

Introduction to Mining

Preparing students for a mining career

The Introduction to Mining program had Parkland and Carlton Trail Colleges working together with several companies to develop an Indigenous workforce for potash mines and processing facilities. The students toured three mines in this program: Mosaic's underground operation at Colonsay, K + S Potash's solution mine near Bethune, and Nutrien's underground mine at Lanigan. Each company provides a unique work culture with different career opportunities. BHP provided the opportunity for the students to experience mine camp life by doing part of the program on site. The students received numerous tours and presentations and were exposed to contractors who were potential employers. This experience was invaluable and greatly enhanced the program.

Indigenous people offer the potential of a strong workforce in Saskatchewan. This project offered Indigenous people the foundational training required to be successful in skills training. They received safety training and environmental monitoring skills that will help them better understand the environmental impact issues facing mines and First Nation communities.

In this project, students received certification in two separate training programs: Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR) Environmental Monitoring and Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) Mining Essentials.



BEAHR Environmental Monitoring, developed by Environmental Careers Organization Canada, was delivered over seven weeks. The program focused on understanding environmental issues, government regulations, monitoring effects, risk management and mitigation measures, sampling protocols and basic research, mapping, and journaling. An Indigenous cultural component ran throughout the program.

MiHR's Mining Essentials lasted 10 weeks. It focused on the essential skills profiles in MiHR's National Occupation Standards for entry-level occupations and combined work readiness skills as defined by a development committee of industry, Indigenous organizations, and education experts. Further exploration of a career in the mining industry included the potash mine tours, guest speakers, and visits from HR recruiters.



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Carlton Trail College worked with three First Nation Communities: Kawacatoose, Day Star and Muskowekwan First Nations. Students were recruited from these communities and the community provided assistance with transportation, elder support and cultural activities.

Parkland College worked closely with File Hills Tribal Council and its many member First Nations. Students enjoyed the classroom work as well as site visits to Bethune (K+S), Colonsay (Mosaic), and Lanigan (Nutrien).

Work placements were arranged and completed at K+S Potash and Mosaic's Belle Plaine operation. K+S Potash provided term employment for 4 individuals for Environmental Monitoring.

Student Successes:

Enrolled	Graduated	Employed	Further Education	Female	Male
54	30	14	2	26	28



Proponent: Parkland College & Carlton Trail College
Project Duration: July 2014 to September 2016
Project Cost: \$426,329
 IMII: \$323,400
 Parkland: \$ 22,200
 Carlton Trail: \$ 44,400
 Other: \$ 36,329

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