



District School Board
Ontario North East

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northern Connections: THVS Students Journey to Moosonee for Learning and Leadership

From the snowy tracks of the Polar Bear Express to the warm community rinks of the North, students from Timmins High & Vocational School (THVS) recently embarked on a transformative journey to Moosonee and Moose Factory.

This wasn't just a school trip. It was an immersive experiential learning opportunity that blended cultural connection, community service, and career exploration.

The Journey North

The adventure began in Cochrane, where students boarded the iconic Polar Bear Express train for the five-hour trek to Moosonee. As the boreal forest blurred past the windows, anticipation grew for the unique experiences awaiting them at the "Gateway to the Arctic."

Lessons on the Land

One of the highlights of the trip was an afternoon spent with Laurie Sutherland of *northern4adventures*. Deep in the beautiful northern forest, students stepped out of the classroom and onto the land.

They learned the delicate art of setting a rabbit snare and the essential skill of starting a fire in the wilderness.

Beyond the survival techniques, Laurie shared vital lessons on sustainability and the deep respect for nature that has guided life in the North for generations.

Community in Action

The heart of the trip was a charity hockey game that brought the whole community together. Students and local players took to the ice to support fellow THVS student Alex Hunter, raising money for him and his family.

The response was overwhelming. In a powerful display of northern spirit, the community raised more than \$2,000.

Giving Back to the Next Generation

The students didn't just play for charity; they also served as mentors. In both Moosonee and Moose Factory, the THVS group led hockey clinics for local youth. These sessions were about more than just skating and puck handling—they were about building confidence and sharing a love for the sport with the younger generation.

Exploring Future Pathways

Education was a central theme of the visit. Students toured Northern College's Moosonee Campus, where they discovered that high-quality post-secondary education and apprenticeships are available right in their own backyard.

They learned about local career opportunities, including the massive Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) Redevelopment Project. This project represents a major future for healthcare in the region, offering a wide range of career paths for local students.

Some students admitted they hadn't previously considered staying close to home to study. After seeing the facilities and hearing about the apprenticeships at Northern College and with local employers, many are now looking at their future through a new lens.

A Welcoming Home Away from Home

As the students prepared for the train ride back to Cochrane, the sentiment was unanimous: the community was incredibly welcoming. From the hospitality on the land to the cheers at the rink, the students left with a deep appreciation for the North and the people who call it home.

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