



Paterson First Nations Youth Apprenticeship Program provides job opportunities for local students

Kenora August 11, 2008– Andrew Paterson’s generosity is making a difference to four local first nations youth this summer. Mr. Paterson and his family have established a \$500,000 endowment fund at Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation with the proceeds being used to support first nations youth in learning job skills. The Paterson Family have been residents on Lake of the Woods for five generations and are keenly aware of the needs of the Community. “Young people need an opportunity to prove to others that they can do it on their own. Everyone needs their first big break and this program will give them that opportunity” says Mr. Paterson.

The program began in 2007 with 2 students and has expanded this summer to include four youth from Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation. To qualify for the program, the youth must be enrolled in grades 11 or 12 or be attending post secondary education. Businesses partnering with the program are the Kenora Medical Associates, the Sunset Country Family Health Team, David M. Gibson and Associates and the Standard Insurance Brokers. Staff at Ne-Chee Friendship Centre and Shoniyaa Wa Bitong played an important role in the implementation of this year’s program

“Every one will benefit from this program; the recipients, local business and the citizens of our community”. We sincerely appreciate this contribution from the Paterson Family. They are giving these students a meaningful start to their working careers,” says Don Parfitt, president of the Community Foundation. Randy Belair, Executive Director of the Sunset Country Family Health Team states that the student working at his organization has gradually taken on more complex duties since beginning work there last month. He hopes that she will one day pursue a career in the medical field.

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