



# Marathon Area Action Centre

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## Message from Coordinator

After over sixteen months in operation, the Marathon Area Action Centre will be winding down services later this month. Our Agreement with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities will end on October 31<sup>st</sup> and the last day of operation for the Centre will be October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Since opening the doors on May 11, 2009, the accomplishments of the Committee and staff at the Centre have been significant and I would like to thank all those involved with the Centre for their dedication and hard work over the last year and a half.

Former Marathon Pulp Inc. employees and retirees, along with members of our community, have faced several challenges since the closure of the Marathon mill and we hope the Centre was able to assist in some way. The Centre has logged thousands of visitors and we have a registered client data base of 338. The September Status of the Workforce report showed that 76% of affected workers had some success in finding part-time, temporary or full-time employment, while others opted to go back to school or are registered in other training programs.

For those still requiring assistance with resume writing, job search assistance, interview workshops and/or referrals to other service providers that have been handled through the Centre, we encourage you to seek out similar services at the Northwest Employment Works (N.E.W.) office located at 52 Peninsula Road, North Block, Suite 111, telephone 229-3223.

Personal files containing resumes, cover letters, certificates, etc. can be picked up before October 15, 2010. If you have your own flash drive, we can copy electronic versions of your resume or, we may have already emailed it to you. The contents of any unclaimed files will be destroyed after October 15, 2010.

We invite you to drop by the Centre on October 15<sup>th</sup> as we recognize the success of **Workers helping Workers**.

Thanks again for your support and good luck to each and every one of you.

*Debbie Skworchinski, Coordinator*

## Message from USW 548 President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and committee members for their support in making this Centre a success. Also, without the support of the Marathon Town Council and staff, Ministry of Training Colleges & Universities and all the local businesses, this Centre would not have been possible.

As we moved through some difficult times during the past 18 months, the Action Centre was always there to support their clients. There are many success stories for the clients who relied on the Centre for both moral support and helping them move forward to the next step of their lives.

A very special thank you to Debbie Skworchinski for making the Centre function. On behalf of all the members of USW Local 548, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

*Eugene Reid, USW 548 President*

## Message from the Town of Marathon

*Anytime a worker loses his job, the community also feels the pain. Assisting these workers to get on their feet again gives a community hope. Succeeding gets the community on its feet again.*

*The value of the Marathon Area Action Centre to the workers and the community during these difficult circumstances cannot be understated. The success stories, testimonies and partnerships generated throughout the last 18 months speak for themselves. We are indebted to the people, businesses and organizations that have stepped up and shown that they genuinely care and were dedicated to a focused cause of getting workers and the community back on its feet again.*

*Marathon may never be the same as it was before the mill closed but we are optimistic about our future and the opportunities that it presents. I encourage those affected to use the tools the MAAC has given and remain optimistic for a positive future.*

*On behalf of the Council of the Town of Marathon, THANK YOU to the numerous volunteers, staff and partners of the MAAC and BEST WISHES to the workers as they enter a new chapter in their lives.*

*Sincerely,*

*Mayor Rick Dumas*

## A Special Thank You

The Committee and Staff of the Marathon Area Action Centre would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals and businesses that helped to ensure the success of the Centre. Our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities who provided funding for this initiative, the Town of Marathon for their ongoing support and in-kind donations, and representatives of the United Steelworkers Union Local 548 for their financial contribution as well as providing countless hours working with staff at the Centre to deliver services to clients. Thanks also to all those too numerous to mention who contributed to the success the Centre. We invite all Marathon and area residents to drop by and join us for a *Celebration of Workers Helping Workers* on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Drop in to MAAC pick up your complimentary copy of

### **MARATHON CROSSROADS**

A guide to local and regional social services and programs available in the region.

