



WILLIS COLLEGE ANNOUNCES \$110,000 ABORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIP

Willis College, with 11 locations across Ontario, is announcing the scholarship in partnership with TeKnoWave Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2010: Willis College in partnership with TeKnoWave Inc. is announcing the Dr. William Commanda Scholarship to be awarded annually to eleven Aboriginal students from across Canada who would otherwise not have the opportunity to obtain the career-oriented education provided at Willis College. This is the largest scholarship the school has awarded in its 114-year history.

“This is an exciting initiative dedicated to assisting Aboriginal students to develop their knowledge base and interest in environmental stewardship and advance respect for Mother Earth. *Ginaʷaydagānuc - We Are All Related!*” - said Elder William Commanda.

The evaluation and award process will take place annually in Ottawa with many prominent individuals involved on the scholarship board of trustees. Students of First Nations, Metis or Inuit heritage will be chosen based on academics and community involvement along with other criteria.

Rima Aristocrat, CEO of Willis College says, “Our goal is to make a real difference in all student’s lives that will continue to grow, inspire others to give and to create opportunities for a better world. It is my personal mission to ensure that same privilege is extended to Aboriginal peoples as well.”

The scholarship will accommodate one Aboriginal person per location to take one program in clean energy or business. Students will be able to choose which Willis College location they wish to attend.

Since 1896, Willis College has been an undisputed leader in both recognizing emerging job market demands and fulfilling the burgeoning New Economy skill gap. Willis offers diploma programs in language training, business, technology, health, law, hospitality and clean energy education. Headquartered in Canada’s Capital, Willis College is approved and recognized by many various provincial, federal and global certification providers.

TeKnoWave Inc., headquartered in Ottawa, is a non-profit corporation that has been formed to oversee the delivery of Canada’s First National Aboriginal IT Training programs. This creates the essential technical and managerial capacity within the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis populations, enabling the achievement of community social and economic goals, creating employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, and building Aboriginal self-reliance.

Algonquin Elder William Commanda from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, Maniwaki, Quebec was born on November 11, 1913. He was acclaimed chief of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg for over nineteen years. He received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the University of Ottawa in 2005. In December 2008, he was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada and in November 2009, the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Foundation announced his selection as the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

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