

## April Wetrade's New Employment with ATS: An NWAC Success Story

By Dan Peters

The future looks bright for April and her son as she approaches her goal to become an Air Attack Officer with the Territorial Forest Fire Service. NWAC was happy to support April as a client and ATS as a partner to help make April's dreams become a reality.



April Wetrade is an active young mother who works for ATS Services in her community of Gamètì Northwest Territories as an Observer-Communicator.

NWAC partnerships are developed to help employers hire Aboriginal women, and are also formed with a retention strategy. In partnership with ATS, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) was able to ensure April's job start was successful.

April's typical day at work begins with her observing sky conditions, checking the rain gauge, performing opening readings, and ensuring the proper function of equipment. Afterwards, April is able to settle into her rhythm of going outside every hour to conduct the observational components of her job while enjoying the beauty of Gamètì.

April's training was completed over nine (9) weeks at Aurora College in Fort Smith NWT and was of great assistance to her, as she states: "Everything that I learned is incredibly applicable to my job as a certified Observer-Communicator." Although there were challenges in her training, April has gained confidence and aptitude in her field allowing her to successfully execute her tasks.

In addition to April's success in her new employment, she is also excited to be working within her community.

**"The best part about working in the community is that I'm close to family and friends who provide a great support network. As an Aboriginal woman, I know I am strong. I was confident I could succeed in the training, as well as the job, and I have."—April**



**Between September 2010 and May 2011, 29.9% of Yukon Aboriginal women aged 15 to 64 years were attending schools, compared to 21.7% of Aboriginal men in the same age.**