



North Superior Workforce Planning Board

Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations Employment Readiness Strategy

The North Superior Workforce Planning Board (NSWPB) would like to introduce the public to the ongoing efforts of the NSWPB in supporting the communities of Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN). The NSWPB is currently engaged in the development of an Employment Readiness Strategic Plan (the Plan) for both communities. The Plan is designed to prepare the youth and existing members workforce for the anticipated economic growth in their territories, driven by the construction of all-weather access roads and the initiation of natural resource extraction and collection.

Given that the largest population cohort in these regions comprises youth aged 0-14, the NSWPB is committed to creating a sustainable, long-term plan. The objective is to ensure equitable access to education and employment opportunities to enable active participation in the projected economic expansion of the region. While the NSWPB's focus extends beyond employment readiness in the natural resource and construction industries, it seeks to address any educational or training needs identified by the communities themselves. It's important to note that the NSWPB has no affiliation with any natural resource company; rather, it is crafting this plan by actively listening to the voices of the communities.

At the project's outset, the NSWPB is taking proactive steps to gather input from Indigenous voices, including youth and working-age community members. Through conversational dialogues, discussions, roundtable forums, presentations, and surveys, the NSWPB aims to conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment. This assessment will identify challenges, barriers, and needs related to education, employment, and training.

Once these community needs are identified, the NSWPB will then assess the key skills and competencies already present within the communities and those that need development. Using insights gained from these conversations, the NSWPB will design training programs and other initiatives to assist Indigenous communities in reaching their goals. Throughout this process, the NSWPB will implement evaluation measures to ensure the effectiveness and appropriateness of its work, striving to avoid disrupting the community's way of life.

Respecting and upholding Indigenous culture, values, and traditions is of utmost importance in this work. To achieve this, the NSWPB takes a supportive role, allowing the communities to guide the process and dictate how it should be carried out to best serve their needs. Recognizing the historical oppression and colonial practices, the NSWPB walks alongside these communities, aiming for a collaborative and brighter future seen through the eyes of Indigenous peoples. To facilitate this process, NSWPB has enlisted community workers in each community, such as Norman S. from Webequie, who embodies the commitment to placing Indigenous voices at the forefront of this endeavor.

“There is a wide gap between generations of two separate worlds in Education and Training. The Western World and the Modern World. Long Ago we used the thumb for inches and feet for foot to measure. Today its just a measuring tape.

Education and Training is not just something that should happen in the schools from kindergarten to high School. It should be a holistic community approach with Education and Training opportunities all ages and employment training for the Community.

The community can benefit from the use of training center since the mining explosion has arrived in our area. Since the fibre optic internet installation is near in our area, there can be more opportunities for training if Webequie First Nation can approach the training facility.

The Training we can receive from this facility would be Heavy Equipment Operator licence, Drivers Licence, Mining training, Health and safety training, red tape Carpentry certification, Plumbing certification, Electrical certification and upgrading.

With a press of a button, we can have an instructor around the world to do the training.

Norman Shewaybick - Webequie First Nations

If you would like more information or would like to discuss the Plan, please contact:

Maryann Kleynendorst, Project Coordinator

projectcoordinator@nswpb.ca 807-631-9142