



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

June 2010



Dr. Evan Adams (centre) visited the the Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers program staff and participants to discuss the benefits of pursuing a career in the health field. The program in partnership with Vancouver Community College is an 18-week exploratory program for Aboriginal students wanting to enter into the Health Sciences.



ESAF partnered with Hastings Race Course Groom School to offer an Essential Skills program for participants interested in grooming thoroughbred race horses. Pictured here are Jeremy Walker and Tex!
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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

by Elaine Clare



Welcome to the spring edition of Urban Spirit. Now that the Olympics are over, we can look back and see that it was an amazing experience for all cultures. The 2010 Olympics will be remembered as the most successful ever. This is due to the people of Vancouver who extended a

warm welcome to the rest of the world and who showed up enmasse downtown at the celebrations and at all the events. We will always remember the proud and tireless Aboriginal dancers on stage at the opening ceremonies welcoming the rest of the world, once again reminding us that we are all united and also very fit! Someday we will share stories with our grandchildren about the events, the people, the athletes, and the hockey! It was all really quite surreal.

And so, now life goes on. We return to reality to focus on our job search. This can be grueling, but sometimes the payoff to hard work can result in securing a job that you love, and that is well worth the effort. ACCESS has new and exciting programs, training opportunities as well as a wide variety of employment services for those who are looking for work or returning to school.

The Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers program in partnership with VCC is designed to encourage Aboriginal people to explore and pursue careers in the health care field while offering essential skills, upgrading, health care preparation courses, and individual support. The first intake started January 4 and ended May 7, 2010 with 16 participants beginning and successfully completing the 18-week exploratory program.

Next intake dates are May 31- October 1, 2010 and November 7 - March 4, 2011.

For more information contact Elaine at 778-783-5031
email: elaine@buildingfuturestoday.com.

ACCESS Trades is currently offering two training programs in partnership with BCIT:

Sheet Metal Program: Start Date April 12, 2010
End Date: October 7, 2011.

Carpentry Level 2 Program: Start Date: May 17, 2010. End Date: July 9, 2010

For more information on future programs contact Helen Boyce at 604-922-4077 or email her at helenboyce@buildingfuturestoday.com

The Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts program begins a new intake from September 3, 2010 to March 31, 2011. Contact Native Education College at 604-873-3772 to register.

Lastly we at ACCESS would like to acknowledge the end of the AHRDS agreement and beginning of Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training strategy (ASETS). ACCESS will focus more on demand driven approaches that are linked to employers, capacity building, and strategic partnering with businesses and Aboriginal organizations and all levels of government.

ACCESS will continue to create opportunities, plan and deliver training and employment opportunities well into 2010 and onward.

NORTHWEST COAST JEWELLERY ARTS

The Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts program was offered at Native Education College from September 2009 - March 31, 2010 and funded by ACCESS. Sixteen Aboriginal artists study the art of engraving silver jewellery. The program included Form-Line Drawing, Metalwork, Techniques, Jewellery Design and Studio Management.

The participants also get an opportunity to explore their own cultures. They had the unique opportunity to design and make several carving tools by well known artist James McGuire. On May 15, 2010 Lattimer Gallery hosted an opening exhibition displaying the students' pieces.



ARTHUR BOISSINEAU-2010 OLYMPICS JOB

In January of 2010 ACCESS Employment Assistance Services formed a partnership with the Four Host First Nations to recruit and refer clients to be hired as site crew, lighting and stage crew workers at the 2010 Aboriginal Pavilion during the Olympic Winter Games. ACCESS provided the Four Host First Nations with a Targeted Wage Subsidy which allowed them to hire six ACCESS clients for this exciting opportunity. One such client was Arthur Boissineau who worked at the Pavilion as a lighting and stage crew member. He recounts his experience.

“My fantastic job as an assistant stage manager allowed me to set up equipment for all the nightly performances by a cornucopia of North America’s finest Aboriginal musicians, dancers and writers. I often found myself so engrossed I was floating above the crowd looking down on myself thinking how blessed I was to experience all these moments. The ending, as expected, came all too soon but left me with wonderful friendships and experiences that have, and will rival anything I may experience in my lifetime.”



“THANK YOU ACCESS!”

ACCESS TRADES SHEET METAL PROGRAM

ACCESS Trades is pleased to announce that we are sponsoring a Sheet Metal Foundations Program with funding received from the Provincial Government's ATEP program.

This program is into its second week of class over at the BCIT Burnaby Campus. Roger Hagan, the Chief Instructor at BCIT for Sheet Metal is very enthusiastic in regards to the amount of progress the students are showing towards their studies. They are already covering shop safety, WCB Safety Regulations, trades math and are right into the shop sketches and reading drawings. Also, they have all passed their first test of the course, "Safety – A Line". We would also like to congratulate and give acknowledgement to Darryl Louie and Ron Kuehlke who participated in the 2010 Vancouver Sun Run.



