



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASPINEMOWIN YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Moose Factory, ON – June 3, 2011 – Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation in association with the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade are pleased to announce the launch of Aspinemowin (ah-spin-e-mo-win) Youth Entrepreneurship Partnerships Program (AYEPP). The purpose of AYEPP is to create awareness among Omushkego Youth to developments taking shape surrounding their communities and improve their economic situation allowing youth to get the most out the opportunities that entrepreneurship has to offer for the future.

For the past 9 years, Wakenagun CFDC has organized the Youth Business Quest in all of its 10 communities within their service area. Wakenagun staff and community partners conduct daily workshops in each community to interested youth from Grades 9 to 12 and up to 29 years of age who desire to follow a path towards starting a business or increase their knowledge and understanding about business and entrepreneurship. The Youth Business Quest will now be referred to as Aspinemowin Youth Entrepreneurship Partnership Program (AYEPP).

The AYEPP will host a series of weeklong workshops in each community that will delve into teaching the core fundamentals of business planning that includes business planning and contents, financial understanding of running a business, promotion and marketing. Once the workshops are concluded, participants will be encouraged to register to enter the Wabusk's Den Business Plan Challenge. The "Wabusk's Den" is adapted from the popular CBC Show – Dragons Den –in which aspiring entrepreneurs pitch business ideas to a panel of venture capitalists in the hopes of securing business financing. Wakenagun will also play host to a Regional Economic Conference scheduled in early 2012. At the conference, Omushkego youth entrepreneurs will enter the "Wabusk's Den" and pitch their business idea for a chance to win a cash prize to invest in their dream of becoming a successful entrepreneur in their community and beyond.

Wakenagun is a federally incorporated not-for-profit corporation. Established in 1995, our services include small business financing and community economic development, with a focus on strategic planning. We provide service to the following communities. Fort Severn F.N, Weenusk F.N, Attawapiskat F.N, Fort Albany F.N, Kashechewan F.N, Moose Cree F.N, The Town of Moosonee, Taykwa Tagamou F.N, Chapleau Cree F.N, and Missanabie Cree F.N.

For Information : Wakenagun C.F.D.C.
Contact: Margaret Keesic, Investment Officer
mkeesic@wakenagun.ca
Gilbert Cheechoo Jr, AYEPP Assistant
g.cheechoo@wakenagun.ca

Phone: (705) 658-4428
TOLL FREE: 1-800-989-4850
Fax: (705) 658-4672