

## **Discussion Paper on Concept for ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE ICCYOUTH & `LEARN TO EARN`**

### **Rationale:**

This conceptual proposal intends to target a specific group in need of support in entering and maintaining employment in the Canadian mainstream. The targeted group is young underemployed and unemployed Indigenous young people. The program could be aimed, depending upon the programs offered to either male or female students, but, bearing cultural sensitivities. This group, although empirical statistical data is difficult to obtain, has experienced significant difficulties and frustration in Canadian society. It would be safe to state that, this group, or more correctly, some members of it, have experience with our police and Justice system with various offences. Without commenting on the veracity of such encounters with our Judicial system, or offering opinion of systemic Racism; it is reasonable to suggest that if accurate, this is a group who continue to experience the disconnection and frustration as Canadians and in need of an intervention as contained in this proposal.

This proposal seeks to provide a training program for this target group with the aim of providing meaningful employment for them, this addressing many of the underlying causes of frustration and feelings of disenfranchisement. The specific occupations targeted suggested would be residential carpentry and building construction and bricklaying/masonry, office skills and early childhood education. All of these occupations are in significant demand and that demand is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. The early childhood education is particularly appealing to young females and there is an identified demand in the community for such.

**Target Audience:**

This program would be of benefit to many young people in and around Ottawa; however, it is proposed that the target group be young Indigenous. This is a large group of people and a group that have traditionally been marginalized continuously significant concerns have been raised. It is also a group that the Indigenous community itself wishes to assist. Although not rigidly aimed at a specific age or gender group, the potential candidates would likely be from 17 to 27, not have secondary school graduation and seeking to enter one of the trades or occupations identified.

**Model:**

- Large component hands-on skill building
- Minimal, but germane to skill academic component
- Intensive circa 20 week with 50/50 split between in-school and coop component
- Just in time delivery
- Flexible
- Year round

**Location:**

- Depending upon course offerings could be offered in any location with circa 4000 sq. feet and a high ceiling (per course). For example, a gymnasium can easily become a construction shop – the floor is covered with 3/8<sup>th</sup> aspenite and when the programme is finished the aspenite is pulled up and the gym is returned to its previous condition
- Unused school space

- In the beta stage, avoid high cost, high impact programmes, rather, stick to cost-effective offering

**Comment on Costing:**

This is a discussion paper, as such, the costs are for such purposes. It is suggested that the model that be replicated is that the one by the late Mr. Dave Smith and the late Mr. Clark Davies, which was been successfully used for a number of years in various locations. It is characterized by being a hands-on, employment oriented delivery model with very little formal academic instruction. It would seek to utilize outside sources of instruction that are emerging such as ILC (correspondence course) and/or E-Learning (on-line learning)