

## News Release

For immediate release

### RBC Foundation Donates \$10,000 to the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre



From left to right: Les Dunbar (RBC), Anthony Pucci (RBC), Art Bennett (MNO), Ron Common (Sault College), Caroline Kelly (RBC) and Beverley Szatanski (RBC)

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON June 21, 2011) Today on National Aboriginal Day, Art Bennett, Regional Councillor of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College and Carolyn Hepburn, Director of Native Education and Academic Upgrading, accepted a cheque for \$10,000 from Caroline Kelly, Vice President, Branch

Manager, RBC Dominion Securities, on behalf of the RBC Foundation. These funds will directly support the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre (AAC) at Sault College.

The AAC is a partnership between the MNO and Sault College and provides a client-based approach to pursuing careers in the skilled trades to individuals in Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding area. The AAC's goal is to increase Aboriginal participation in apprenticeships, increase youth awareness of trades and provide support systems for successful completion of apprenticeship training. The AAC engages the MNO's Education and Training Branch, Sault College's Native Education and Training Department, industry representatives and the Aboriginal community.

“We believe that supporting Métis students and learners, to reach their highest potential, will have life-long inter-generational positive effects,” stated Regional Councillor Bennet, “Not only will Métis citizens, families and communities benefit, but it will help build a stronger Ontario and Canada as well. The jobs of today and tomorrow depend on a skilled workforce and the support from the RBC Foundation will make many dreams a reality.” Councillor Bennet represented MNO President Gary Lipinski at the ceremony.

President Lipinski commented: “The MNO greatly appreciates the support from the Royal Bank Foundation and am confident it will be of great assistance to Métis learners at Sault College.”

“Sault College continues to be an education destination for Native students from around the province. Native Education is a key priority for the institution,” says Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College. “Donations such as that provided by the RBC Foundation will ensure that Sault College continues to develop relationships and work in partnership with all Aboriginal peoples in the province to better their skills and improve their participation in Ontario’s labour market and economy.”

For more information on how to support this project contact Lynne Sinclair, MNO Project Coordinator for the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre at 705.759.2554 ext. 2587.

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### **About the Métis Nation of Ontario**

The Métis Nation of Ontario democratically represents Métis people and Métis communities in Ontario through a province-wide governance structure at the local, regional and provincial levels. As part of our Framework Agreement with the Government of Ontario, the MNO has entered into collaborative agreements with government agencies and postsecondary institutions across the province.

### **About Sault College**

Sault College reaches students through post-secondary, continuing education, apprenticeship training and third party contract training. Educating 4,500 students annually, Sault College offers a full range of programs: Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Post Graduate Certificates, Degrees, and Apprenticeship programs. Sault College has an economic impact on the community in excess of \$100 million. MacLean’s magazine has recognized the College’s ranking at the top of the province in graduate satisfaction, with 85% of graduates saying that they were highly satisfied with their education at the

post-secondary institution. Sault College, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario is one of 24 community colleges in Ontario. Visit our website at [www.saultcollege.ca](http://www.saultcollege.ca) for more information.

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