Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway

Putting Every Child Matters into action

The Atik Mason Ingenious Pilot Pathway offers fully-funded, world-class flight training in the heart of northern Manitoba to Indigenous people who are inspired to become professional pilots.

Discover more about how you could become a professional pilot with the Pathway.

EIC Exchange Income Corporation

The Atik Mason Ingenious Pilot Pathway offers fully-funded, world-class flight training in the heart of northern Manitoba to Indigenous people who are inspired to become professional pilots.

Have you dreamed of becoming a professional pilot? Exchange Income Corporation (EIC), with the support and guidance of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO), is pleased to invite new members to apply to the Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway, a fully-funded opportunity for Indigenous community members to learn to fly and build careers as professional pilots in northern Manitoba. Following an exciting and successful inaugural season of flight training, interested candidates are encouraged to apply to join the returning Pathway members to pursue both Private and Commercial level flight training. Pathway members who successfully complete all the required training to become a Commercial Pilot will be awarded employment as pilots for one of EIC's local air operators, including Perimeter Aviation, Calm Air, Keewatin Air, and MFC Training.

Flight training can be costly and often requires student pilots from smaller communities to relocate for long periods of time to complete the training required to become a Commercial Pilot. The Pathway overcomes those barriers: training is fully-funded and members don't have to leave Manitoba to complete most of their flight training. To support Pathway members, MFC Training, a subsidiary of EIC, bringsits world-class flight training services to Thompson, Manitoba on a seasonal basis. While members flight train throughout the summer months, they are provided comfortable, community-focused living accommodations and meals in Thompson at no cost so that they can focus on what's truly important: learning how to fly.

Most pilot jobs in Canada are based out of large urban centers like Toronto and Vancouver. EIC, on the other hand, offers local opportunities for rewarding careers in aviation and the ability for Pathway members to stay connected to their homes, cultures, and families right here in Manitoba.

Who is Atik Mason?

Timothy Atik 'Tik' Mason, the program's namesake, is an Indigenous pilot at Perimeter Aviation whose experience inspired the Indigenous Pilot Pathway. Tik is also a Juno award-winning musician, playing the bass guitar in Burnt Project 1, Indian City, and Eagle and Hawk. Tik's aviation career took flight when he received the Bill Wehrle Scholarship from Perimeter and moved to Moncton as a student and then flight instructor at MFC Training. Alongside his role of serving his home community of St. Theresa Point as a First Officer on Perimeter's Dash 8 aircraft, Tik contributes to the Pathway as a flight instructor, cultural leader, and mentor to program members. As one of Manitoba's few commercially-licensed Indigenous pilots, his story of passion, resilience, and hard work continues to inspire people to follow in his footsteps.

What does it take to become a professional pilot?

Aspiring pilots first earn their Private Pilot Licence by working with a flight instructor to learn how to control an aircraft, navigate in the air, and communicate with air traffic controllers. Student pilots also learn important information through academic classroom training, called Ground School. Ground school teaches student pilots how airplanes fly, about aircraft aerody-namics and systems, about weather, and about the laws that pilots must follow in the air. Pilot candidates should enjoy studying and be comfortable with high school math. Once student pi-lots pass important tests in the air and on the ground, they officially become Private Pilots.

Next, Private Pilots work toward their Commercial Pilot Licence. This training hones a Private Pilot's skills and teaches them more advanced maneuvers in the air, while learning additional important lessons and rules during Ground School. This extra practice prepares pilots to fly professionally and for longer trips in the air by themselves.

Finally, student pilots learn to fly aircraft with more than one engine through their Multi-Engine Rating, as well as learning to fly and navigate using their flight instruments rather than what they can see outside of the cockpit window. This Instrument Rating prepares pilots for flying in poor weather conditions or above clouds. Many pilots choose to earn an Instructor Rating, which allows them to work as a Flight Instructor. Instructors gain experience, skills, and confi-dence in the air through teaching others how to fly, setting them up for success as a pilot for an airline or air operator.

How can the Indigenous Pilot Pathway help you become a professional pilot?

The Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway provides Indigenous community members with all of the support and flight training required to become a fully-qualified pilot for one of EIC's air operators. In Thompson, both Private Pilot training and Commercial level training is offered. While most program applicants will be starting from the very beginning with Private Pilot training, applicants who already hold Private Pilot Licences are welcome to apply to join returning Pathway members to pursue their Commercial Pilot Licence this season.

During training, accommodations and meals are provided, along with live-in Indigenous leadership to keep everyone feeling connected, grounded, and on the path to success. Pathway members will even get to work directly with Atik 'Tik' Mason, the program's namesake, who will mentor them from his own experience as an Indigenous pilot. Tik is also a flight instructor and members will have the chance to learn from him in the air. Discover Indigenous Pilot Pathway details, below:

Where is flight training held?

On a seasonal basis, the Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway is bringing MFC Training's world-class flight training to the heart of northern Manitoba: Thompson, MB. From May through September, Pathway members will take part in both in-air and on-ground flight training at the Thompson Municipal Airport (CYTH). Students attend Ground School in a traditional classroom setting, learn one-on-one from their flight instructors during ground briefs, and can relax and flight plan in the program's student lounge.

How long does flight training take?

On average, it takes flight students four months to complete Private Pilot training and earn a Private Pilot Licence. Commercial flight training takes another four months or so, which members can complete the following summer in Thompson. Multi-Engine and Instrument training also takes four months to complete, which takes place in Moncton, New Brunswick. However, we know that life doesn't always follow a linear pathway. Members who wish to complete the majority of their flight training in Thompson can take the time between summer training seasons to spend time at home. Talk to the Pathway team for help finding employment with an EIC air operator between training seasons. For those who wish to expedite their pathway to becoming a Commercial Pilot, members are welcome to relocate to MFC Training's primary campus in Moncton, New Brunswick to continue training free of long breaks. Our team will work with each Pathway member to find the right solution for individual needs and aspirations.

