

# ACCESS COMMUNITY FORUM SUCCEEDING TOGETHER OCT 28, 2016



**ACCESS Mission Statement**  
To increase Aboriginal participation in the labour market.  
[www.accessfutures.com](http://www.accessfutures.com)



## URBAN SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

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

December 2016

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

### Features

#### BladeRunners

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

#### ACCESS Trades

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

#### Urban Spirit Foundation

Providing opportunities for urban Aboriginal people on their journey to success  
(page 5)



*Sometimes I go about pitying myself, and all the while I am being carried across the sky by beautiful clouds. Ojibway proverb*

### SKILLS PLUS PARTNERSHIP

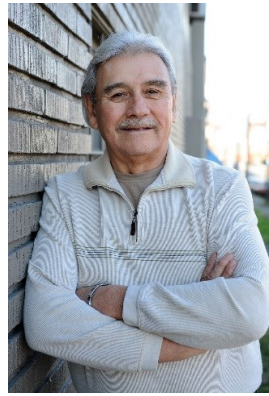


*Quote: "Taking the BSW program was the best choice I ever made!"*  
Larry Natrall "

Skills Plus partnered with the ACCESS Building Service Worker program to provide a 3-day Common Building Maintenance training program to Building Service Worker participants.  
(More on Page 2)



# MESSAGE FROM ACCESS PRESIDENT & CEO



**A**CCCESS December newsletter is a good time to look back, reflecting on achievements and to look forward to see what we still need to accomplish. To date we have had a very good year and I want to thank all of ACCESS staff who have demonstrated that they have a purpose that is important to the success of ACCESS. The clients we serve in Metro Vancouver have been treated with professionalism, caring and kindness in their goal to self-sufficiency through our services. Over and over again, ACCESS staff are doing more than a job.

I want to look at a few particular moments through the year where I have been especially proud of what has been achieved. Firstly, ACCESS completed their annual Strategic Planning Session (SPS) and AGM in June 2016. The SPS enables the Board of Directors to establish priorities for the next fiscal year of 2017/18. I want to thank the Board who took two days out of their busy schedules to successfully complete the SPS.

The Annual General Meeting is an opportunity for the Board to review ACCESS activities for the previous year and to ensure all targets and financials come in on budget. The Auditor also presented the Audit for approval for fiscal year 2015/16. I am pleased to say that all financials as presented by the Auditor were approved by the Board of Directors.

We can look ahead into 2017/18 with confidence, hope and resilience that ACCESS will have another successful year. Thank you for all your hard work and I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. - John Webster

## BR's BUILDING SERVICE WORKER PROGRAM



Vicky Charles, Judy Smith and Danita Bird



Vicky Charles prepares to patch a hole



Denita Bird applies drywall compound to a gypsum board



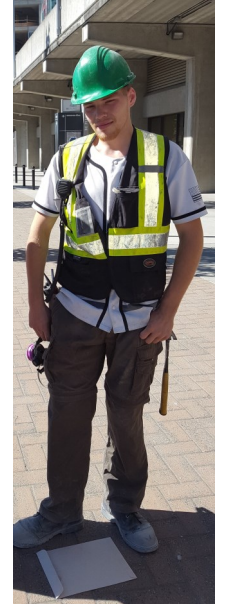
Elizabeth Gee measures surface for drywall

# BLADERUNNERS SUCCESS STORIES

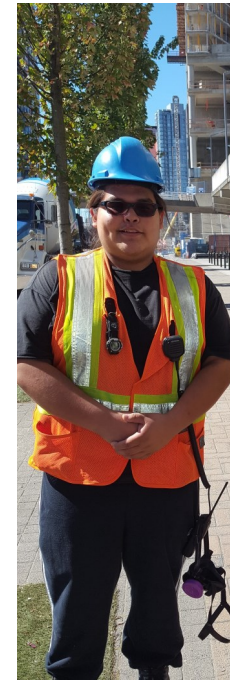


## General Labourers

*"BladeRunners has helped out with getting me a job. Having a job has made my life so much easier for me and my growing family."* Andrew Gabriel



Andrew Gabriel



Kyle Rendell Miller



*"I enjoy being a general labourer, it has helped open up opportunities with different trades. Eddie is the best job coach to have on your side at sites"*  
Kyle Rendell Miller

## Heavy Duty Mechanic



*"If it was not for ACCESS, I would not be where I am in my studies today; they have given me the opportunity to fulfill my career dreams and goals for the future."* James Brown

Call BladeRunners office  
604-688-9116

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR BLADERUNNERS

- No Referral necessary:
- Between the ages of 19 and 30
- No EI attachment
- VALID SIN number
- Out of school for at least 3 Months with no post-secondary education
- Has not taken anything through ACCESS and wants to get into construction work.





