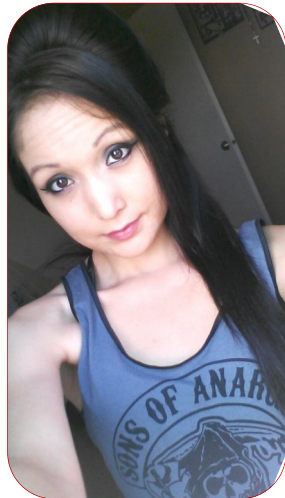


Ashley Deschamps is from the Red Rock Indian Band in Nipigon, Ontario. Her dream was to one day become a truck driver. There was only one small obstacle that got in her way, she had to get her class 1 driver's licence. She applied for a received guidance and funding from ACCESS. She did the rest of the work and pursued her dream. She worked hard and acquired her class 1 licence and now works for Disposable king driving truck. We would like to wish Ashley all the best in her career.

Quote:
 "Thanks to ACCESS for the help with funding to get my class 1 driver's licence. It changed my life!"

Samantha Chickite attended Blanche MacDonald to study Esthetics. She was funded by ACCESS to return to school, into a career choice she wanted. "I never thought I would be able to go back school being a young single mother. I'm more confident in myself & glad that I chose Access to help me follow my dreams."



Quote: "Having someone be there for you from the beginning to the end is very supportive."



ORANGE SHIRT DAY



ACCESS staff at the Friendship Centre EAS site dressed in their favourite orange shirts to support Aboriginal Children of Residential School Survivors Day on September 30, 2015



Haunted House by Adam Young

ACCESS Mission Statement

To increase Aboriginal participation in the labour market.

www.accessfutures.com



Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society
 108-100 Park Royal
 West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2

November 2015

Features

BladeRunners

Providing 24/7 support to at-risk youth
 (page 4)

ACCESS Trades

Increasing training and apprenticeship opportunities in the urban Aboriginal community.
 (page 2-3)

Urban Spirit Foundation

Providing opportunities for urban Aboriginal people on their journey to success
 (page 7)

Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures

ACCESS EAS ACE

ACCESS envisions an urban Aboriginal Community empowered through culture, wellness, achievement and self-sufficiency.



Hard work has paid off for Buddy Cardinal who successfully completed his Red Seal in carpentry in 2009. Buddy then worked as a carpenter for an International construction company on the Port Mann Bridge Project. After three years of hard work to project completion, Buddy was asked to stay with the company to start on a new project in Northern Alberta. (Story continued on Page 2)

Buddy Cardinal at the Evergreen Skytrain worksite



Urban Spirit Foundation held the 3rd Annual Urban Aboriginal Charity Golf Tournament on June 26th at Country Meadows Golf Club. Players had the opportunity to meet ex-Canuck All-Star player Darcy Rota (L) and Blackstone TV drama series star Eric Schweig (centre). Winning team members (R) (See story on page 7)

Sign up now for the 4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament in July 2016



ACCESS TRADES SUCCESS STORIES



Left: 2009: ACCESS Training and Apprenticeship Counsellors Rob Egan and Larry Webster presenting Buddy Cardinal with his Red Seal Certificate.
Right: 2015: Buddy now works alongside ACCESS Trades Apprenticeship counsellors Larry Webster and Rob Egan as a ACCESS Trades Job Coach.



Quote: "In life we don't know how far we can go, just how far we go. I tend to envision what I want...think about it, talk about it, and execute it! You'd be surprised what you can do when you focus, work hard, and believe in yourself. ACCESS supported me to get my Red Seal in Carpentry."

Buddy Cardinal continued from Page 1.....

It was there where Buddy learned that some former tradesmen were Construction Managers. Recognizing the opportunity, Buddy pursued his superintendent and asked for a carpenter foreman position to lead a crew of 8 to 12 carpenters. Proving his competency, Buddy completed that project and was called to a new project in BC with another reputable large construction company. He started out as a carpenter with a foreman position in mind and expressed

this to his construction manager and superintendent. Having already demonstrated his ability, Buddy was given the opportunity to run a crew on the Evergreen Skytrain Line. Buddy started out as a BladeRunner and is now employed with ACCESS Trades working as a training and employment coach.

