

Update on the Aboriginal Leadership Development Program

In the fall of 2015, the Provincial Council received the final report of the Aboriginal Leadership Development Program. Here, I will give a brief summary of points taken directly from the report.

- In June, 2015, the Nova Scotia Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada approved a donation of \$8,367.55 towards the identification and delivery of community projects that would help empower women in the aboriginal community assume leadership roles, and work on projects that would enhance their leadership and project management skills by providing them with funding to develop and deliver projects in their own communities that benefit local members; especially, women and girls. The participants did not have access to other funding for these projects; however, they were able to leverage 'in-kind' support with the CWL funding as a foundation. The hope was that not only would the women who undertake the projects benefit (e.g. improved leadership and project management skills) but the community participants involved will be helped by the projects. The StFX Extension Department agreed to: Administer the funding on behalf of the CWL; meet with participants to discuss the opportunity available to them; establish project guidelines and expected outcomes; review all project applications; select projects that would be funded from the applications; monitor all activities and provide support and mentorship to the successful project applicants; complete these tasks at no cost to the CWL; and provide a full report on completion when the projects conclude-- anticipated to be early winter, 2016.
- The St FX Extension Department worked with three leadership graduates of the Program to develop and deliver their projects within the First Nations communities. All three of the participants reside in Cape Breton. The three projects were developed by participants and dealt with the following areas: Food Security and Traditional Food; Food Security and Smudge; and, Community Garden and physical activity. If anyone is interested in viewing the final report with the full details on these projects, please contact me (Ann Myers) for a viewing.