

*The Labour Market Monitor is an overview of labour market information for the **Northwest Ontario Economic Region** which includes the districts of Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Kenora. The Labour Market Monitor is a monthly report focusing on labour market information produced by Ontario Region, Service Canada Labour Market and Socio-Economic Information Directorate. For further information contact us at: [lmi-imt@workingincanada.gc.ca](mailto:lmi-imt@workingincanada.gc.ca)*

### **Labour Force Trends**

Employment in the Northwest Ontario economic region increased by 2,400 from August 2010 to August 2011 following 12 consecutive months of year-over-year declines. All job gains were in full-time employment (+4,500), reduced by part-time employment losses (-2,200). During this period, more people looked for work leading to an increase in the size of the labour force. The number of unemployed people fell by 1,000, causing the unemployment rate to decline from 8.1% in August 2010 to 7.0% in August 2011. Over the same period, the provincial unemployment rate declined from 9.1% to 8.1%.

For more information, please visit the Statistics Canada website at:  
<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/lfss05d-eng.htm>

### **Labour Market News by Industry**

#### **Arts, Entertainment and Recreation**

The Government of Ontario announced nearly \$1 million in funding through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation's (NOHFC) Infrastructure and Community Development Program for a new eco-friendly waterfront centre in Red Rock. An additional \$202,823 is being provided through the Rural Economic Development (RED) program to assist with design and engineering costs. Local wood and straw bale insulation will be used in the construction of the 6,000-square-foot centre,

providing amenities for marina users as well as a restaurant and retail business. Construction is expected to begin in September, creating seven jobs in the community.

#### **Business, Building and Support Services**

Aamikkowiish Non-Profit Housing Inc. under the First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban and Rural Housing (FIMUR) Rental Component Program and in partnership with Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) and the Government of Ontario, announced \$2.9 million in funding for 17 transitional housing units in Kenora. The homes will be primarily for off-reserve Aboriginal women and children. The project is expected to create nearly 40 local jobs.

#### **Construction**

Taranis Contracting Group Ltd. was awarded a \$4.9-million contract to resurface 14 kilometres of Highway 61 south of Thunder Bay. Construction is expected to be completed in October and will create about 35 local jobs.

Pioneer Construction Inc. was awarded a \$4.1-million contract to resurface 18 kilometres of Highway 11 east of Rainy River. The contract includes paving at the local Canada Border Services Agency facility. Construction is expected to be completed in October and will create about 28 jobs in the community.

The Government of Ontario announced more than \$4.6 million in funding through the NOHFC's Infrastructure and Community Development, Northern Energy and Emerging Technology programs for projects within the district of Kenora. The following nine projects are aimed at improving infrastructure, the use of clean energy and modern technology, and will create approximately 45 new jobs:

- The Municipality of Sioux Lookout will renovate and upgrade a former hotel into a cultural centre for youth and arts.
- North Caribou First Nation, Wabaseemoon First Nation, and Deer Lake First Nation will each build a new community centre or multipurpose facility for economic and cultural

activities within their respective communities.

- Sachigo Lake First Nation will create a business centre that will include a motel, restaurant, laundromat and additional office space for several businesses.
- Pikangikum First Nation's Whitefeather Forest Management Corp. will develop a business plan for a sawmill operation in Red Lake.
- Dorsey Contracting Inc. and Slate Falls Outposts of Kenora will install renewable energy systems to their buildings.
- The City of Kenora will create a new amphitheatre at the city's harbour-front.
- The Keewaytinook Okimakanak First Nation Tribal Council will expand broadband network services to five First Nation Communities through its Kuhkenah Network.

### **Forestry**

AbitibiBowater Inc. announced a \$32-million investment plan to reopen and upgrade the company's idle sawmill in Ignace. Construction is expected to take place over the next two years, creating 90 jobs in the facility and an additional 80 harvesting jobs.

*Note: In preparing this bulletin, Service Canada has taken care to provide clients with labour market information from reliable sources that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since the bulletin was published. Readers are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this bulletin does not necessarily reflect official policies of Service Canada.*