

## First Nations Participants (2006)

Here you can find all First Nations individuals participating in Project Beyshick 2006.

Name

Bio

Hilda Anderson

First of all I was raised by my grandparents in a small community on a little island north of Sioux Lookout. I grew up meeting a wide range of people as my mother was a babysitter/housecleaner for teachers who came up for the school years. I tried college but I did not complete the course, because it was not what I really wanted to do. I have been on the radio, television, newspaper, and have been employed in social, media and health organizations for the past 7 years. My employment was mostly because of my ability to translate between Native Language and English. Also I have been ending up in front line jobs, mainly because of my bubbly personality and my gift to make people feel comfortable. I must admit, there is nothing better than knowing that I have helped someone when they needed me.

For the past four years I have been concentrating on family life as I have two very bright girls who need nurturing. My girls are very young however, learning that at times mommy needs to do certain things. Working at a social housing organization has taught me many a thing, even aiding me in how to deal with the vast predicaments that people can put them selves in, due to the fact that, we are after all human. At work we try to help people get back on their feet, which at times can be very difficult. I am in that kind of work, because I like to help in any way I can, for people to be able to stand on their own two feet. My goals in life are to be a good role model for my people but mainly my girls. To show others that if I can succeed in what ever I want to do, they can too.

Rowena Moonias

Boozhoo! My name is Rowena and I am a returning student to Project Beyshick this year. I had a lot of fun last year and learned many new things with TD Bank. I hope my experience will be similar this year. I just recently received my high school diploma and plan to continue my studies in the fall. I am very interested in aviation and plan to get my pilot's license. I am also seriously considering pursuing a business degree. I am currently enrolled in a technology/engineering course this summer offered through the University of Toronto. Back home, I like to play sports, go camping, swimming and playing games with my daughter. She is going to be three soon and is always keeping me busy and working hard.

Sonni Mazinakouskang

I just recently completed my third year of school at the Nimiki Migizi Secondary School located in Ginoogaming First Nation. As an eleventh grader I was really proud and honoured to represent the student body as the Student Representative Council president.

I am currently working as a Summer Student in my community, as the band reception assistant. It is a very helpful career opportunity to help me sharpen my skills as a people person.

As of January 2006 I became a vegetarian. I decided to go veg because of animal rights. I am really interested in fashion design. I believe with great knowledge that this is the path that I want to follow. I've been coming up and making garments (specifically women's clothing) ever since the beginning of high school, when I first realized that fashion was my passion. I love to spend a lot of time with my family and showing them that this is not the only place for them, there is so much we can do for ourselves.

Patrick Cheechoo

I am a graduate of Thunder Bay's Lakehead University with a Bachelor of Administration Degree. I am also a professional artist of over 20 years - I sketch, carve, paint and make antler jewelry. I also utilize computers as a creative outlet - I am skilled at Corel Draw and Adobe Photoshop. By combining my education with my art and computer abilities, I hope to develop a larger international market with my art. The Embroidery Industry is going to be a key component to my dreams.

I am a proud husband to Keri and a proud father to Bentley, Nadia, Matthew, Caitlin and Rylee. I am a member of Constance Lake First Nation, and I currently reside in Thunder Bay, Ontario. My interests include hockey, golf, volleyball, basketball and tennis, and I also have a love for fishing, hunting and camping. I look forward to meeting all Project Beyshick participants and learning from experts in the Embroidery Industry.

Joyce Hunter

Joyce Hunter, 27, is the recently promoted editor of Wawatay News. She studied print journalism at Durham College in Oshawa and went to work for the Daily Press in Timmins as a general assignment reporter directly after graduating. After two-and-a-half years at the Daily Press, Hunter went on to work at Wawatay News, where she has spent the last two years.

Hunter is from a Cree hunting, fishing, trapping village of 250 called Peawanuck. It is located on the west side of the Hudson's Bay coast and is adjacent to the Polar Bear Provincial Park. Interestingly, Hunter did not speak English when she started Kindergarten as the only language spoken in her home was Cree. By Grade 7, however, she had the vocabulary of a Grade 10 advanced student. Hunter came to love the news while watching nightly airings of CBC News' The National with Peter Mansbridge with her father Mike while growing up on her tiny reserve.

