

MEDIA RELEASE

**ManitobaAboriginalHealthCareers.ca
Destines To Become A Vital Connection Between Education &
Employment In The Health Sector for Aboriginal People in Manitoba**

Winnipeg, October 30, 2014; Manitoba’s Office of Rural & Northern Health (MB ORHN) is confident a new website it launched today ManitobaAboriginalHealthCareers.ca, will play a significant role in increasing the number of First Nation and Aboriginal People in the Province choosing a career in health. “We have just launched the website and already the feedback from educators, and students from across the province has been phenomenal.” says Wayne Heide, the office’s Administrative Director, adding, “We need to increase the representation of First Nation people in these careers, especially in rural and northern areas”. Heide says stakeholders agreed, seeing is believing. “It’s about showing them strong Aboriginal role models in health careers, with real stories about overcoming tremendous obstacles and going on to achieve success in a career they love.” says Robert Maytwayashing Aboriginal Human Resources Development Officer (AHRDO), Interlake. Eastern Regional Health Authority continuing, “Kids are already telling us, hey, I can see myself in them, that’s when the confidence builds and the goals start.”

The ManitobaAboriginalHealthCareers.ca project includes, a website and portal that provides access to all the information you need to have a career in health, but it’s the inspirational vignettes in the Success Stories section that are giving teachers and educators a powerful tool that helps students connects the possibility with opportunity. Tricia Manoakesick teaches English in St. Theresa Point. “The videos inspire me just as much as the students. Living in rural & northern communities and being able to bring the role models here anytime through the videos on the website will make learning more real.” 19 year old St. Theresa Point Grade 12 student, Brittany Flett agrees. “Darina’s story connected with me. She’s a single mom and I’m a single mom. I want to become a health care aide, I know it will be hard but you can’t give up, even if it takes you longer. Elmwood High Student, Elle Pasaquen aspires to be a radiation therapist, she says the new website is providing her much needed inspiration. “I’m learning the only one blocking my success is me and I want to change that.” Maytwayashing adds, “That’s exactly the message we want all First Nation and Aboriginal people to take from this, or anyone for that matter, perseverance pays off.”

THIS COULD BE YOU

BECOME A
HEALER



The Project also includes the distribution of a series of models 21 posters of the Aboriginal role models in their traditional and non traditional health careers. “It’s not just about finding new doctors & nurses says Holley Leost, Regional director of the Aboriginal Employment Program for the Southern Regional Health Authority, but we need finance people, pharmacists, maintenance people who help keep the hospitals running. We have more than 100 different careers in health that need more people” Heide says, “We are not talking about health training you take and you might get a job, all these careers are out there waiting for them when they graduate” Maytwayashing says, “It won’t happen overnight but I’m confident in the not so distant future we will see more of our young people, graduating grade 12, then on to post secondary and going on into a career in health.

ABOUT MANITOBA’S OFFICE OF RURAL & NORTHERN HEALTH (MB. ORNH)

<http://www.ornh.mb.ca>

Manitoba’s Office of Rural and Northern Health (ORNH) was established in 2002 to address long-term recruitment and retention issues in rural and northern Manitoba in all health professions. The ORNH takes a big picture approach and implements initiatives at all phases of the training cycle to encourage rural and northern individuals to consider careers in health care, complete some or all of their training in rural and northern sites and ultimately choose to work and live in rural and northern Manitoba.

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

The seven tribal councils (Dakota Ojibway, Island Lake, Keewatin, Southeast, Swampy Cree, Interlake and West Region), two representatives from the independent First Nations communities, one representative from each of the five regional health authorities, the two Manitoba AHHRI coordinators and the ORNH.

PROJECT FUNDING

<http://ahhri.nan.on.ca/>

Funding was made available through the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative for the 2013/14 fiscal year. The total cost of the project was \$290,000.00. As part of the contract for the web portal a three year maintenance and updating agreement was included to ensure the portal will remain current over the medium term. To ensure that First Nations, Inuit (FNIH) and Métis have access to the health providers they need both now and in the future, Health Canada created an Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI) in 2005. The program was originally set to expire in 2010, but has now been extended through 2015 due to encouraging results.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO ARRANGE MEDIA INTERVIEWS

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