

NEWS RELEASE

December 10, 2021

For Immediate Release

Contact North | Contact Nord's newest online learning centre to help Kettle and Stony Point First Nation residents access education and training without leaving their community

Local MPP to lead ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 10

Thunder Bay, ON – Contact North | Contact Nord's newest online learning centre, within Kettle & Stony Point First Nation's Four Winds Community Employment Services Office, is set to help local residents get their degree, diploma or certificate or upgrade their skills without leaving their community.

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton will be on hand for the official opening of the centre, which gives local residents access to a variety of free services, including:

- Information on available online programs and courses from Ontario's 9 Indigenous institutes, 24 public colleges, 23 public universities, 76 district school boards, 200 literacy and basic skills providers, and 20 skills development training providers
- Help with registrations and funding options
- Free, in-person access to high-speed Internet, computers, web and videoconferencing, extended reality (XR) headsets and technical support
- Support and encouragement to complete programs and courses
- Supervision of exams

This is the first online learning centre to be opened in an Indigenous community in Contact North | Contact Nord's Southwest Region.

"Every person in our Lambton-Kent-Middlesex – no matter where they live – deserves to have access to training they need to find meaningful careers and build better lives for themselves and their loved ones," said MPP McNaughton. "Today's announcement with Contact North is another example of how our government is working for workers to ensure people across our community can learn the skills needed to build a stronger tomorrow for us all."

Adds Carrie Stuart, Director, Recruitment & Partnerships, Southwest Region, for Contact North | Contact Nord: "I'm thrilled to be working alongside this community, helping local residents access the programs and courses that'll position them to compete for local, in-demand jobs. I can't wait to see the success stories unfold."

Kettle & Stony Point First Nation Director of Economic Development and Training Dianne Thomas says: “Education is the first step to gain the knowledge, critical thinking and skills to empower personal success. On behalf of Chief and Council, the staff at Four Winds Community Employment Services are excited to welcome Contact North to work onsite in the community. This partnership is a long-term goal achieved to increase access to programs for individuals.”

Adds Terese Bressette, Four Winds Community Employment Services Program Manager: “In terms of skills training and job preparedness, this represents a fantastic opportunity for the people of Kettle & Stony Point.”

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For further information, contact Carrie Stuart, Director, Recruitment & Partnerships, Southwest Region, at 1-844-891-1123 or e-mail carrie@contactnorth.ca.

[About Contact North | Contact Nord](#)

As Ontario's community-based bilingual distance education and training network, Contact North | Contact Nord helps underserved residents in 1,300+ small, rural, remote, Indigenous and Francophone communities access education and training without leaving their communities.

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Contact North | Contact Nord
1139 Alloy Drive, Suite 104
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 6M8
807-344-1616
newsletter@contactnorth.ca