



Employment & Training NEWSLETTER



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Upcoming News

Employment & Training is still open for those who require assistance with resumes, cover letters, printing, and FREE internet use.

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm

Employment & Training's upcoming events are as follows

- **Service Canada Clinic, November 23rd**
- **Upcoming Training Dates, Pg. 6 - 10**

Contact us:

Kim Smith

Director of Employment & Training
ksmith@cottfn.com

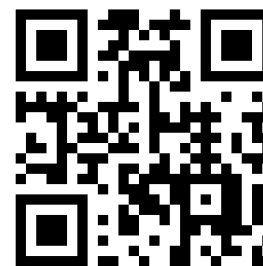
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*Scan QR code to
visit our Website*



www.cottet.ca



EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING COMMUNITY SURVEY

HELP US IMPROVE



SCAN ME



Deshkan Zibiing
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation Employment
and Training

Your feedback matters.

Scan the code to help
Employment & Training identify
barriers, plan future training,
and understand employability
trends across age groups.

Your feedback helps us grow.



SERVICE CANADA IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Service Canada provides Canadians with a single point of access to a wide range of government services and benefits.

Service Canada will be in your community to help you apply for the programs and services listed below.

What to Bring: Visit Canada.ca for a complete list of required documents.

Programs and Services	How to Register	Date	Time
CDCP - Canadian Dental Care Plan – Application Old Age Security (OAS) Canada Pension Plan (CPP) My Service Canada Account (MSCA) Social Insurance Number (SIN)	To register for this clinic, please visit or contact: Employment & Training at: 519-962-8688 or etadmin@cottfn.com	November 23rd, 2026	1:00PM - 3:30PM

Information on Service Canada's programs, services and benefits can be found online at Canada.ca or by calling 1 800 O-Canada.

Service Canada Clinic - Every Two Months

Location: 328B, Portable-2, Chippewa Rd., Muncey, ON

Service
Canada

COMMUNITY MEMO Senior Lawncare Grass Cutting Services To: Community of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation From: Employment & Training Date: September 23, 2026

Employment & Training would like to inform the community that Senior Lawncare Grass Cutting Services will officially end on September 30, 2026. After September 30th, lawncare services may still be available at the discretion of the Senior Lawncare crew and weather permitting.

This was the busiest year yet for the Senior Lawncare crew, and we truly appreciate everyone who took part in the program.

A special thank you to Donald French for his dedication and commitment to the Senior Lawncare program.

Thank you, everyone, for making this a successful season!

Employment & Training
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation



SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM UPDATE

The 2026 COTTEN Summer Student Employment Program ran from July 6 to August 28, providing meaningful employment and learning opportunities for 15 students across COTTEN.

This year, students were placed in a variety of roles, including:

- 6 students with the COTTEN Youth Center
- 6 students with COTTEN Community Development
- 2 students with COTTEN Daycare
- 1 student with Fanshawe College's Institute of Indigenous Learning

Employment & Training would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our summer students for their dedication, hard work, and commitment throughout the program. Your contributions helped make this summer a success, and we are proud of all that you accomplished!

We wish all of our students the very best with their studies this fall and continued success in the year ahead!





ACADEMIC UPGRADING CHIPPEWA SITE
In partnership with
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Employment & Training



What do we offer:

- Literacy Basics Skills
- Essential Skills
- Canadian Education Credential
(formerly G.E.D)
- Academic & Career Entrance Program (ACE)
- Ontario Secondary School Diploma Support

How to Register:

- Fill out registration form.
(can be picked up at E&T office)
- Complete Assessments.
- Create your training plan.
- Start your individual program.
 - Learning options
 - Scheduling options
 - Program length
- Re-evaluate training plan.
- The academic upgrading instructor will assist with each step of registration and support you with your customized plan.

Create your path to:

- Independence
- Post-Secondary
- Skilled Trades
- Entrepreneurship
- Employment

Program Length:

- It varies based on the amount of time you commit as a student.
- The programs of study are geared to the individual student learning needs to prepare for your next step of employment, further training, or education.

For an adult learner, often the hardest aspect of returning to school is taking the first step. At the Chippewa site in partnership with COTTFFN E&T, we welcome the opportunity to assist individuals to work towards their goals.

Schedule Update:

The COTTFFN Adult Upgrading classroom will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week from 9:30am – 2:30pm. If you are interested in returning to school, stop by the Fanshawe College Hub Portable-1, located just beside the Chippewa Community Center.

