



Urban Spirit

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

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

APRIL 2007

Volume 1 Issue 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



*UBC Museum of Anthropology Native Youth Program participants 2006
See story Page 7*



Aboriginal women are filling the gap in BC's shortage of skilled workers See story Page 4

Featured Articles

ACCESS Success Stories	Page 2
Kla how eya Employment Assistance Office	Page 3
Women in Trades	Page 4
ACCESS EAS Sites	Page 5
Tree of Life Self Employment Program	Page 6
UBC Native Youth Program	Page 7



"My killer Whale Son" by ACCESS client Mike Dangeli

ACCESS SUCCESS STORIES

ACCCESS client Jason McArthur graduated from the Aboriginal Pipefitting program delivered in partnership with ACCESS, Native Education College and British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) in 2006.

After completing the program Jason received the VanAsep Student of the Year award for his hard work and dedication to training. Jason recently completed Level II and Level III technical training at BCIT and is now a second year plumbing apprentice. Jason's goal is to become a Red Seal journeyman.

'I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my trade instructors at BCIT especially Bill Evans, Richard Yoo, Rob Steiner and Helen Boyce (ACCESS Trades) for being so supportive, positive, encouraging and energetic. They have shown me how to be perseverant and to be proud of who I am.'



*Jason McArthur at the pipefitting graduation
January 2006*



Instructor Richard Yoo and Kyle Morin

BCIT Piping Skills Competition 2007

Aboriginal Piping student, Kyle Morin is a current participant in the ACCESS sponsored BCIT pipefitting program. Kyle won the recent Entry Level Piping Skills Competition at BCIT, which was held April 13-14, 2007. Classmate Vidal Bruyere was also selected to compete, both did an incredible job. Kyle competed against eight other students to claim top honours. The grand prize included one-year tuition fee, and piping tools. Students were tested on a piping project, built from a drawing, to exact measurement.

The judging committee was made up of municipal and city inspectors. There are currently ten Aboriginal students in the Aboriginal piping program at BCIT. Students will be graduating on May 4, 2007. Congratulations to Kyle and Vidal for their great work. ACCESS also thanks the instructors Richard Yoo, Lorne Sweet and the staff at the BCIT pipefitting department for their continued dedication to this program.

Wai Wah!!!

Tsimishian expression for "Just do it!"

KLA-HOW-EYA EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Kla-how-eya Employment Services (KES) provides assistance to Aboriginal people making the transition to employment or training through services located in an Employment Resource Centre located at Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Centre of Surrey Aboriginal Cultural Society in Surrey, British Columbia. The Centre has established a solid reputation in the community for assisting Aboriginal people in developing and implementing an action plan that will help them achieve their employment goals.

Resources that are available include a classroom with 10 computer stations, 5 drop-in computer stations for independent job search, internet access, resume and cover letter preparation, faxing services and a full resource library with current employment, job search and career exploration materials. Job boards and job postings are updated daily. Clients who require individual employment counselling complete an intake and needs assessment prior to meeting with an employment counsellor. KES clients are encouraged to use all the resources available to assist them in their transition to employment. KES staff consists of an Employment Services Manager, three Career Practitioners (two Employment Counsellors and one Job Developer), an Intake Worker and Resource Room Clerk/Receptionist. Employment Assistance Services are funded by both Aboriginal Community Career & Employment Services Society (ACCESS) and Sto:lo Nation Human Resource Development (SNHRD).

In addition to the self-directed and assisted employment services, KES also hosts hiring fairs, group interviewing for local employers, employment related workshops and training. Employment Counsellors will also assist eligible Aboriginal clients in applying for funding for vocational training.

Kla-how-eya Employment Services looks forward to continued growth and increasing partnerships within the community to assist the Aboriginal client residing within the catchment area.



*Front row: Anita Wilson, Betty Hearn,
Manmeet Sidhu
Back Row: Kathy Roy, Manager, Peter Boast,
Donna Holness*

Access to Apprenticeship for Aboriginal Women

These Aboriginal women will help to fill the gap in the shortage of skilled workers in BC

Inset are Andrea Davidson, Liz Isaac (front) and Allison Blair



Aboriginal Community Careers Employment Services Society (ACCESS) and Construction Industry Training Institute (CITI) entered into a partnership to provide Aboriginal women an opportunity to discover the world of trades. The Greater Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy generously provided funding for this initiative.

Aboriginal women can play a valuable role in improving labour market conditions by filling the gap in the shortage of skilled workers in BC. Fourteen Aboriginal women are enrolled in this thirteen-week training program.

At the end of the training program, the women will have had two weeks training in employability skills; two weeks training in painting and decorating; one week of heavy equipment operation; and three weeks of the metal trades (pipefitting, welding and metal fabrication). They will also have completed a

three-week practicum with the possibility of entering into an apprenticeship of their trade. More importantly, they will have been provided a safe and supportive all female environment to help prepare them for work in construction.

For further information contact:

Helen Boyce

Director, Trades Training and Apprenticeship.

Telephone 604-980-1455; Cell 604-551-1639

website: www.buildingfuturestoday.com



Brenda Spade and Rachel Fifi enjoy learning new skills

ACCESS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE SITES AND OTHER COMPUTER ACCESS SITES

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
110-1607 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V5L 1S6
Phone: 604-251-7955

Aboriginal Connections to Employment
390 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 2T1
Phone: 604-687-7480

ACCESS/Metis Employment & Training Employment
Services
713A Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 1B2
604-395-4106

Helping Spirit Lodge Society
3965 Dumfries Street
Vancouver, BC V5N 5R3
Phone: 604-872-6649

Native Youth Learning Centre
Urban Native Youth Association
1324 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V5L 1S3
Phone: 604-254-5620

ACCESS/Metis Essential Skills Lab
713A Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 1B2
604-395-4106

ACCESS TRADES

The new "ACCESS TRADES" will provide Aboriginal people with entry to trades and apprenticeship training programs, apprenticeship registration and counseling, and connections to employment.

