

# **The Nipawin Journal**

## **Skills Work – SaskWITT partners with the Nipawin Oasis**

On Nov. 20, 2012 Saskatchewan Women in Trades and Technology (SaskWITT) role models from around the province were at the Red Earth Mamawe Community Center delivering a one day activity based career session to assist and encourage young women from the Cree Nations of Red Earth, Shoal Lake, Cumberland House and Nipawin to consider a career and learn about the opportunities available in skilled trades. This was a return visit for trades consultant Valerie Overend and carpenter Pat Fayant to the Nipawin area, who earlier this year worked with the Oasis Building Women group to build the deck at the Habitat for Humanity home in Nipawin.

As a result of the partnership between the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre, SaskWITT, SIAST WITT, Skills Canada, SIIT, and other provincial partners as well as local sponsorship from Pineland Co-op and Red Earth Cree Nation 42 young women ages 14-17 were able to attend this conference and learn about the plumbing, engineering, carpentry, electrical, tile setting, concrete work, and sheet metal trades through hands on activities. The day was finished with an engineering competition named “Junkyard Wars.”

41 respondents had an overwhelming positive response to the day with a few of the comments from the young women were:

“The workshop was awesome, I liked how I got to learn what trade was all about – that it’s not only for men. The stations were great and making the bridge.”

“It was fun, cool, and awesome ... and Junkyard Wars was cool.”

“We could get jobs like these.”

“I loved what we did today! :) I would like to do it again.”

“It was the best day, and I liked all the activities we did. And it was so FUN!”

“The most amazing thing was making a bridge! And it was fun.”

“You should do this again & come here again. Thank you for coming here :) “

“Hope to see you again. Stop by in Shoal Lake”

Lunch was prepared by Clare Nawakayas and Jennifer Kitchener – Nipawin Oasis Kitchen Co-ordinator and Cree language translation was given by Red Earth and PAGC Senator Philip Head.

This project in part is a follow up to the partnership with Status of Women Office in the Ministry of Social Services to provide an opportunity for First Nation and Métis girls and young women from Nipawin and the surrounding areas to explore opportunities in the building trades.

The Nipawin Oasis Community Centre recently received the SaskSmart Innovation Funding for \$70,000 from the Ministry of Education to develop a community literacy plan with one of the

deliverables being to: “Identify and provide opportunities, tools and resources to prepare First Nation and Métis girls, youth and women from Nipawin and surrounding First Nation communities for technology and trades careers.”

Below are some photos of the day and to learn more about SaskWITT visit the blog at <http://saskwitt.blogspot.ca/> and the Oasis website [www.nipawinoasis.com](http://www.nipawinoasis.com)







