



DISTRICT OF TIMISKAMING SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

DISTRICT OF TIMISKAMING, MAY, 10, 2006 - The District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB) is proud to announce that after considerable time, effort and negotiation, we will be providing a one-time contribution in the amount of \$158,547.00 to support the implementation of the Compressed Early Childhood Education Diploma Program in our District.

The DTSSAB and the Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group have worked in collaboration with Northern College to develop and offer a Compressed Early Childhood Education Diploma Program. The Compressed Early Childhood Education Diploma Program will be offered by Northern College at their Kirkland Lake and Haileybury campuses and will be culturally sensitive to the Aboriginal community. The program will commence on Monday, May 15, 2006 and will be continuous producing Early Childhood Education graduates in August 2007. As the Compressed Early Childhood Education Diploma Program is a community based program, Northern College along with Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group will be providing ongoing support to the students to ensure they succeed in their endeavour.

This initiative was developed in response to the gap identified in procuring Early Childhood Education graduates in the existing Timiskaming Child Care programs as well as the potential expansion of the Child Care programs. The Compressed Early Childhood Education Diploma Program is an opportunity for residents of Timiskaming to pursue their post-secondary education and attain their Early Childhood Education diploma while residing in the District of Timiskaming. It is also an opportunity to provide culturally sensitive programming that is essential in providing child care services to our Aboriginal residents. In addition, this is an opportunity for Northern College to expand their programs in our community on an ongoing basis.

Furthermore, the DTSSAB has also developed an Early Childhood Education Grant Assistance Program and Incentive Grant administered by the Northeast Mental Health Centre to cover the cost of tuition and travel of qualifying residents of Timiskaming and to attract Early Childhood Education graduates. Tuition cost will also be provided by area First Nation Bands and Aboriginal organizations whose members register for the program.

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For further information and for registration to the Compressed Early Childhood Education Diploma Program, please contact Northern College Kirkland Lake Campus at (705) 567-9291, extension 639 or Northern College Haileybury Campus at (705) 672-3376, extension 8801.

For further information on the Early Childhood Education Grant Assistance Program and Incentive Grant, please contact Lise St Marseille at (866) 989-9294 or ecegrants@nemhc.on.ca. A Web page will be developed and individuals wishing to enrol to the Early Childhood Education Grant Assistance Program and Incentive Grant could apply on line at www.ecegrants-timiskaming.on.ca.