*Have you found a new, exciting career?*

*Gone back to school?*

*We want to hear from you!*

*Give us a call or drop in to update your status!!*



*You're Invited to the  
Wind-Down of the  
Marathon Area Action Centre*

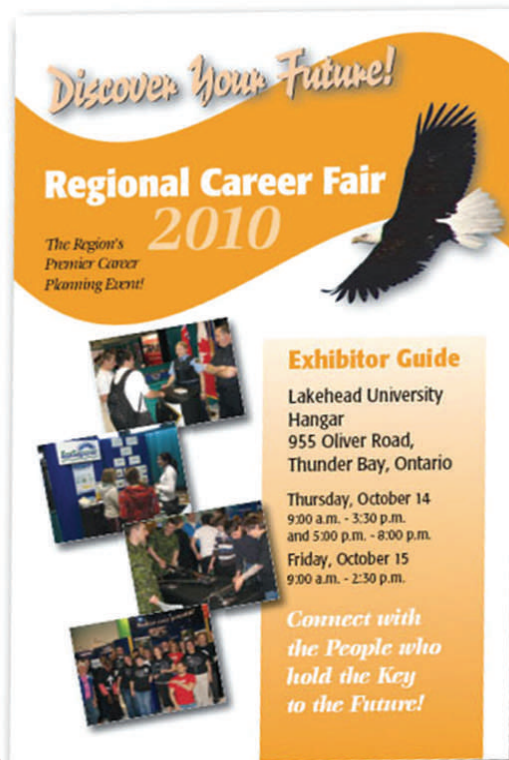
**Friday October 15th, 2010  
Open House 12:00—2:00 p.m.  
Cake Cutting Ceremony 12:00 p.m.  
Lunch will be served**

*We invite you to join us as we celebrate the success of  
Workers helping Workers!*

## Retirement Planning

- Apply for the Canada Pension Plan Retirement Pension
- Apply for the Old Age Security Pension
- Apply for the Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Apply for the Allowance Program

For more information visit [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca)



## North Superior Workforce Planning Board Regional Career Fair

8th Annual Regional Career Fair

- ✓ More than 120 exhibits and activities
- ✓ Skilled Trades Mobile Laboratory featuring 'green career' activities
- ✓ Hands On Zone
- ✓ Employment Ontario Programs Expo
- ✓ Bioscience Workshop for Youth

For more information call (807)346-2942  
or visit [www.nswpb.ca/careerfair](http://www.nswpb.ca/careerfair)



**211Canada.ca**

### What is 211?

211 is an easy-to-remember telephone number that connects people to a full range of non-emergency social, health and government services in their community. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, trained counselors answer 211 calls, assess the needs of each caller and link them to the best available information and services. 211 is also available on the Internet, allowing users to find their own way to programs and services.

### Who uses 211?

Health and social services are delivered by a wide variety of government and community-based organizations and agencies, but finding the right service or program can be difficult. 211 connects callers to the information they need about, for example:

- services for children, youth and families
- physical and mental health services
- assistance to the disabled, seniors and newcomers to Canada
- employment support

## WHMIS & TDG Upgrading



There are WHMIS and TDG passcodes available from the Action Centre. If you would like to upgrade your WHMIS or TDG you can pick-up a passcode and complete the course at the Centre or on any computer that has internet access. There are no expiry dates on these passcodes.



## Ontario Northern Ontario Energy Credit

Residents of Northern Ontario tend to pay more for their energy due to longer, more severe winters. The new Northern Ontario Energy Credit will help individuals and families offset those costs. The Northern Ontario Energy Credit is a new, permanent energy credit designed to help families and individuals in the North who face higher energy costs. Residents of Northern Ontario who pay rent or property tax and meet income criteria are eligible for this credit. The Northern Ontario Energy Credit provides up to \$130 for eligible single people and up to \$200 for eligible families, including single parents.

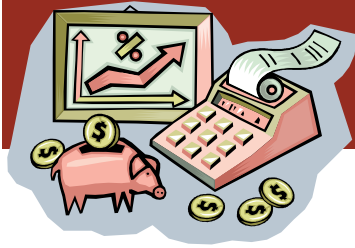
Eligible Northern individuals and families must apply this fall in order to receive the credit this winter. It will be delivered in two installments — one in November 2010 and one in February 2011. In the future, the credit will be paid on a quarterly basis and the application will be part of your personal income tax return.