Contact:

Jon Leonard
LBS/ACE Teacher
Fanshawe College – Chippewa Site
jleonard@FanshaweC.ca

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday	9:30am – 2:30pm
Wednesday	9:30am – 2:30pm
Thursday	9:30am – 2:30pm



RESUME WORKSHOP

Employment & Training will be offering a Resume and Covering Letter workshop for anyone who would like assistance in updating or creating their resume.

DROP INS WELCOME!
No appointment necessary

Oct. 16th, 2026

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 2:00pm-5:00pm (30min presentation)

Training includes:

- Resume Basics
- Cover Letter Basics
- What to include and not include
- Formatting
- How/when to update
- Professional wording

QUESTIONS?: ETADMIN@COTTEN.COM OR 519-962-8688

FOOD ALLERGEN TRAINING

Community Development
This Food Allergen Awareness training is designed to help food service personnel ensure the safe and proper handling of food allergens in compliance with Canadian food safety standards.

Space is limited to 5 people. Register today!

Oct. 22nd, 2026

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 2:00pm-4:00pm

Training includes:

- Laptop Provided for training
- Average Duration: 1.5 Hours
- Approved Across Canada
- Certificate Valid for 5 Years
- Printable Certificate Upon Completion
- Plastic and Digital Certificates Available
- Unlimited Exam Attempts
- Self-Paced

HOW TO REGISTER: ETADMIN@COTTEN.COM OR 519-962-8688

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE#, STATUS#

SAFE FOOD HANDLING TRAINING



Community Development
The Safe Food Handler Certification Program teaches food handlers the general principles of safe food handling. This certificate meets the mandatory Ontario food safety training requirements and is recognized by all health units in Ontario.

Space is limited to 10 people. Register today!

Oct. 23rd, 2026

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 9:30am-5:30pm

Training includes:

- public health legislation
- food microbiology
- temperature control
- cross-contamination
- personal hygiene
- cleaning and sanitizing

HOW TO REGISTER: ETADMIN@COTTEN.COM OR 519-962-8688

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE#, STATUS#

RESUME WORKSHOP

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No appointment necessary

Nov. 13th, 2026

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 2:00pm-5:00pm (30min presentation)

Training includes:

- Resume Basics
- Cover Letter Basics
- What to include and not include
- Formatting
- How/when to update
- Professional wording

QUESTIONS?: ETADMIN@COTTEN.COM OR 519-962-8688

LADDER SAFETY TRAINING

COMMUNITY TRAINING
This Online Ladder Safety Training will guide you through all aspects of Ladders including: hazard identification, ladder types, set up, PPE, Maintenance, storage & handling, and inspection.

Space is limited to 5 people. Register today!

Nov. 19th, 2026

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 2:00pm-5:00pm

Training includes:

- Laptop provided for training
- Average Duration: 1 Hour
- Digital & Printable Certificate
- Plastic Proof Of Training Card Included
- Unlimited Exam Attempts
- Accepted Across Canada
- Self-Paced. Available 24/7
- Permanent Record of Training
- User Management Tools Available

HOW TO REGISTER: ETADMIN@COTTEN.COM OR 519-962-8688

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE#, STATUS#

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID



Community Development
2-day training
Comprehensive, evidence-based training that provides official Mental Health First Aid Certification.

Space is limited to 10 people. Register today!

Nov. 26th & 27th, 2026

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 9:00am-4:00pm

Training includes:

- Use the MHFA action plan to support someone in distress or crisis
- Online test after training to complete within 7 days. If the test is not complete, you will receive a certificate of participation.
- Must get 75% to pass the test.

HOW TO REGISTER: ETADMIN@COTTEN.COM OR 519-962-8688

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE#, STATUS#

RESUME WORKSHOP

Employment & Training will be offering a Resume and Covering Letter workshop for anyone who would like assistance in updating or creating their resume.

DROP INS WELCOME!
No appointment necessary

Dec. 7th & 14th, 2026

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 2:00pm-5:00pm (30min presentation)

Training includes:

- Resume Basics
- Cover Letter Basics
- What to include and not include
- Formatting
- How/when to update
- Professional wording

QUESTIONS?: ETADMIN@COTTEN.COM OR 519-962-8688

E&T APPLICATIONS WORKSHOP

Interested in applying for funding through E&T but don't know where to start or how/what is required to complete an application? Join E&T for a new workshop series where each month we will take a focused look at the requirements and timelines of the various funding programs E&T has to offer.