Darcy Kejick

I graduated from Aboriginal Business Management at Confederation College in 1999. I then assumed a number of management positions - Construction Company Manager, CMHC Housing Manager and Public Works Manager. My business, 'Darcy and Susan's Gas', opened January 2001. For an isolated and fixed-income First Nation, I have expanded my business from three 45-gallon barrels and a manual pump to two 50,000-litre tanks with a metered pumping station.

I love to travel and experience all that I can. Educating myself is very important. I encourage youth aspirations whether via radio interviews, story telling at summer camp, or sponsoring the local music band. I take pride in my culture. I teach the youth about traditional hunting and fishing and to value sharing. My eleven-year-old son had his first successful moose hunt last year. I visit my trap-line regularly. To me, business is like hunting - it requires time, patience and capturing opportunities that present themselves.

## Michael Fox

Michael facilitates joint ventures and partnership arrangements with First Nations within the main resource-based sectors of Ontario: forestry, energy, and mineral. He obtained a post-secondary education in business administration and an honours degree in political science, with the latter being primarily focused on natural resource development and Aboriginal law. He is originally from Weenusk First Nation and is happily married to Corinne Fox and has 14 year twin boys (Mitchell & Marshall) and a 9 year daughter, Cree Angela.

Michael's primary interest is with youth and community empowerment and has served as an executive member for Thunder Bay Ventures (2002-present), Vice-President of Policy for the Aboriginal Peoples Commission, (2001-2002), Past Chair of the Aboriginal Inter-Agency Council (1995-2000), Past President of Lakehead Social Planning Council (1998-2001), Aboriginal Management Council for Lakehead University (1995-2000), and Executive Member of the Native Student Associations at Lakehead University and Confederation College (1993-1999).

## Jason Rasevych

Jason is from Ginoogaming First Nation community. He has completed his college in 2006 from Confederation College and has studied business & marketing program.

What he would like to learn from this job shadowing program, in his words:

I would like to learn how to make decisions from a management level. How to identify the best methods in making that decision and how to evaluate if it is the best one. To understand how the professionals handle their challenges such as difficulties, conflicts and unexpected situations that arise in a fast paced business setting.

Stacey R. Yesno

Stacey is from Eabametoong First Nation Community. She has completed her grade 10 from White Pines High School and has studied business program.

What she would like to learn from this job shadowing program, in her words:

I would like to learn about the different businesses out there. Also the ups and downs of starting a business, the cost grids, meet new entrepreneurs and their experience, to prepare my self.

Devon Meekis

I started my first real company in 1996 DAM (Devon Archie Meekis) Transfer in Winnipeg. I was just running errands for people in northern communities to help them save money and at the same time, making some. I took some

computer courses and achieved my MCP, MCSE and A+ Certifications then started FLI Technologies and was nominated for Aboriginal Business of the Year by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce in the first year of operation. Now in Thunder Bay, with Vice-President James Anthony McGuire, I run FLI a full service computer company that offers networking, web development, and multimedia design. FLI has donated full websites, networking, computer repairs and design work to several not-for-profit organizations.

Basketball and music have always been passions of mine. In 1993 I won a slam dunk championship at a blue chip camp in Vancouver. I went to University at Augustana in Camrose, Alberta, wrecked my ankle and started rapping in the local clubs. I still play ball, I still write lyrics.

Titus Semple

Titus is from Kasabonika Lake First Nation. He has completed his first year of university at Lakehead University (political science program).

What he would like to learn from this job shadowing program, in his words:

"I am hoping to learn how to operate a marketing/ advertising firm. I believe this opportunity will be beneficial towards my future goal of owning and operating a marketing/advertising firm. I look forward to every bit of experience I will gain through this program. I look forward to learning how a business overcomes the certain issues that arise while it is still in its growing stage."

Ron Marano

Ron is from North Caribon Lake aka Weagamow Lake community. He has completed has a Civil Engineering Technologist Diploma from Lakehead Universtiy. Currently he is enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce program. He is also working as Youth Business Development Officer at Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF), Thunder Bay,ON.

What he would like to learn from this job shadowing program, in his words:

"I would like to learn new ways to help people. I am hoping that this experience will help me help our clients better."

Stan Loone

Stan is from the community of Fort Albany. He has a General Arts degree from Lakehead University. He is currently working for Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

What he would like to learn from this job shadowing program, in his words:

I have applied to this program because it will provide an opportunity to learn from someone who has been in business. I would like to learn how to properly market my business to the public. I have always tried to reach my goals with 110% effort, and I can only see very positive things coming from this unique project.