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## ***TOURISM SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR METIS AND FIRST NATIONS***

### ***OTEC Launches Navigating Employment Pathways - Assisting Aboriginal People Prepare for a Career in Tourism & Hospitality!***

Victoria Behune, President and CEO of OTEC (Ontario Tourism Education Corporation) is pleased to announce a renewed partnership with the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in the new Navigating Employment Pathways program. Funded by the Government of Canada, this 10 week in-class training program will assist aboriginal people prepare for a career in tourism and hospitality. The in-class training will be followed by an 8 week paid work placement.

Partnering with the MNO, OTEC will deliver a customized 10 week Ready-to-Work program based on the National model. Through industry-specific classroom training and an employment opportunity, Métis and First Nations participants will build the skills and obtain the certifications necessary to succeed in the hospitality and tourism industry. Over the past two decades, the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council's National Ready-to-Work program model, administered by OTEC in the province of Ontario, has helped thousands of Aboriginals, youth and new Canadians from across the country to enter the workforce and develop Tourism and Hospitality careers.

During the pilot launch of this program in Ottawa, Midland and Sault Ste. Marie in 2009-2010, extensive partnerships evolved with local hotels and attractions that enabled participants to experience a range of workplaces during the 10 week in-class study period. Upon completion of the program participants secured diverse employment opportunities. The program is now being offered in Midland, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and North Bay, which will expand the project's network throughout Northern Ontario. Adam Morrison, OTEC's Director, Project Development comments "We were thrilled with the support that local hotels, restaurants and attractions gave the project during the pilot- hosting tours, providing guest speakers and, eventually, hiring the trained candidates right out of the program. We can't wait to bring this project to Thunder Bay and North Bay for the first time in 2012!"

For further information on this project, contact Adam Morrison, Director, Project Development at 416.622.1975 ext. 236.

**About OTEC**

OTEC is an independent, not-for-profit training and human resource development organization which has evolved from the 2005 consolidation of the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC) established in 1991, and Customer Service Excellence Corporation (CSEC) established in 2001. Originally formed through a partnership with industry, government, labour and education to offer training programs, standards, certification and workforce development programs for the tourism and hospitality sectors, the organization continues with these mandates, but has expanded to provide an extensive range of workforce development, customer service & management training programs and solutions for a variety of sectors and hospitality-oriented clients.

OTEC is also Ontario's representative on the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council (CTHRC), the national sector council for tourism, funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC), and is the tourism sector council organization for the Province of Ontario representing the labour, skills development, training, and human resource issues of the sector.

**For more information on OTEC's products and services please go to:**

[www.otec.org](http://www.otec.org)

OTEC

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