

“Project Beyshick has been an important networking and mentoring opportunity for many NAN members by enhancing and building business skills,” said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy. “The success of the program shows the success of our people and how only we can break the mould in achieving our goals and dreams of success both within our communities and outside.”

“The goal of Project Beyshick is to nurture First Nation entrepreneurs, linking the youth network with successful individuals from the business world,” said POA Chairman Aditya Jha. “There is no doubt in my mind that our efforts are too small to address all issues facing First Nation people, however the successes of this program and what we’re working toward in the future is definitely making impactful first steps.”

Successful program candidates participate in workshops at some of Canada’s leading business schools and training companies, including Ryerson University, Trent University, and Dale Carnegie, while gaining hands-on job-shadowing experience with Toronto-based senior level business executives. Previous participants have gained valuable work and life experiences assisting in the development of long-term educational and career goals.

The program, which will recruit for the 2008 program this March, is available to NAN entrepreneurs, students, and community leaders seeking to sharpen entrepreneurial skills and/or pursue business careers.

Some of the businesses involved in the past three years include TD Canada Trust, TV Ontario, Globe and Mail, HSBC, Trillium Hospital, ICICI Bank, Toronto Police Services, SunLife, Sick Kids, Yum! Brands, and AMJ Campbell Van Lines.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is an Aboriginal political organization representing 49 First Nation communities within James Bay Treaty 9 and Ontario First Nations part of Treaty 5 – an area spanning two-thirds of Ontario with a total approximate population of 45,000 members on and off reserve.

POA Educational Foundation is a charitable foundation aiming to provide support for educational and entrepreneurial initiatives targeting regions with specific challenges and pressing needs.

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund is an Aboriginal organization delivering business and financial services to the member First Nations of Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

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