expected Economic Activity

- Hydro development (Wuskwatim, Keyas, Conawapa)
- Bema Gold mine, Red Sucker Lake
- New townsite for Marcel Colomb band
- Health care – personal care homes, treatment centres, immunization strategy
- Child care
- Infrastructure – roads, airports, water/waste
- Local tourism cooperative – The Pas
- Sports/cultural events as tourism promoter
- Local police services
- New schools – Pine Creek, OCN-The Pas, Norway House
- Non-timber forest products/eco-tourism/native crafts