DROP INS WELCOME!
No appointment necessary

Dec. 8th & 15th, 2026

at Portable-2 beside the Chippewa community center from 2:00pm-4:00pm

Training includes:

This session will focus on the New Start Application.

- Application requirements
- Funding requirements
- What can and cannot be funded
- How to fill out the application
- Application review and approval timelines

QUESTIONS?: ETADMIN@COTTEN.COM OR 519-962-8688

UPCOMING TRAINING



SUCCESS STORY

INKFLUENCE BY NATHAN KECHEGO

Employment & Training would like to highlight the success story of Nathan Kechego. A recent Business Incentive Program applicant. Nathan applied for 6-months business support for his business Inkfluence, a self owned and operated tattoo shop. This is Nathan's story.

What is Inkfluence? What motivated you to start your business?

"Inkfluence is a welcoming spot where people from all walks of life can come together to enjoy art, good conversation, and healing through traditional art forms. I've always loved art – there are pieces of my work all over the community. I designed the logo for Antler River Elementary School where I was a former student. Even as a kindergartener I loved art and had one of my drawings shown in the Parliament building in Ottawa. My love for creating led me to try tattooing as a teen (which wasn't great at first), but over the past three years, my passion really grew, and I started taking it seriously. That's how Inkfluence came to life."

What sets Inkfluence apart from competitors in your region?

"Inkfluence is a 100% indigenous tattoo shop, which is the first owned and operated tattoo shop on reserve land (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation). What really sets it apart is my passion and drive. I'm always looking into new ways to build my skills and grow my portfolio. Both my skills and the business are constantly evolving."

What lessons have you learned since starting Inkfluence? How would you advise someone just starting out in the industry?

"Since this is my passion business, I know I have to work extra hard to make it succeed. Tattooing is kind of a luxury service, so I'm always pushing myself to improve and keep evolving. My advice for anyone starting out; Stay focused, be open to learning, and don't stress about mistakes – they're just part of the journey. If anyone is inspired by Inkfluence and wants to learn the craft, my door is always open to fellow artists."

What supports/resources were the most helpful for the success of Inkfluence?

"The supports and resources that have been most helpful for Inkfluence's success include community encouragement, access to training opportunities, and financial support from grants. Having a supportive network and being able to keep learning new skills has really made a difference."

How has this program impacted the future goals and aspirations of Inkfluence?

"The program has really helped shape Inkfluence's future by providing valuable resources. It's boosted my confidence to expand the business, explore new styles and techniques, collaborating with other indigenous artists and hosting community events. The support has been overwhelming from my community. The five year plan for Inkfluence is to grow into a thriving hub for indigenous art and culture, inspiring others to follow their creative dreams and bringing back a traditional art form to our community."

How can people connect with Inkfluence?

"People can easily connect with me through my Facebook page "Inkfluence by Nate", my Instagram @Inkfluencebynate, and my new website www.inkfluencebynate.com. Or, if you're nearby, stop by the Employment & Training office to grab a business card. I'm currently expanding my storefront and can't wait to host more events open to the community throughout the year. This weekend I will be attending a three-day training workshop with one of my all time favourite Ink Masters, Cleen Rock One. I grew up watching him on Ink Master, where he competed in multiple seasons before his big win. To the youth out there: your dreams are as real and attainable as you believe them to be. Stay focused, remain humble, and trust that life will reward your dedication. Keep pushing forward – your future is yours to create! Thank you, Employment & Training, for your support!"



PHOTO BY RITZ PHOTOGRAPHY



FIRST NATION BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Name:	Contact:	Sector:
A.E.I - Munsee	519-289-0777	Education
Ambrose	519-652-1248	Variety Store
A.I.A.I	519-434-2761	Education
Atlohsa	519-438-0068	Non-profit
Bear Creek Gas Bar	519-289-3663	Variety Store/Gas Bar
Brilliant Solutions	519-494-8598	I.T Support
Cactus Grill	519-289-2711	Restaurant/Catering
Elph's Restaurant	519-652-0581	Restaurant/Catering
Inkfluence by Nate	519-808-8059	Private Tattoo Studio
Maitland Gas Bar	519-264-3243	Variety Store/Gas Bar
Mike's Pizza	519-264-2309	Restaurant
Mnaasged	519-289-1117	Family Services
Munsee Bingo Hall	519-289-0004	Entertainment
N'Amerind Friendship Centre	519-672-0131	Non-Profit
Nokee Kwe	519-667-7088	Education
Pharmasave - Chippewa	519-289-3500	Health
Ska-Nah-Doht	519-264-2420	Education/Recreation
SOAHAC - Chippewa	519-289-0352	Health
SOAHAC - London	519-672-4079	Health
S.F.N.S	1-800-668-2609	Non-Profit
Subway - Bear Creek Gas Bar	226-225-1950	Restaurant/Catering
Tecumseh Development Corp	1-888-433-1533	Non-Profit
The Store	519-264-1144	Variety Store

