

# **Council on Post-Secondary Education**

## **College Expansion Initiative**

### ***New Programs 2007-08***

#### **Assiniboine Community College**

##### **Advanced Diploma, GIS Environmental Technologies (GISET) – Program Expansion – no funds required**

The Council approved the expansion of the GIS Environmental Technologies Diploma program to an Advanced Diploma, GIS Environmental Technologies (GISET) program. The expanded 66 credit hour program is available entirely through distance delivery, or through a clustered learning format. Distance delivery mode will benefit students who are working and unable to attend regularly scheduled day classes.

#### **Red River College**

##### **Electrical/Electronic Technology (EET) Program – Addition of Co-operative Education Component – (\$57,000)**

Red River College received approval for the conversion of three Engineering Technology Diploma programs to a co-operative education delivery format. These programs include:

- Electrical Engineering Technology Diploma Program
- Electronic Engineering Technology Diploma Program
- Instrumentation Engineering Technology Diploma Program

The new format is a five semester 28-month program with two, four-month paid co-operative work placements integrated over the summer break periods. With the co-operative model, students are able to apply their learning in a work environment as they learn, building an attachment to the labour market, while earning income to support education costs. Employers benefit from an augmented workforce, increased access to highly-skilled students and graduates, and reduced recruiting and training costs.

##### **Introduction to Trades – Program Expansion – (\$250,000 in ongoing funding)**

The Council approved expansion of the Introduction to Trades program by increasing the number of trades programs available to students and by adding a community-based offering to be delivered in Aboriginal communities on a rotational basis with two intakes per year. Credentials earned from this program will enable students to enter college pre-employment programs and apprenticeship training programs, allowing them to enter the workforce and eventually earn their inter-provincial Red Seal and journeyperson status. Specially designed for Aboriginal learners in their home communities, the program incorporates Aboriginal culture and values into the curriculum and helps prepare students for additional trades training and/or a career in a skilled

trade. Expansion of the program is indicative of one of the special initiatives undertaken to respond to the significant shortages in the local labour market and the need for skilled trades people in Aboriginal communities both on and off reserve.

**Support for Mobile Trades Training Labs – (\$300,000 one-time only funding)**

The Council approved the allocation of \$300,000 to support the acquisition of equipment and tooling to outfit two Mobile Training Labs (MLTs) initially purchased for \$3.12 million from Western Economic Diversification Canada. The MLTs are completely self-contained, 942 square foot portable trailers, complete with shops and equipment and can support a wide variety of skilled trades including manufacturing, construction, transportation, and industrial programs. The MLTs deliver apprenticeship and pre-employment training in community-based settings where training shops are generally unavailable. The MLTs are complementary to the Council-funded Introduction to Trades program expansion above, and respond to the high need for skilled trades training in rural and northern areas as well as in First Nations communities.