



NISHNAWBE ASKI DEVELOPMENT FUND

PRESS RELEASE

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INAUGURAL GATHERING

THUNDER BAY, ON: An inaugural meeting of Business Information Officers (BIOs) and Economic Development Officers (EDOs) from the nine (9) Matawa First Nations and Whitesand First Nation is scheduled for October 26-27 and October 30, 2014 in the Viking Room, Valhalla Inn. The dialogue will begin the evening of Sunday, October 26 to structure a formal network with regular communication to address common challenges and capitalize on regional business and economic development opportunities. This event will also provide professional development and participation in the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) 2014 Mining Ready Summit on October 28 and October 29 at the Valhalla Inn.

The Business Information Officers are new positions established through a partnership with the First Nations, FedNor and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). These individuals, while on EI, participate in opportunities to enhance their business counselling skills and knowledge in order to provide a service to their First Nation by working with community members interested in starting a business. It is hoped the success of this pilot project will bring offers of financial partnership from other government agencies and private corporations to establish BIOs in the remaining Nishnawabe Aski Nation communities.

Presentations will be made to MTCU and FedNor at 12 PM on Monday, October 27 in the Viking Room, Valhalla Inn. Media are invited to attend and interviews with delegates and NADF representatives will be available upon request.

About NADF

Incorporated in 1984, Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) is a non-profit economic development corporation providing financial assistance (commercial loans, equipment leasing and grants), resources sector support and business counselling services to Aboriginal business and entrepreneurs, on and off-reserve in northern Ontario, including Treaty #9, #3, #5 (Ontario portion), and Robinson-Superior 1850 treaties. NADF's goal is to empower northern Ontario's growing Aboriginal population through business development and entrepreneurship by providing support and expert advice for all their business needs.

Visit www.nadf.org for more information on Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund.

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