

**Minogin Kitiganens: “Gardens Growing Well”.**

**BUILDING GREENHOUSE GARDENS**

The Regional Multicultural Youth Council (RMYC) has teamed up with Alter Eden and the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC) to build greenhouses at Dennis Franklin Cromarty (DFC) High School.

The initiative *Minogiin Gitiganis – Gardens Growing Well* is led by professionals from Alter Eden and aims to involve students in food security initiatives, introduce them to growing vegetables, as well as teach them about horticulture -- flowers and natural plants for a Memorial Garden to remember boarding students who died in the city white attending the school.

The RMYC runs the After School Program at DFC and wants to teach students to grow fresh produce such as lettuce, tomatoes, etc. This will help to feed students fresh vegetables. The NNEC is interested to let First Nations students from remote northern communities where fresh produce is very expensive learn to grow their own food.

Hopefully some will take this up and run their own small greenhouse operations as business ventures that promote healthy eating which will help to counter the diabetes epidemic in some communities.

Other projects involve supporting First Nations youths to grow wild rice. Those on ideal lands and lakes learn how to plant and harvest *manoomin* (wild rice) from Elders and Knowledge Keepers who also teach them land-based skills to nurture and sustain traditional food sources.