

"I have learned a great deal from the NEP program. If it wasn't for the program, I wouldn't be working for Sweet 61 in Thunder Bay as a Line Cook and Front Counter Attendant."



## Patricia Fox

Most people would agree that finding a job isn't easy in today's economy. It's even tougher still when a lack of education, experience and dependable child care also stand in the way. Such was the position Patricia Fox found herself in when she was looking for a job last year.

That's when the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Navigating Employment Pathways Program (NEP) stepped in to help. Funded in part by the Government of Canada, NEP is a partnership between the MNO and OTEC that was designed to provide industry specific training to Aboriginal people looking for a career in the tourism and hospitality sector.

Through NEP, Patricia learned valuable communication skills in addition to receiving *emerit* National Occupational Standard-based training as a food and beverage server. Throughout the 18 week program, Patricia also worked closely with staff to develop a skills development plan to help her work towards her career goals.

As a result of the program, Patricia gained employment at Sweet 61, a local café where she quickly found success and a raise. More importantly, she found a new confidence in her abilities that will allow her to look for new jobs in the future in a similar field.

For more information about the NEP program:  
Visit the MNO at website [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)  
Email Rae-Anna Gardner at [raeg@metisnation.org](mailto:raeg@metisnation.org)

OTEC Office & Learning Centre – 21 Four Seasons Place, Suite 300,  
Toronto ON, M9B 6J8;  
Kim Bocking Phone (416) 622.1975 ex. 226, Toll Free (800)  
557.6832, [kbocking@otec.org](mailto:kbocking@otec.org), [www.otec.org](http://www.otec.org)

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