

Sachigo Lake First Nation

Pre Apprenticeship Electrical Course Presentation:

History:

Community expressed a need for electrical training program in the past. Houses and buildings have faulty electrical wiring especially older units. In the year of 2013, one band house burnt down due to electrical related problems. Residents that were dwelling in that house quickly made their escape unharmed. Elderly couple related their concerns as well about their living room receptacles and living room lights blinking constantly. For safety reasons they decided to leave the living room breaker off since from 1987. When the 2016 electrical pre-apprenticeship course commenced, their house was the first to be attended to as per their request which was on the third week of the training. Their breaker is now on after more than twenty years.

Last electrical training course was implemented in the community back in November 1979.

Chief and Council made a priority to ensure community needs will be met and began the process of searching for funds and trade school for electrical training course. On one of the trips the chief and council made this past summer, they ran into a company that specialized in electrical pre apprenticeship courses, "Rolf Trading School". Chief Tait met with him in regards to electrical training for Sachigo Lake, conclusion of the meeting was Rolf Trading School had previously worked for remote communities and has since established a sound, working relationships with First Nation communities that are located north of Sioux Lookout. Chief and Council felt that Rolf Trading School had the tools including experience to help Sachigo Lake First Nation deliver a Pre Apprenticeship Electrical course to local members so they can upgrade their skills in the area of electrical field.

When CMHC came into the community to meet Sachigo Chief and Council, Chief Tait identified a need for electrical apprenticeship course for Sachigo Lake First Nation and requested that CMHC fund the project along with the one new house unit. Electrical Trainees would be responsible to wire up the new house as part of the training course. Proposal was developed by Economic Development Officer and relayed to Trade school for his opinion and once he felt it was good to go, Chief and Council approved and shipped it to CMHC consultant based in Thunder Bay.

News that was received generated excitement in the community, local members had expressed a desire for electrical upgrade training immediately submitted their letters of interest along with their resumes.

Chief and Council authorized Economic Development Officer Dean Beardy to oversee the project, to implement work plans, ensure goals and objectives are being met.

Wise choice of selections were made by Sachigo Lake First Nation, these individuals that were accepted for this course displayed commitment and eagerness to learn more, they were the hardest working crews in the community, they were always kept busy and never missed their assignments.

Progress Report:

Weekly reports and photos were submitted on weekly basis to Rolf and Sachigo Lake First Nation as well as on-line.

Harvey Sagle is a master electrician for many years; he arrived in Sachigo Lake with great enthusiasm, eager to meet his students and wanted to get underway with introduction of the program and subjects.

The first three weeks of the program was spent in classroom, with courses covering everything from band voltages, receptacles, lightings, wiring, GFCI's and even built a test panel for circuits which was also utilized by 40" Anniversary Committee during a week of celebrations at the end of July.

Classroom sessions continued to lay out readings and understanding what each symbols meant. The hands on learning that was also provided by the instructor enabled the participants to gain confidence.

After the successful completion of several service calls to residents more and more community members called in for their services, Harvey and his crew would go inspect the house unit, bedrooms and figure out what is needed to fix the faulty electrical related problem.

Besides doing house service calls, the electrical program trainees, under a watchful eye and supervision of the master electrician, assisted the local electrician with his responsibilities hooking up, laying out wiring new house units in the community. Local electrician welcomed the opportunity in providing materials for the locals that needed newer materials, receptacles, etc for their houses.

Community Service providers such as Water Treatment Plant, Water Truck Garage, Local Gas Bar, Community outdoor stage and lights, light shed all utilized the electrical apprenticeship trainees to inspect their units and replace faulty equipment with safer equipment provided by the department.

Reviewing the classroom sessions and instructions, participants did not have difficulty understanding the electrical layout drawings for one unit; they went and completed what the local electrician wanted them to do.

New house units that were built this summer, electrical trainees had key roles in wiring up the units, receptacles, breakers, and also were on hand working alongside local electrician.

After week twelve, Sachigo Lake First Nation felt a need to extend the program for another four weeks so proposal was adjusted and materials revised. CMHC fully approved request out forth by Chief and Council.

Community Benefits:

Service calls -

Replaced baseboard heaters, installed smoke alarms, repaired a three way switch, installed new bathroom lights, repair living room lights that was shortening, mast and meter panel, installed new outdoor receptacles and light, installed ceiling fan, installed receptacles for a freeze, installed light at shed, repaired electrical wires, added new outlets and lights at two community fields, installed new jet pumps, new fans, wired up band shed, tested electrical installations at new house units that this crew worked, installed a cb panel at one of the older house units, installed 25 receptacles at the water truck garage and added new fluorescent at several buildings and installed new hot water tank Trainees also made resident inspections when requested by several community members.

New Units -

Electrical layouts, installations of receptacles, jet pump installation, hot water tanks, grounding wires, amp circuit installations, electrical box installations, testing all the units that they assisted the local electrician on. Community House coordinator and local electrician were very happy with th work that the electrical trainees did which passed the inspectors view.

Towards the end of the program, Harvey Sagle master electrician began to divide his students for service calls. Service calls were coming regularly and with two groups divided service was completed faster, and I as a program coordinator never received any complaints at all for the excellent work that they performed.

Week 16 was a wrap week, service calls kept coming in and Harvey Sagle did an excellent job in directing his students in two groups and managed to provide time.

Chief and Council are very pleased with the results, luncheon was held on November 3 with the participants getting their certifications.

Outcome measures:

Sachigo Lake First Nation was pleased with the Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship course. Participants that were selected to be on the program showed commitment, skill, professionalism and willingness to learn the topics and subjects covered by the instructor. Absenteeism and tardiness was corrected at the beginning.

Community members fully utilized the participants, reports received were all positive.

Sachigo Lake First Nation now has six trainees that possess the knowledge of an electrician. They will be hired for their services next year for the twelve units that will be built here next summer.

Power Grid Line Company that is forecasted to be headed this way in near future, Company will be advised to hire our local members that just completed the course.

Sachigo Lake First Nation encouraged all six apprenticeship graduates to go further education and aim for the masters.

Electrical Pre - Apprenticeship course was a success for the community of Sachigo Lake.

Challenge:

One of the problems in dealing with the Electrical safety Authority is the lack of journeyman Electricians in these communities.

To become a journeyman is a long process but Sachigo First Nation is committed to have one of their own become a master electrician.

Thank you, very much ladies and gentlemen.