Applicants, including Status Indians, will be eligible for the first two installments of the 2010 credit if they meet all of the following conditions:

- An application is received by the Ontario Ministry of Revenue by June 30, 2011;
- The applicant is a resident of 'Northern Ontario' on November 15, 2010, December 31, 2010 and February 15, 2011;
- A single applicant with no children must be 18 years of age or older as of November 15, 2010 for the first installment, or by February 15, 2011 for the second installment;
- The applicant filed a 2009 personal income tax return; and The applicant (or their spouse or common-law partner) paid property taxes, rent or other amounts that qualify as Occupancy Costs for the purpose of the Ontario property credit in respect to their principal residence in the North in 2009; or if they lived on a reserve in the North in 2009, they must have paid energy costs for their principal residence.

The maximum credit will be reduced for a single person with adjusted net income over \$35,000, and eliminated when income exceeds \$48,000. It would be reduced for families with adjusted family net income over \$45,000, and eliminated when income exceeds \$65,000. Your net income is shown on line 236 of the T1 personal income tax return, while adjusted net income excludes payments from the Universal Child Care Benefit and the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

The application form can be downloaded and printed from [http://www.mndmf.gov.on.ca/northern\\_energy\\_credit/how\\_to\\_apply\\_e.asp](http://www.mndmf.gov.on.ca/northern_energy_credit/how_to_apply_e.asp) or you can pick up a copy at the Service Ontario kiosk located at 52 Peninsula Road.



# Pensions

Did you know...

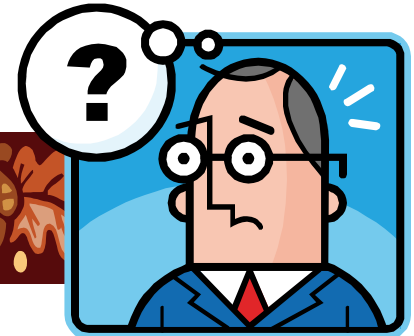
## When applying for Canadian Pension Plan Benefits

One should apply for CPP six months before retiring to ensure the application will be processed in time.

When applying for CPP, you should know that low-income years can effect the amount of the benefit that you will receive. To keep your pension as high as possible, CPP will drop some of these years out of the calculation:

- Periods of time when one stops working or earnings are lower while raising children under the age of seven
- Low earning months after the age of sixty-five
- Any months you were eligible for CPP disability benefits
- 15 % of your total earning years

For more information visit [www.sdc.gc.ca](http://www.sdc.gc.ca)



## Access to Locked-in Accounts

Under normal circumstances, any money transferred from a registered pension plan into a locked-in account must remain "locked-in" and can only be used to provide retirement income. However there are three locked-in pension funds that can be access for those who qualify under specific circumstances.

These funds are:

- Locked-In Retirement Account (LIRA)
- Life Income Find (LIF)
- Locked-In Retirement Income Fund (LRIF)

Applications for special access may be made in the following situations:

- Low income - Less than \$31,466.67 in 2010
- Risk of eviction from your home or rented residence
- Rent deposit in order to rent a place to live
- Medical / dental expenses to deal with an illness or physical disability for yourself, spouse or dependants
- Residential renovations, alterations, or construction to accommodate an illness or physical disability
- Shortened life expectancy of two years or less
- Individuals who are at least 55 years of age for whom the total locked-in assets in Ontario are less than 40% of the years maximum pensionable earnings

To access these accounts you must apply to the Financial Services Commission of Ontario.

For further information: visit [www.fsco.gov.on.ca](http://www.fsco.gov.on.ca)  
Toll Free: 1-800668-0128  
TTY Toll Free: 1-800-387-0584

