



**MIZIWE BIIK ABORIGINAL  
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING  
CARPENTRY PRE-  
APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING  
PROGRAM**



**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Congratulations to the graduates of our pilot project in Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship Training! Miziwe Biik is very pleased to announce that six students were successful in completing the 31-week program (including a 280-hour work placement).



*(Photo of graduates Michael Moore, Randy Dament, Mathew Baldwin, and James Boissoneau L-R in rear, and Canon Cook and Melissa Isaac L-R in front).*

The Graduation and Employer Appreciation Dinner took place on September 7, 2007 at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto on September 7, 2007 to much celebration. Jimmy Dick led the festivities with an Opening Prayer, followed by the Eagle Heart Drum. Graduates were presented with Certificates of Achievement from George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology.

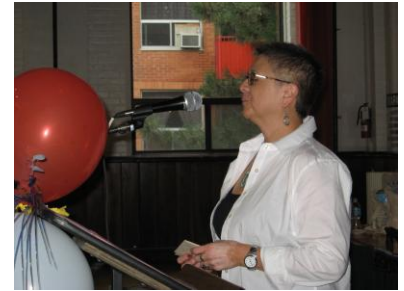
*(Photo Randy Dament, Rolf Priesnitz, Chair, Apprenticeship Programs, GBC, and Nancy Sherman, Dean of Technology, GBC, L-R).*



Graduates were then presented with Certificates, Portfolios, and gifts from Miziwe Biik. *(Photo Canon Cook and Cynthia Bird, Job Coach, Miziwe Biik, L-R).*



Barbara Nahwegahbow, consultant on the establishment of the Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program partnership with George Brown



College, presented two scholarships from her business, Blue Dawn Consulting Inc. James Boissoneau and Canon Cook were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements in carpentry. *(Photo Barbara Nahwegahbow above).*

Work placement employers were recognized for their contributions to the success of the program with Certificates of Appreciation from Miziwe Biik. *(Photo Charles Granato, JAM Property Services Ltd. and Marlene Finn, Program Coordinator, Miziwe Biik).*



The graduates expressed thanks to the team for all the hard work that went into coordinating the program. Graduates shared insights as to how much their lives

have changed and their career options have grown as a result of taking this pre-apprenticeship training program. **James Boissoneau** is in the process of becoming registered as an apprentice through the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. *(Photo of James and Ben Bird, Native Suns Construction, Inc. L-R in Etobicoke).*

**Randy Dament** has been registered by Charles Granato as a general carpenter apprentice and **Mathew Baldwin** is continuing to work for Roman



Ritacca of Canadian & American Concrete, Renovation and Drain Ltd. (Photo of Mathew on stair framing in a townhouse development in Pickering)

**Canon Cook** is also continuing to work for her employer, Paul Caverly of My Haven Homes Ltd. whereas **Michael Moore** (photo right) and **Melissa Isaac** (photo below) are seeking employers in order to be registered as general carpenter apprentices. Employers interested in hiring general carpenter apprentices now and/or providing work placements next year are urged to contact program staff as early as possible.



program. It is hoped that the program will begin very soon.

Interested candidates are asked to contact Miziwe Biik in order to register with an employment counselor as a client. Applications for the carpentry program are available through the employment counselors. (Photo Cynthia Bird, Job Coach, and Marlene Finn, L-R, below).



This project was funded by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Contact Marlene Finn, Project Coordinator, for more information at Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training, 416-591-0354 or email [marlene.finn@miziwebiik.com](mailto:marlene.finn@miziwebiik.com)



Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training is now recruiting for the training program next year - pending funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Visit [www.miziwebiik.com](http://www.miziwebiik.com) for more information on the program and a schedule of recruitment sessions in September – to be held at

Miziwe Biik, Native Women's Resource Centre, Council Fire Native Cultural Centre, and the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto.

Miziwe Biik is seeking physically fit male and female candidates (particularly those between 18 and 29), with a minimum Grade 10 education, and a willingness to upgrade, learn, and work hard. No carpentry experience is required for the 31-week