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Atiik Askii Adventure Tours Inc.

Since our last publication in the Spring of 2004, when we announced the creation of Atiik Askii Adventure Tours Inc., a thirteenth community was added to join the 12 communities in this exciting new organization. We wish to welcome Pickerel Narrows First Nation as our newest member to our Atiik Askii Adventure Tours Board.

The Northwest Regional Tourism Strategy can be downloaded from our Website: www.northwestcfdc.com. Within the strategy several projects were identified in the timeline. It is noteworthy to mention that we are now in the process of starting the implementation, also known as Phase 4 of the tourism Strategy. We have received confirmation of funding approval for the organization of Arts & Crafts Collectives within each community; the LRNEC negotiations; the snowmobile trail and canoe route geo-referencing; and the Resource Management Negotiations.

For the implementation of the Community Arts and Crafts Collectives we ask that all artisans and crafters please contact Grace or Geraldine at 1-888-234-1928, or contact your local Community Tourism Coordinator.

Northwest CFDC will provide space in the basement of 499 Sherritt Avenue for Artisans and Crafters to display their work. Additional space will be made available to artisans and crafters to work on their projects during CFDC office hours.

The organizations development of the new Corporation is moving steadily ahead, and as announced earlier, our new office is now located on the 2nd floor of 499 Sherritt Street in Lynn Lake, MB.

Brad Stoneman and Grace Stein followed an invitation to the North Dakota State Snowmobile Association's Annual General Assembly on October 16, 2004 in Jamestown, North Dakota. Mr. Stoneman gave a presentation to invite four of their members to participate in a Snowmobile Familiarization Tour into our beautiful region. The Familiarization Tour is planned to take place in early 2005 and is to last 5 days.

Watch for more exciting Atiik Askii news in the next newsletter!

WE ARE ON THE WEB! WWW.NORTHWESTCFDC.COM

WELCOME NEW STAFF!



Northwest CFDC would like to welcome **Grace Stein**. Grace was hired as the Regional Tourism Development Officer for Atiik Askii Adventure Tours Inc. and started this position on June 14, 2004. Grace has been a wonderful addition to our team. Grace's positive attitude and enthusiasm is a great asset to our team at Northwest CFDC. Grace can be reached at 356-2500 or 888-234-1928.

Northwest CFDC would also like to welcome **Marie Brown** to the office. Marie was hired as the Regional Resource Centre Coordinator and started this position on September 7, 2004. Marie's perseverance will ensure that the training needs of our 13 communities are met. Please feel free to call Marie with any suggestions for training needs in your community.

The newest addition to our Northwest CFDC team is **Geraldine Rodgers**. Geraldine is the Atiik Askii Adventure Tours Assistant. Geraldine started this position on October 18, 2004, and we all look forward to working with her.

LYNN LAKE MAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION

The town of Lynn Lake received a makeover this summer. Four murals have been completed on buildings in Lynn Lake. As well, some local businesses initiated their own "makeover" on their buildings. Through donations, the Lynn Lake Main Street Beautification Initiative to date has raised \$10521.54, and expenses paid out are \$10,367.31. Thank you to all the people who have made donations to this project to help make Lynn Lake an even more beautiful place to live!



This is the first mural that was done in Lynn Lake.
Artist: Angus Campbell of Thompson

MICRO-LOANS PROGRAM

The purpose of the Micro-Loans Program is to encourage young people to consider entrepreneurship as an option and to assist them in starting their own small businesses.

The program is available to all youth under the age of 18; for those young people over the age of 18, they can apply under the Youth Entrepreneurship Program also offered by Northwest CFDC. The maximum amount that can be borrowed is \$1000.00

Loans can also be made available to youth groups or student councils. In one community for example, students needed to raise funds for a school trip. The group did not want to ask for donations, as most people in the community were already bombarded with requests. The students decided to start a small school based business. Using equipment from the school, the students operated a theatre, charging admission and selling confectionary. Please call Sean Maher for more information at 356-2489 extension 2.

ATIIK ASKII LOGO

In June 2004 Northwest CFDC held a logo contest within the Northwest Region. After many entries and careful deliberation, the logo on the right was chosen to represent Atiik Askii Adventure Tours Inc. The winner of the logo contest was Yasmin Birch of Lynn Lake.



CAP SITE/CMBSC SATELLITE CENTRE OPEN!

On October 4, 2004 the CAP Site re-opened its doors. We are proud to welcome Angelica Matiasek as the CAP Site Coordinator. Please feel free to drop in the Cap Site and introduce yourself to Angelica. Hours of operation are from 8:30 a.m — 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call 356—8263 for more information.



QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Northwest CFDC Board and Staff had their regularly scheduled Board Meeting on September 14 and 15, 2004. Board and staff met at Sawbill River Lodge on Reindeer Lake. Northwest would like to thank Darlene McKay of Western Economic Diversification; Rob Nedotiafko of Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram, and Mike Kelly, Tourism Consultant for attending the meetings.

ACTIVITIES AROUND THE OFFICE

- **MMF Summer Student:** Jamie Hunt was hired as summer student for July and August 2004. Jamie was very busy this summer and we commend her on a job very well done.
- **Board of Directors Meeting:** The next quarterly Board of Directors Meeting will take place in Lynn Lake January 2005.
- **Mike Kelly, Tourism Coordinator** was in the office during the last week in October. Mr. Kelly was conducting interviews in regards to the Regional Tourism Strategy.
- A **Band Constable Training Program** will be held in Lynn Lake in January 2005. Please call Marie Brown at 356-2489 ext. 4 for more information.
- The **Atiik Askii Adventure Tours Inc.** office was relocated to the upper level of the Northwest CFDC building in October. **Grace and Geraldine can be reached at 356-2500.**



Group Photo
Departing Sawbill Lodge

NORTHWEST CFDC LOAN FUNDS

Northwest CFDC, through its staff and Board of Directors, administers loan investment funds to assist in the establishment or expansion of small businesses in the northwest region of Manitoba. The funds are intended as a lender of last resort, and provide repayable small business loans, loan guarantees, and in certain cases, will consider equity participation.

The Business Investment Loan Fund is open to any individual, partnership, or corporation located in or intending to locate in the northwest region. All business sectors (retail, tourism, manufacturing, etc) are potentially eligible and will be considered, although certain sectors may be given higher priority as a result of opportunities and objectives identified by Northwest CFDC. Eligibility will also be affected by the ability to obtain financing from conventional lenders and programs, as well the number of new and permanent jobs created by the proposed venture, applicant equity, security, and the viability of an individuals business plans.

The Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Loan Fund is one such fund offered by Northwest CFDC in order to assist people with disabilities to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities. This program will help reduce barriers to participation for Canadians with disabilities that are seeking to expand their business horizons.

The Youth Entrepreneur Investment Loan Fund is offered by Northwest CFDC in order to assist young entrepreneurs with business start-up or expansion. Applicants must be between the ages of 18 – 29.

The Tourism Entrepreneur Investment Loan Fund is our newest loan fund. This loan fund is open to any individual and has been designed to encourage and create successful tourism businesses and/or tourism support services within our region. Through this fund you may qualify for access to a significantly reduced interest rate and optional seasonal payment plan. This loan fund enables those starting out in the tourism sector to compete on a level playing field with the rest of the Province and country. For more information about any of the loan funds—please call the Northwest CFDC office.

REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE SESSIONS

Wanted: Experienced Journeymen

Are you between the ages of 50 and 64+, willing to stay n the North and instruct others?

We need your expertise: Help northern knowledge stay in the north! There will be a public meeting in Lynn Lake on Tuesday November 23, 2003 from 1:30—4:30 p.m. in the Northwest CFDC Boardroom. To pre-register for this meeting please call Marie Brown at 356-2489 extension 4.

Non-Timber Forest Products Business Development Training

Do you enjoy working and being outdoors? Do you want some training in small business? There are no special skills or requirements for this training, just the love of the outdoors! The many benefits of this program include:

- Reducing unemployment
- Relief of community transitions
- Trained harvesters
- Community economic growth
- Social and economic stability



Proposal Development Training Workshop

Is there a project that you want to develop for your community? If so, this training workshop is for you! Location and date to be announced.

Fore more information on any of the above programs please call Marie Brown,
Regional Resource Centre Coordinator at 356-2489 X4.



Northwest CFDC Board and Staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year!

MEET THE BOARD AND STAFF OF NORTHWEST CFDC

Chairperson—Dennis Loewen, Town of Lynn Lake; **Vice-Chairperson**—Leslie Baker, Pickerel Narrows First Nation **Directors:** Horace Cheekie, Sayisi Dene First Nation; Darwin Clarke, Community of Kinoosao; Isaac Lapensee, Community of Brochet; Joe Danttouze, North Lands First Nation; Sydney McKay, Marcel Colomb First Nation; Hanson Dumas, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation; Phillip Bighetty, Barren Lands First Nation; Bernie Spence, Community of South Indian Lake; Herb Nelson, Town of Leaf Rapids; Chris Baker, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation; William Anderson, Community of Granville Lake

Staff: Brad Stoneman, General Manager; Sean Maher, Investment Manager; Roberta Edwards, Administrative Assistant; Grace Stein, Regional Tourism Development Officer for Atiik Askii Adventure Tours Inc; Marie Brown, Regional Resource Centre Coordinator; Geraldine Rodgers, Atiik Askii Adventure Tours Assistant.