For more information about trades and training programs or apprenticeships, please contact:

Helen Boyce
Director Trades Training and Apprenticeship
Suite 1145 - 1979 Marine Drive
North Vancouver V7P 3G2
Telephone: 604-980-1455
Fax: 604-980-1465
Email: helenboyce@buildingfuturestoday.com

*ACCESS trades training programs are co-funded by VanAsep Training Society.

TREE OF LIFE

Aboriginal Self-Employment Program

In a return to self-sufficiency, ten new Aboriginal owned businesses are in the process of being launched over the next few months. Each new business is a result of the Tree of Life Aboriginal Self Employment Program an intensive, in-class, three-month course in which students learned the fundamentals of business, including finance and administration, sales and marketing, after completing a feasibility study in the first few weeks of the program. The students used this information to create their own business plans, a necessity in today's business world, which were then assessed by an independent panel of experienced business people.

Graduating students from the Tree of Life Aboriginal Self Employment Program were honoured on Friday, February 23rd at Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Centre. The graduation ceremony itself was a visual and audio feast, with songs from the Tsawwassen and Haida First Nations to a performance by The Git Hayetsk Dancers (wearing traditional regalia), to a speech by Aboriginal businessman, lawyer and author of *Dances with Dependency*, Mr Calvin Helin.

The Tree of Life Aboriginal Self Employment is an initiative of the Self Employment & Entrepreneur Development Society (SEEDS) and Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Centre, and is the first culturally sensitive self-employment program in western Canada.

Funded by ACCESS and Service Canada, the graduates will be taking advantage of Vancity's brilliant "Peer Lending Program," which offers practical assistance in the form of small business development loans.

For further information on this program contact:
Michelle Morning Star Doherty

Cell: 604-626-2559

Email: mdoherty@seedsbdc.com
turtleisland@telus.net

Tree of Life Self Employment Program Graduation 2007



'First Root' graduation ceremony-left to right: Clarence Abrahams, Debbie Krull, Fran Smith, Sunni Hunt, Phyllis Vanderheide, June Green, co-valedictorian Joseph (JB) Belong, Verl (Morning Star) Ferguson and co-valedictorian Merle (Skiljaday) Williams with Martha Johnson

UBC Museum of Anthropology Native Youth Program

When the Museum of Anthropology's Native Youth Program (NYP) was introduced in 1979, it was the first program to offer native youth the opportunity to research and interpret their own cultures in a museum setting. The program has since been used as a model for similar programs established around the world, including Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and across Canada.



Since 1999 the program has been jointly sponsored by the Museum and ACCESS. For seven weeks in the summer, six high school students are paid to work at the Museum, familiarizing themselves with the collection, and learning how to communicate information about themselves and their tradition to the visiting public. This is done through tours, and power point gallery presentations. Under the supervision of a manager, they meet artists, elders, researchers and others, who help the students develop leadership and team-building skills, as well as a deeper understanding of their cultural heritage. The program also offers unique opportunities for the students to participate in the healing circles, attend conferences relating to youth and Aboriginal issues, and explore the university environment. This is a unique program and has inspired many of its graduates to pursue success through attending similar college and university programs, or to gain employment related to their work experience.

For more information on the Native Youth Program, please contact:

Pam Brown

Curator, Pacific Northwest

Museum of Anthropology

6393 N.W. Marine Drive

Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6T 1Z2

Tel: (604) 822-6587

Fax: (604) 822-2974



*The Native Youth Program 2006 participants:
(Back row) Desiree Holmes, Kayla Sparrow, Ricky August,
Dennis Pierre. (Front row) Rhonda Skeena, NYP Coordinator,
Danny Paul, Tashina Lewis, and Pam Brown, Curator*

2007 ACCESS Funded Programs

- ACCESS Trades
- Aboriginal Connection to Employment
- BladeRunners
- Choices-Helping Spirit Lodge Society
- Kla-how-eya EAS Program
- Native Education Centre-West Coast Jewellery Arts Program
- UNYA Tutor Mentor Program
- UNYA Native Youth Learning Centre
- Circle of Eagles Lodge Pre-Employment Program
- Various trades skills training programs
- Summer Student Program

ACCESS BOARD MEMBERS

Community Member

Susan Tatoosh - Chairperson

Community Member

Marge White - Vice Chairperson

Community Member

Jerry Adams - Treasurer

Urban Native Youth Association

Lynda Gray - Director

Circle of Eagles Lodge Society

Merv Thomas - Director

Healing Our Spirit Society

Ken Clement - Director

Helping Spirit Lodge Society

Hazel Cardinal - Director

Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Centre

Cameron McBeth - Director

United Native Nations Society

David Johnson - Director

Urban Native Indian Education Society

Huia Martin - Director

Mission Statement

To provide training and human resource development opportunities that inspire, nurture & encourage urban Aboriginal people on their journey to success.

If you would like to subscribe to ACCESS newsletter, submit an article, or provide general comments, or artwork please contact: elaine@buildingfuturestoday.com Fax 604-913-7938

ACCESS Website:
www.buildingfuturestoday.com

ACCESS is
funded by



Service
Canada