COTTFN BUSINESS DIRECTORY CALL-OUT

Are you a First Nation's business owner/operator? Employment & Training would like to dedicate a page in our quarterly newsletter to the promotion of your First Nation owned business. If you would like to be included on this page please forward a copy of your business card, contact information, hours of operation, and location.

Business information can be sent/dropped off at:

Portable-2, 328B Chippewa Rd., Muncey, ON

or

etadmin@cottfn.com



COTT FN JOB POSTINGS

Interested in working for Chippewas of the Thames First Nation?

Current Job Postings Include:

- **Director of Capital, Infrastructure & Asset Management** ~ Capital, Infrastructure & Asset Management
- **Energy Sector Consultation Coordinator** ~ Treaties, Lands, and Environment
- **Big Bear Creek Trustee** ~ Big Bear Creek Trust
- **Male Helper** ~ Child, Youth, and Family Wellbeing
- **Female Helper** ~ Child, Youth, and Family Wellbeing
- **Jordan's Principle Navigator** ~ Health
- **Child & Youth Wellness Worker** ~ Child, Youth, and Family Wellbeing

SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW JOB POSTINGS



All applications can be sent to human.resources@cottfn.com



Construction Season has begun!

With the construction season starting for the London and Middlesex region, Chippewa Transit would like to notify everyone to expect 15-20min delays on arrival and departure times.



Chippewa Transit



SCHEDULE

please allow a 10-15min delay due to traffic/weather

<u>Morning Run:</u>		<u>Afternoon Run:</u>	
Heading into London Pick-up/Drop-off		Heading Into London Pick-up/Drop-off	
Bear Creek Gas Bar	7:15am	Bear Creek Gas Bar	3:45pm
Chippewa Community Centre	7:30am	Chippewa Community Centre	4:00pm
Oneida Community Centre	7:45am	Oneida Community Centre	4:15pm
Fanshawe College	8:15am	Fanshawe College	4:45pm
White Oaks Mall	8:35am	White Oaks Mall	5:05pm
Westmount Mall	8:55am	Westmount Mall	5:25pm
Returning to Nation Drop-off Only		Returning to Nation Drop-off Only	
Oneida Community Centre	9:30am	Oneida Community Centre	6:00pm
Chippewa Community Centre	9:40am	Chippewa Community Centre	6:10pm
END OF RUN		END OF RUN	

Chippewa Transit follows all Middlesex County bus cancellations

TRANSIT INQUIRIES: 226-386-6545

TRANSPORTATION@COTTEN.COM

One-way = \$5.00/ride

Bus Pass = \$60.00/month



Employment & Training Statistics to date:

At Employment & Training we have a great support staff to ensure our clients are looked after. If we are unable to assist, we will do what we can to make sure you get the answers you are looking for.

Since **January 2026** we have assisted over **581** band members.

A breakdown of services offered to date:

- Aboriginal Skills Training ~ 4
- Aboriginal Business Incentive ~ 2
- Wage Subsidy ~ 0
- Aboriginal New Start ~ 2
- Job Creation ~ 1
- First Aid & CPR training ~ 13
- Safe Food Handling ~ 14
- Youth Leadership + Budgeting ~ 15
- Customer Service ~ 5
- Chainsaw Safety ~ 8
- Smart Serve ~ 4
- Service Canada ~ 8
- Resume Building ~ 28
- Computer Use ~ 54
- Print/Fax/Photocopying ~ 35
- Casual Labour List ~ 22
- E&T Open House ~ 53
- Summer Students ~ 15
- On-Reserve ~ 480
- Off-Reserve ~ 101
- Male ~ 222
- Female ~ 359
- Yearly Office Sign-in ~ 581



EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OCTOBER COLOURING CONTEST



COLOUR ME AND SUBMIT TO EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE

AGES 12 AND UNDER, CHIPPEWA BAND MEMBERS ONLY.

DEADLINE OCT 26TH, 2026 @ 4PM