

## Vocational Training Centre

Jurisdiction: First Nations/INAC/QC  
Level: K-12

Contact: Willi Ottereyes  
Theme: Curriculum

### Description of Practice:

In 2005, the Cree School Board opened a vocational training centre to meet the training needs, and improve the employability, of students who reside in northern Quebec Cree communities.

### Background:

Northern communities often suffer from their remote situation in part because of a lack of quality infrastructure. Educational and social facilities play a great role in the development of a feeling of solidarity and pride, and enhance the physical and moral health of the local inhabitants. As well, the availability of technical and vocational training plays a decisive role in making sure that adequate training is available for jobs that are in demand.

To address this situation, the Cree school board has been working with its communities and schools to make vocational training more accessible. In 2005, these efforts culminated with the opening of a new vocational training centre in the municipality of Waswanipi.

### Development:

Until June 2005, the Cree school board was offering vocational training programs only in the communities of Chisasibi and Mistissini. In 2004, the Cree School Board began construction of a student residence, teachers' residences and a new vocational training centre. The facilities opened in September 2005. The centre is a modern facility consisting of 4,300 square meters. It includes a library, computer facilities and four large shop areas for mechanics, building construction, industrial maintenance, and electricity and mechanics.

### Evidence:

In early 2006, 49 students from the 9 Cree communities were studying at the new training centre in the following programs: hairdressing, accounting, carpentry, and light vehicle mechanics.

As of spring 2006, the following programs were added to the list: plumbing and heating, homecare and family and social assistance, computer support, and professional cooking.

Further information:

Cree School Board: <http://www.cscree.qc.ca/Vocational/Vocational1.htm>  
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