

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern Colleges Offer Free Training in Early Childhood Education

NORTH BAY, ON: Several northern colleges are working together to create **free** access to training for a new Pre- Early Childhood Education Certificate program, providing a great opportunity for individuals interested in working in the early years and child care sector. This program was created in response to challenges in staff shortages and recruitment efforts across Northern Ontario and will be offered online, with no need for learners to leave their communities.

The 10-week virtual program is intended to be a stepping-stone to introduce individuals to the field of early childhood education. No prerequisites are required, and interested individuals have the opportunity to gain basic knowledge required to start working in an early years and child care setting. In addition to the online learning, individuals will also complete a short field placement in a local child care centre.

By completing the program and getting hired to work in the early years and child care sector, individuals can help their community by alleviating the current worker shortage and increasing access to quality licensed child care services.

“Partnerships with northern colleges are critical to the success of this program,” says Mark King, Board Chair, District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. “There is a need for more early years and child care professionals across the district. This initiative makes it easy to explore a new career while allowing expansion of these essential services in areas where needed.”

Once they are working within the sector, individuals will be encouraged and supported through their continued journey to becoming an ECE through the completion of an ECE apprenticeship or ECE diploma program.

For more information, please visit the DNSSAB website at <https://dnssab.ca/childrens-services/pre-ece-certificate>.

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