



News Release

For immediate release

G.R.E.A.T. program graduation ceremonies

NUNAVUT (December 18, 2015) – In September, the Department of Family Services and Nunavut Arctic College launched “Getting Ready for Employment and Training”, otherwise known as G.R.E.A.T., a 12-week job skills program designed to prepare income assistance clients for the job market.

Today, the G.R.E.A.T. program recognizes the accomplishments of its pilot classes in Kugluktuk, Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. Twenty students are graduating, and family, friends, staff and key supporters are joining the celebrations.

“Not only does this program exemplify successful collaboration between divisions, but it also shows how much people can accomplish when we believe in one another, support one another, and receive the tools, training and mentorship to go beyond our own expectations,” said Minister of Family Services George Kuksuk. “This program has proven that Nunavummiut are keen to work, move towards financial independence, and make meaningful contributions to their communities.” Graduates can pursue more training and education, so they can transition off income assistance and get long-term employment.

The program combines course content on personal portfolio development, essential skills and work readiness. A two-week on-the-job work experience is also included, and one student recently finished a work placement with the Career Development Division at the Department of Family Services. Instructors in all three programs praised the peer-to-peer support and dedication they witnessed in the classrooms.

Family Services and Nunavut Arctic College are offering the program in other communities in January 2016, including Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Baker Lake and Gjoa Haven. Income assistance clients who select G.R.E.A.T. as their productive choice option may be eligible for the program. For more information, contact the income assistance worker in your community. For contact information, visit: <http://gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/income-assistance>.

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