



Sault College News Release

For immediate release

Sault College Receives \$1.79 Million in Funding for Training with Aboriginal Partners

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON February 6, 2012) Today, MPP David Oraziotti announced major support for Sault College's latest Aboriginal training initiative with \$1.79 million dollars in funding.

With this funding, projects will be undertaken with regional partners from the Aboriginal community. Participants will be provided with employability and employment readiness skills, academic preparation as well as with valuable transferable skills training, accreditation and certification through a selection of green training initiatives.

In attendance, three prominent leaders from partnering First Nations were on hand to hear the announcement. Chief Joe Hare of M'Chigeeng First Nation, Chief Dean Sayers of Batchewana First Nation, and Chief Lyle Sayers of Garden River First Nation, along with College staff who will be involved in this training initiative.

"This innovative project will lead to the creation of jobs in our region – which greatly enhances the ability of First Nation communities to respond to the need for increased skills in the green construction and renewable energies sector. Not only are we working in partnership, but Sault College is tailoring programming delivery to better meet the needs of our learners. Working collaboratively, this initiative will assist in supporting our First Nation communities in developing a skilled workforce in the new clean and green economy," states Carolyn Hepburn,

Director of Native Education and Academic Upgrading at Sault College about the new training plan.

Today's renewable energy-related funding announcement comes on the heels of the College's latest visitor, Minister Chris Bentley, who visited the College on Thursday and commended the work of staff and students involved in leading-edge renewable energies and green construction techniques.

"Sault College is an education destination for Aboriginal students around the province. We are committed to serving even larger number of Aboriginal learners in the years ahead, and this plan reflects that strategic direction," stated Sault College President, Dr. Ron Common.

"Working collaboratively through the Northern Training Partnership Fund will provide an opportunity for Sault College and our local and regional Aboriginal communities to come together as partners to actively engage in the transformative change of post-secondary education. With today's funding announcement of support for this progressive initiative, Northern Ontario has taken its place as a leader in providing a learning opportunity that seeks, promotes and cultivates new ways of providing skills for a new economy."

The Northern Training Partnership Fund is an important part of the Open Ontario Plan to strengthen Ontario's economy and create more jobs in the North. A three-year \$45 million initiative, the plan includes \$2 million per year being invested for skills training needs related to Far North Land Use Planning which is being managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Funding for the new skills training program will help Aboriginal people in the North and northern Ontarians get the training they need to benefit from new resource development opportunities in this sector.

About Sault College Native Education

Sault College continues to enrol, educate, and graduate Native students from programs across the College. The Native student population has grown rapidly over the past few years, and we are committed to serving ever-larger numbers of Native learners during the years ahead. Dedicated to Native student success, our Native Education Department offers a unique learning environment which embraces language, culture, and traditions with an emphasis placed on student success strategies that will assist students in achieving excellence both academically and in their chosen career. Sault College, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario is one of 24 community colleges in Ontario. Visit our website at www.saultcollege.ca for more information.

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