Trades program piloted at Goodfish Lake opens employment doors for indigenous women

Goodfish Lake partners with Women Building Futures

CLARIE GAUVREAU
Journal Staff

Whitefish Lake First Nation created a unique opportunity for indigenous women in the area recently when it provided a construction skills training program at Goodfish Lake last month. Program partners believe the success of this initial program has laid the all-important groundwork to expand employment training on the reserve.

Rennie Houle, the band’s Employment Training Program manager, said his band’s partnership with Women Building Futures (WBF) was the key ingredient in the delivery of the three-month program that saw 10 women graduate, with most of them employed within a month.

“With all the barriers and the limited opportunities that females have, we thought we would target the women, so they can be role models from other ladies throughout our nation,” Houle said, explaining how making trades training available to indigenous women in their own community will open doors that may otherwise remain closed.

And while the program’s operation was a first for Goodfish, it was also something new for WBF. This is the first time WBF has delivered a comprehensive training session that included hands-on skill building entirely on reserve, according to Jacqueline Andersen, WBF director of stakeholder relations. The non-profit organization specializes in recruiting and training women for careers in the trades industries.

“We promote opportunities in trades and related work that aren’t always obvious to women, indigenous or not, and then we provide them with the supports and the readiness to really be successful,” Andersen explained. “Indigenous women and communities were asking us to bring our programs to their communities for a long time.”

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ParTNerSHIP - Pictured left to right: Rennie Houle, Employment Training Program manager, Whitefish Lake Band Councillor Kevin J. Half, Jacqueline Andersen, Women Building Futures, and Whitefish Lake Band Councillor Stan Houle during the graduation celebration.

THANK YOU
Mannawanis Native Friendship Centre Society would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the following organizations, businesses, volunteers, and individuals for their support and contributions for National Indigenous Peoples Day and Multiculturalism Day Celebrations.

- Canadian Heritage
- Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc.
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- Dennis Steinhauer
- Darcy McGilvery & Drum Group
- Gale Nahnepowisk
- Patricia Cardinal
- Jody Johnson
- Norm Noel
- Henry Johnson
- Joanne Saddleback

Sincere apologies if we have missed anyone, just know we appreciate and love all the help received for this wonderful week of activities.
Planning a garage sale?

Be part of the Community Garage Sale, August 16, 2018.

$15.00 registration fee.

Call the St. Paul Journal 780-645-3342 to list your garage sale location!