## Autumn Trivia

- Is a pumpkin a fruit or a vegetable?
  - Fruit
  - Vegetable
- What do you call a full moon in Autumn?
  - An Autumn Moon
  - A Harvest Moon
  - A Thanksgiving Moon
- What is a female turkey called?
  - A Rooster
  - A Chick
  - A Hen
- What is a male turkey called?
  - A Larry
  - A Clark
  - A Tom
- How fast can wild turkey's run?
  - 5 km/h
  - 15 km/h
  - 25 km/h
- What makes leaves change colours and drop off the trees?
  - The days are getting shorter
  - The change in temperature
- What were the first jack-o-lanterns made from?
  - Turnips
  - Pumpkins
- Why are orange and black considered to be Halloween colours?
  - Orange and black are believed to frighten away evil spirits.
  - Orange represent fire, and black represents coal
  - Orange represents fall, and black represents darkness
- Turkeys can drown if they look up in the rain.
  - True
  - False
- Wild turkeys can fly
  - True
  - False

Answers:  
 1. A - A fruit because it has seeds and comes from a flower  
 2. B - A Harvest Moon  
 3. C - A Hen  
 4. C - a Tom  
 5. C - 25 km/h  
 6. A - The days are getting shorter  
 7. A - Turnips  
 8. C - Orange represents fall, and black represents darkness  
 9. B - True  
 10. A - True

## CLIENT FILES



Last day to pick up Client files is October 15th.  
 Any files remaining after this will be destroyed.

## Hunting Safety Tips

- Every time you see a gun, pick up a gun, or point a gun, assume that it is loaded.
- Make sure that the safety is always on and that the barrel is pointed down when you are walking or transporting your gun.
- Make sure that you are certain of your target before you shoot.
- Wear the required amount of orange so that you don't become another hunter's target.
- Hunt with a buddy. If you cannot hunt with a buddy, make sure someone knows where you will be and what time to expect you back.
- If using a tree stand to hunt, do not forget to wear a safety belt.
- Hunt safely by double checking your gear at the beginning of the season.
- Store and transport ammunition separate from your guns.
- Keep both your gun and your ammunition under lock and key.
- Do not climb up or down a tree or over a fence with a loaded gun. Instead, hand your gun to a hunting partner and allow them to hand it back to you when you are in position.



**Remember, if you are not sure,  
 don't shoot!**



# Job Search Techniques

## Find Job Listing

Check online job search engine sites, job banks, company websites, networking sites, local and regional newspapers.

## Focus Your Job Search

Use online job search engines to find jobs by using keywords that match your search criteria and the location that you want to work. Narrowing your search criteria will help you focus your job search and will provide more relevant job postings to review and less non-relevant postings to weed through.

## Connect with Your Contacts

Connect with everyone you know. You never know which contact may be able to assist you with your job search or put you in touch with someone who can.

## Target Your Resume and Cover Letter

It is important to take the time to write targeted resumes and cover letters that specifically link your qualifications to the hiring criteria for the jobs that you are applying for. The hiring manager will be able to see why and how you are qualified for the job. You'll have a much better chance of getting an interview than if you send a generic cover letter and resume.

## Log your Efforts

Keep a log listing all of the applications that you submit, how they are submitted (i.e. fax, email, employer website), the date they were submitted, the position that was applied for, the contact person, and whether or not you have followed up.

## Ace the Interview

Research the company before you go for the interview, dress appropriately, practice answering and asking interview questions and make a concerted effort to impress the interviewer with your skills, experience, confidence and expertise.

## Follow Up

It is important to follow up after an interview by thanking everyone you met with. Also reiterate your interest in the position and remind the hiring manager why you are an excellent candidate for the job.

### OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

Marathon Area Action Centre  
14 Peninsula Rd.  
P.O. Box 1569  
Marathon, ON.  
POT 2E0

Phone: 807-229-1134  
Fax: 807-229-2183

The Marathon Area Action Centre is an initiative funded by the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities

**EMPLOYMENT  
ONTARIO**  
Ontario's employment & training network

COFFEE IS ALWAYS ON AT  
THE MAAC!



Action Centre Staff will be available until October 15<sup>th</sup> to assist you with any questions you may have with regards to your resume. If there is an electronic copy of your resume on file at the MAAC, drop-in or call and make an appointment and we can sit down with you and show you how to make any necessary changes to your resume. We can also offer guidance on how to email resumes to potential employers.

Additionally, we are transitioning our Clients to the Northwest Employment Works (NEW) office and we will be more than happy to set up an appointment with one of their Employment Advisors.