In addition Buddy has been taking courses at BCIT towards earning a construction operations certificate.



Eagle by Richard Shorty



URBAN SPIRIT FOUNDATION



The ACCESS 3rd Annual Urban Aboriginal Charity Golf Tournament on June 26, 2015 was held at County Meadows Golf Club in Richmond. It was a great day for golfing and all in all \$19,000 was raised for Urban Spirit Foundation.

USF assists urban Aboriginal people with employment and training opportunities, scholarships and the relief of poverty. Congratulations to all the winners and to the winning teams.

A huge thank you to ex all-star Vancouver Canuck player Darcy Rota who joined in the fun and challenged players to a net-hole game.

Eric Schweig from the hit TV show *Blackstone* came out and only through skill and determination lead his team to receive the "Most Honest Team award." It was all about the fun and prizes!

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for coming out and making it the fun day that it was, and for your hard work and commitment. We couldn't do it without you!

Please visit us online at www.urbanspiritfoundation.com or to make a donation you may contact the Foundation directly at (604) 913-7933.





Urban Spirit Foundation attended the Friends of Ferrari luncheon on October 25, 2015 held at the Italian Cultural Centre. Urban Spirit Foundation was invited to attend and to accept a generous donation for the amount of \$5,000 from Friends of Ferrari.

Friends of Ferrari allows kids ages 3-5 to drive replica Ferrari cars in a real race to the finish! The money that is raised goes to local charities.

This year is to be the last year for the Friends of Ferrari race as event creators Franco and Suzann Corona are re-tiring after 10 years of organizing the charity event. Thank you Suzann and Franco for all your commitment, hard work and generosity.



Native Education College Home Care Assistant Program



ACCESS funded the Native Education Home Care Assistant program. This program prepares participants as front-line health care providers in a variety of community and institutional care settings such as home support agencies, adult day care, assisted living, complex care, and residential care facilities. Students received two months of practicum at the end of their training. All six student graduates continued on to complete two post-HCA courses in the mental health areas.

To see other programs at Native Education College please go to their website at www.necvancouver.org



ACCESS TRADES SUCCESS STORIES



Beau Pierre, Red Seal Electrician

Beau Pierre achieved his dream of getting his red seal electrician ticket after studying for four years at BCIT. The funding was provided by ACCESS. Today, he owns 30 acres of land and lives with his wife and 4 children in Saskatchewan, and works for Unique Electric company. He dreams of one day becoming a master electrician and starting his own electrical contracting business. He feels that he is already living the dream. One of his accomplishments is renovating and rewiring the cabin that his family is currently living in.



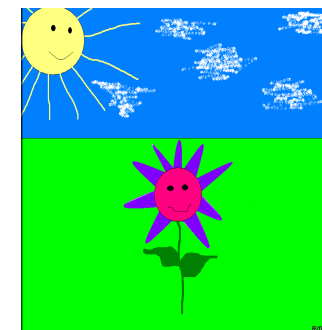
Quote: "I feel like we are living the Indian dream; (on our farm) we got tee pees, wild Saskatoon berries, raspberries, strawberries and wild herbs. We have our Kukom that is 91 years old to teach us the way of our ancestors and eating bannock by the fire."



FAREWELL TO BLAIR

Blair Bellerose has been the Director of ACCESS Employment Services since 2002. Blair has chosen to return to school to study Urban Planning at UBC. He will be missed by all the staff and colleagues at ACCESS.

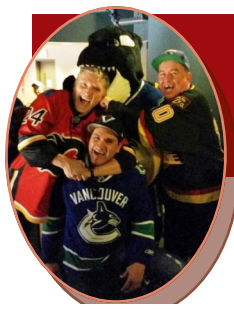
Blair has been a strong member of the ACCESS team and played a vital role in building up ACCESS to become the successful Service Delivery agent that it is today. We are all very happy for Blair and wish him great success in his future endeavours.