## FAREWELL TO PETER NOLAN

Left to Right, Tom Galway, Director of BladeRunners, Garry Jobin, Senior Coordinator Peter Nolan and Eddie Taylor, BR Job Coordinator



**A**CCCESS sent BladeRunners Coordinator Peter Nolan into retirement by honoring him with a ceremony and announcing the new *Peter Nolan Training Room* at the downtown BladeRunners office. Peter has worked for many years as a

BladeRunners Coordinator alongside colleagues Eddie Taylor and Garry Jobin. The three amigos spent years supporting DTES youth-at-risk with employment and training. Peter will be missed by all the ACCESS staff. Best of luck to you in the future, Peter.

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATION – NATIVE EDUCATION COLLEGE



For more information on the Office Administration Employment Training program contact Sandy Moore, OAET Coordinator Phone: 604 873-3761 ext. 326

**T**he Office Administration Employment Training Certificate Program at Native Education College is full time 6-month program comprised of classroom instruction, a computer lab for students to practice their skills, and a practicum placement. Aboriginal content is integrated throughout the program with elder participation, educational supplements, guest speakers, field trips and workshops. Students will receive interview training and resume preparation. Job search support for students after program completion is provided.

*"I am truly grateful for this opportunity I'm so happy. It all made such a impact on my future."*



Laura Dales



## ACCESS TRADES SUCCESS STORIES

Scott Reece

### Red Seal Millwright



Scott Reece on job site

**S**cott Reece is a Red Seal Millwright. He is from Lax Kw'alaams Nation. Scott received his Red Seal certification through British Columbia Institute of Technology. He completed the full apprenticeship program through the ACCESS Apprenticeship Training program.

*"Completing my red seal trade was not easy. The four levels of school were quite difficult. And finding work as an early apprentice was also very difficult. I believe if you have the right attitude and a commitment to work hard and work safe you're going to do all right. I'm thankful that ACCESS was my ITA sponsor as well as my financial sponsor. Their support and guidance made completing my red seal much more attainable."*

## GIVING TUESDAY



**T**uesday November 29th Urban Spirit Foundation held a chili and bannock sale for the Giving Tuesday campaign. All ACCESS offices participated by hosting their own fundraising activities. Proceeds go toward Urban Spirit Foundation and the three CORE purposes of employment and training opportunities, scholarships and the relief of poverty.

We wish to thank all ACCESS staff and supporters for the effort you put forth to make the fundraiser another successful event. Together we raised \$2,500 for USF.





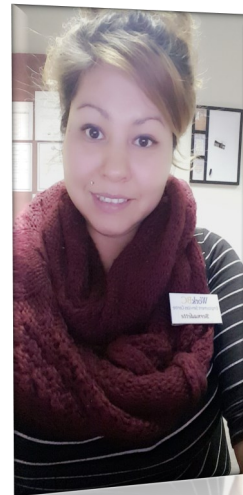
# ACCESS SUCCESS STORIES

Janette Ricker



Dental Receptionist

When I was told that my schooling was going to be paid for by ACCESS, I literally started crying. I felt so grateful and blessed to have this support. I now feel positive, strong, independent and successful. I couldn't have done this without ACCESS. I know that I can do whatever I put my mind to and come out on top. I now have a full time job as a Dental Receptionist.



Bernadette Jacob

Bernadette attended the ACCESS Career Practitioner program in partnership with Douglas College

Career Development Practitioner

"I have found work at Lillooet Employment Center as a Job Developer Workshop Facilitator. Thank you ACCESS!"

## VPD ABORIGINAL CADET PROGRAM (ACP)



L to R: Keenan Lambright, Danielle Warren, Katherine Bandet, Stephanie Mumm.

In 2004, the Vancouver Police Department signed an agreement with the British Columbia Aboriginal Workforce Strategy (BCAWS) and the Province of British Columbia to promote employment and career development opportunities. This led to the development of the ACP, which is open to anyone of Aboriginal ancestry who would gain from this experience. It is currently funded by ACCESS.

The program runs from June until the end of August. Successful applicants will spend half their time working with the VPD fleet services and the other half "riding along" with various sections within the Department. Contact your ACCESS Employment Counsellor if you would like more information.



# The 4th Annual Urban Aboriginal Charity Golf Tournament



Urban Spirit Foundation held the 4th Annual Charity Golf tournament on July 8, 2016 at County Meadows Golf Club. The keynote speaker was BC Lion's player-turned-public speaker JR LaRose. The players enjoyed a sunny day of golf, great food and lots of games and prizes. \$25,000 was raised. Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors and volunteers and players! Funds go toward USF's three core purposes- scholarships, poverty relief and employment and training opportunities.