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CHECK THIS OUT!

FIRST NATIONS REGIONAL ADULT EDUCATION CENTER



The First Nations Regional Adult Education Center (FNRAEC) has quickly become the place to go for Kahnawake'kehró:non and other First Nations communities to forge careers.

"Our main focus this year is to begin programs to allow the students access to the job market fairly quickly," said Diane Labelle, FNRAEC director. "This is over and above our regular programming."

Ironwork has long been the domain of Mohawks and in that regard FNRAEC has become a leader in making sure that tradition continues for those who want to work the steel and other construction jobs.

A rod busters course will begin in the new year on January 7, 2019, through the Centre de Formation des Metiers de L'Acier (CFMA) in Montreal.

Labelle feels the preparatory course at FNRAEC is the perfect way to get started.

"It's a shorter program than the ironworkers," Labelle said. "It's to learn the rebar work that goes in the cement. If they want, they can do ironworker after."

The course in Kahnawake has room for 22 students and will take place between September 17 to December 14. Once ready, the students are then able to transfer seamlessly to the Quebec course.

"This is great because there is a major shortage of rod busters across the province right now," Labelle said. "It means the employability is very high and they can be working by next fall."

Labelle said 16 of the 17 students who began the course a year-and-a-half ago are working either on the Champlain Bridge, with the Mohawk Bridge Consortium, or in Boston and parts beyond.

The FNRAEC is also offering a work study program to become warehouse technicians. A Forklift licence will be earned. They will also be certified to work on construction sites, and earn the required first aid and health and security.

The course is continuous entry and involves 900 hours over a calendar year. But 550 of those hours are in a job placement to complete the stage.

"There is a great need for people to work in warehouses in this area," Labelle said. "There's a good chance the employability will be there and then they can use those skills to work in other areas."

Labelle is also hoping to attract the opposite sex to the construction courses.

"We want to encourage women to apply for this because there is a special incentives program designed to encourage women in the construction industry," Labelle said.

FNRAEC is also offering academic programs for receiving a high school equivalency diploma. To help the students get back and forth to class, they have purchased a brand new passenger van.

"We will do regular pickups around town beginning September 4th to bring them to school," Labelle said. "There will be stops up the hill, at the hospital, the post and the tunnel. That's a big deal."

There is now an FNRAEC satellite office in Kanesatake for students to register for courses there as well.

The offices in Kahnawake can be reached by phone, 450-635-6352, and on Facebook: FNRAEC Kahnawake.

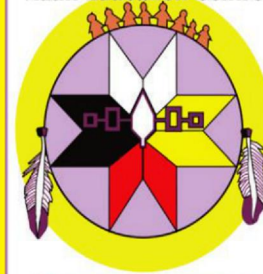
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