Artwork by Blair Bellerose



Blair's farewell party



BLADERUNNERS



WIFE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL VISITS HOUSING PROJECT



Her Excellency Sharon Johnston, the wife of Governor General David Johnston, visited various homeless organizations in Vancouver in September. She spoke with some of the residents and tenants from the Bloom Group Housing project and was very please with what she saw and who she met.

(Left to right: Alex Barton, BladeRunner youth, residents Chris and Melissa, Preston Stimson BladeRunner shelter worker, Her excellency Sharon Johnston, Sabrina Cicansky, BladeRunners Aboriginal Tenant Support Worker, and Garry Jobin,

Senior Bladerunner Coordinator. For more information about the Bloom group visit their website at <http://www.thebloomgroup.org/our-work/affordable-housing/>

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR ABORIGINAL FUTURES



Quote: "I'm going to College; here is my school ID card!"



Artwork by Julie Flett

Charlotte popped into the ESAF office all smiles and jubilant, "I'm going to College, here is my school ID card! I'm just so excited!"

Charlotte is a graduate of the 8-week ESAF *ACCESS to Hospitality Program*; an ACCESS program in partnership with the Training Group of Douglas College and DMH Banquet Services. During the graduation ceremonies, Mark Elliott the Chair of Hospitality Management at Douglas College announced that graduates of this program would be awarded three credits which Charlotte was able to transfer towards her program at the Native Education College.

The ESAF program not only upgraded her Essential Skills but the experience also helped her acquire the confidence she needed to further pursue her dream of becoming a Youth Social Worker for Aboriginal children.

Charlotte is grateful for the opportunity ACCESS gave her to get back into a meaningful and purposeful life. She is on her way to living a healthy and prosperous lifestyle.

Charlotte was hired by the Executive Inn with a full time position that allows her to work around her school schedule. Nothing is going to stop Charlotte now!



ABORIGINAL CADET PROGRAM



who could share their life with me and help me get closer to my heritage and my family.

This summer I was one of two Aboriginal Cadets that were fortunate enough to work for the Vancouver Police from June till the end of August. I didn't know a lot about the program when I applied but I was quickly informed of how beneficial it was to aboriginal youth that have an interest in policing. I cannot thank ACCESS enough for giving myself and other young people the opportunity to take this program.

The fleet staff let you do as much or as little as you choose to, but the harder you work the more freedom you are given. After the two days of cleaning cars and running around you are given the keys to the kingdom by being able to go on the scheduled ride-alongs. The part I loved about being a cadet and going on ride-alongs was that the officers truly treat you as one of the team.

One of my favourite moments this summer was the canoe trip. Before the program I wasn't connected with my background on a very deep level. This canoe journey is such a beautiful experience and really helped me meet and connect with people

Quote: "A huge thank you to everyone who is involved in creating, funding and facilitating the Aboriginal Cadet program. It is such an amazing program and I wouldn't be where I am today without it." by Morgan Farrell



Michael Robert Thomsen worked as a summer student with the Aboriginal Cadet program funded by ACCESS from June 2- August 29, 2015. The program consisted of four days on four days off schedule. During this time, he worked at the Fleet Kiosk cleaning and detailing police vehicles. He also had the opportunity to do ride-alongs with the police officers and see what life was really like for the on duty police officers.

He enjoyed his summer job training program and found it to be quite exciting. He liked all the officers he worked with and they helped to change his viewpoint on being a police officer in the city. At the moment he is considering a career with VPD but wants to gain more life experience or work in the jail as a community police officer first.

Quote: "This program has drastically changed my view, allowing me to see the plethora of benefits that having a career in the VPD offers. The entire program was very extensive, but enjoyable from start to finish." by Michael Thomsen