Where do members live while they are student pilots?

During their time as students, Pathway members are provided comfortable, community-focused living accommodations in Thompson at no cost. Members live in townhouse-style accommodations that are fully-furnished with all of the amenities needed to sleep, cook, and study in comfort. Members should expect to share a bedroom with another member of the same gender.

To ensure that the transition to Thompson as a flight student is made as smoothly as possible, an Indigenous leader will live with Pathway members in the townhouse accommodations to provide cultural and logistical support. Members can expect weekly family-style meals and events, help with purchasing groceries and getting to and from the airport, and an empathetic ear for both challenges and triumphs during flight training.

How much does it cost to become a member of the Pathway?

In the spirit of reconciliation, flight training fees, as well as accommodations and meals during training, are included at no cost for members of the Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway. Additionally, members are provided a modest stipend to help with their personal expenses during their time as student pilots. EIC recognizes the importance of helping to create opportunities for Indigenous people to grow, thrive, and achieve long-term success, both for themselves and their greater communities.

Connecting Back Home

Embarking on a new challenge away from home is a big deal. Whether it be for a cultural celebration or just to reconnect with family and friends, Pathway members will be able to travel to their home communities free of charge with an EIC air operator when necessary.

Application Criteria

Prior to applying to become a member of the Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway, please confirm that you:

- Are of Canadian Indigenous descent
- Are a minimum of 18 years old
- Are good physical health and do not use drugs
- Are a high school graduate with an official transcript or diploma
- Hold a form of government-issued identification (birth certificate, driver's licence or identification card, passport, Certificate of Indian status, etc.)
- Have no criminal record
- Are fully-vaccinated against Covid-19, or are willing to become fully-vaccinated before flight training begins

Contact your local band office or MKO for assistance obtaining official documentation, if required.

How to Apply

Fill out the attached application form and send a copy by email to indigenouspilotpathway@eig.ca or click **here** to complete an application form electronically.

Eligible applicants will participate in an interview with the Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway team (including Atik Mason) to ensure their suitability for the program.

The Government dictates that pilots must meet specific medical fitness requirements. In the last step of the selection process, applicants must complete a medical declaration form and participate in a medical exam performed by a Civil Aviation Medical Examiner.

Do you have more questions to get answered prior to applying? Reach out to the Pathway team directly at indigenouspilotpathway@eig.ca.

Applications to become a member of the Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway as part of the summer 2023 class will be accepted until Friday, February 17

Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway Application Form

Putting Every Child Matters into action

Personal Information

First name

_____

Last Name

_____

Date of birth

_____

Gender Identity

_____

Phone number

_____

Email address

_____

Current Address (number, street, city, province)

_____

_____

Ancestral community

_____

Program Fit

Have you graduated high school?	Yes	No
Do you have experience operating vehicles? (cars/trucks, snowmobiles, loaders, etc.)	Yes	No
Do you hold a government-issued driver's licence?	Yes	No
Do you have work expereince?	Yes	No

If Yes*, where did/do you work and what was/is your job?*

What are your hobbies?

Do you have any flight training experience? Yes No

If Yes*, descrtibe your flight training experience and indicate your highest licence or rating held.*

Why do you want to become a professional pilot? What are your goals in avaition?

Medical Declaration

Are you fully vaccinated against Covid-19?	Yes	No
If No, are you willing to become fully vaccinated against Covid-19 before beginning flight training?	Yes	No

Have you ever suffered from the following conditions?

a) Epilepsy, fits, or seizures	Yes	No	Not sure
b) Significant head injury	Yes	No	Not sure
c) Severe headaches or migraines	Yes	No	Not sure
d) Diabetes requiring insulin or other medication	Yes	No	Not sure
e) Heart disease, heart attack, or high blood pressure	Yes	No	Not sure
f) Coronary by-pass surgery or angioplasty	Yes	No	Not sure
g) Chronic chest, sinus, or ear condition	Yes	No	Not sure
h) Chronic abdominal condition requiring medication	Yes	No	Not sure
i) Eye trouble (cannot correct vision to 20/30)	Yes	No	Not sure
j) Nervous system conditions requiring therapy or medication	Yes	No	Not sure
k) Recurrent fainting, dizziness, or blackout	Yes	No	Not sure
l) Kidney disease/stones	Yes	No	Not sure
m) Any other physical or mental disability	Yes	No	Not sure
n) Alcohol or chemical dependence or abuse	Yes	No	Not sure
o) Difficulty with hearing or speech	Yes	No	Not sure

Required Documents

Please include a copy of the following documents, which are required for application:

a) Government-issued identification (driver's licence or identification card, birth certificate, and Certificate of Indian status)
b) High school transcript indicating successful graduation, or graduation diploma
c) Official Covid-19 vaccination record

The following documents aren't necessary for application, but copies should be included if you have them:

a) A professional resume indicating your work experience and leadership experience
b) Proof of any flight training experience
c) Transport Canada civil aviation medical examination report or certificate

The following signature indicates that this application to become a member of the Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway has been filled out truthfully and to the best of my knowledge.

_____
Date

_____ _____
Printed name Signature

Please deliver the completed Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway Application Form and attached required documents by email to Robin Jacuzzi, Director of Aviation Programs at EIC, at indigenouspilotpathway@eig.ca.

Applications will be accepted until February 17, 2023.

Let's get started.

Your career as a professional pilot is about to take flight. Get your questions answered directly at indigenouspilotpathay@eig.ca. Complete and submit an Atik Mason Indigenous Pilot Pathway application form and begin flight training as soon as May 2023.

Applications will be accepted until February 17, 2023