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August/September 2018
Newsletter
Mino Bimaadiziwin
Partnership



Boreal Home Building
Program st October 1st,
2018 start

The 15 month Boreal Home Building Program is already to start on October 1st, 2018 in Wasagamack and Garden Hill First Nations in Island Lake with plans to build two houses in each community. So many people signed up for the program over the summer that we are starting with more than 20 trainees in each community, even after a selection process. So much interest and enthusiasm in the communities for this to go ahead.

The great news is that the Mino Bimaadiziwin SSHRC partnership wrote a successful Post-secondary partnership program grant to fund the instructors, curriculum and some materials for this unique program. Our proposal was successful for both Garden Hill and Wasagamack, which cemented the SSHRC partnership with *Anokiiwin Training Institute (ATI)* and *Indigenous Development Support Services (IDSS)*, as well as

Fall 2018 Newsletter

Hello Partnership colleagues!

We hope that each of you is doing well at the start of this exciting and busy Fall season. Each newsletter will highlight the latest Mino Bimaadiziwin Partnership news, provide information about the education programs and give members an opportunity to share their important ideas and work.

The Mino Bimaadiziwin partnership is trying hard on many levels to see how a housing crisis can be reconciled with community leadership:

- 1) a community-led post-secondary education program to build houses in two communities with students and build the capacity for housing with funding for stipends from the partnership.
- 2) working on a funding proposal and business plans for financing a sustainable timber housing company in both communities including sawmill and house building enterprises. This sawmill/housing approach is proven to work in First Nation communities but in the poverty trap created by misguided government policy needs supports to get started and overcome the various barriers. Local First Nation sawmills and housing corporations are an important piece of the puzzle to solve the economic, social and housing crisis in communities.
- 3) community housing design workshops with the Island Lake boreal building students, housing managers as well as architects (Lancelot Coar), architecture students (Jason Surkan) and Dr. Alexandria Wilson as well as Dr Thompson on October 2nd and October 3rd, 2018. This workshop will develop culturally-appropriate designs that consider sustainability and durability to be built in 2018-2019 in communities by the Boreal Building students.
- 4) monthly meetings to discuss possible innovations and approaches to reconcile the housing crisis with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (see the photo above with Wasagamack and Garden Hill First Nation meetings sharing their stories, ideas and need for sawmill and housing opportunities.

We'd love to hear from you! Please send a quick email by October 15th for the next newsletter.

employment training, housing and welfare in both communities. Support from the First Nation communities employment and training departments, welfare and housing programs has been key to build this great partnership. As well, the SSHRC partnership will provide all the students with a training allowance to help them fund their education and feed their family while they are going to school.

The Boreal Builders curriculum expands on the *Standing Tree to Standing Home* training programming that successfully built homes in so many First Nation communities. This program now qualifies as post-secondary education. As well, the Boreal Builders program has improved on the *Standing Tree to Standing Home* program to ensure that students learn the latest skills to build homes with local timber to make this program and housing sustainable over time. This Boreal Builders' program includes a small motors course, a wilderness survival course, upgrading skills training and forestry programs as well as a housing design workshop, introduction to other trades (e.g., plumbing and electrical) and a home maintenance education certificate. At the end of this course, these post-secondary students will graduate and have built two new homes made from local wood in each of the two communities. What an accomplishment that will be.

As well, this program includes preparation for level 1 apprenticeship for carpentry with students will be given opportunities and support to challenge the level 1 test. This carpentry apprenticeship could start their journey towards Red Seal and help them deal with the housing crisis in their communities.



Carolynn Constant to maximize benefit

Welcome to Carolynn Constant who has been working for the summer and fall at the University of Manitoba to maximize student funding so that students can attend school and feed their families

Ms. Constant is working with Garden Hill First Nation and Wasagamack First Nation to

bring welfare,

housing and employment training

together with partnership SSHRC funding