Darryl Louie and Ron Kuehlke

SCOTT WARD AND LOUIE RATTLESNAKE

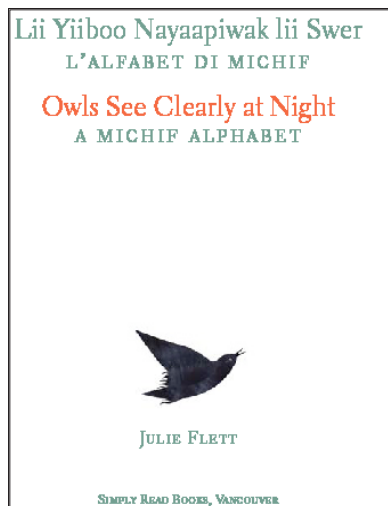
ACCESS Trades wishes to congratulate Scott Ward and Louis Rattlesnake on receiving their Red Seal certification in the plumbing trade. Scott Ward started his training in the first plumbing program offered by ACCESS. At the age of twenty-five Scott completed his apprenticeship and achieved his Red Seal qualification. We are very proud of Scott and wish him all the best.

Louis choose the plumbing trade because he knew once he achieved his Red Seal certification, it would give his family the financial support that was needed. ACCESS was instrumental in helping him get through the technical training sessions. Louie's advice for anyone wanting to get into a trade like plumbing is to stick with it, learn from your mistakes and keep a positive attitude. Now that Louis has his Red Seal, his options are wide open. He has the freedom to take any road he wants and knows he will have financial security for the rest of his working days.



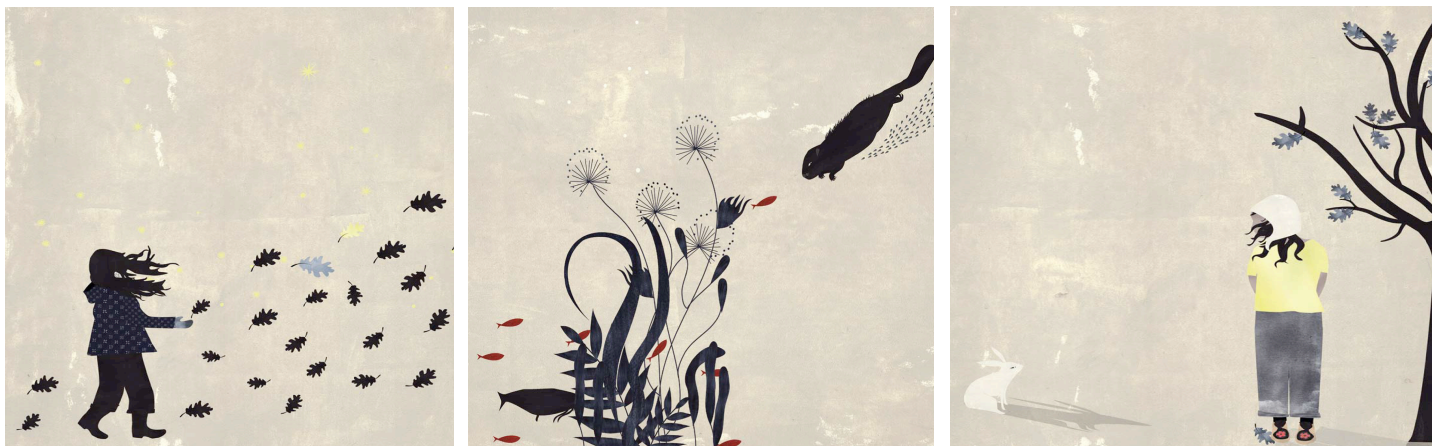
Scott Ward with Red Seal certificate

JULIE FLETT - Artist, Author, and Illustrator



Julie Flett is a Vancouver-based Metis artist and illustrator who incorporates photography, drawing, and painting into her practice. Born in Toronto, Julie has spent much of the last two decades in Western Canada. She began her studies in textile design at the Alberta College of Art. Following two years of studio at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design she completed a Fine Arts degree at Concordia University in 1997. She then attended the Spanonnox multimedia training program in 2003 and then became an instructor for the Wiigit Printing program in 2004.

Julie was the recipient of an award from the Canadian Native Arts Foundation Visual Arts Acquisition Program award in 1993, and was a finalist twice in the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize, for her illustrations in *The Moccasins* and *Zoe and the Fawn*. Her latest book *Lii Yiiboo Nayaapiwak lii Swer: L'alfabet Di Michif, Owls See Clearly at Night: A Michif Alphabet* was published by Simply Read Books and is available at Collage Collage, 621 Kingsway, Vancouver.



Illustrations taken from the *Owl's See Clearly at Night* children's book

ABORIGINAL GATEWAY TO HEALTH CAREERS GRAD 2010

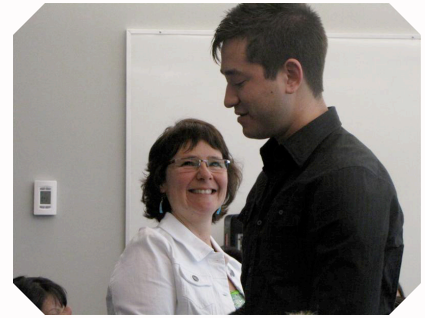
The first intake of the Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers program held its graduation ceremony at Vancouver Community College on May 6, 2010. This 18-week program is a partnership between ACCESS and VCC and is designed to encourage Aboriginal people to explore and pursue careers in the health field while offering essential skills, upgrading, health career preparation courses, and individual support.



Joseph Dunn from Service Canada addresses the students



John Webster, ACCESS CEO addresses the students



Alex Johnson accepts his acknowledgement



Grads share a proud moment



Candace Bennett accepts her acknowledgment



Shawna Sabourin accepts for perfect attendance



*Front row: Sandra Olson
Orenda David, Back row: Candace
Bennett, Cheyene John*



*Elaine Clare, Lorna French and
Brenda Crump, ACCESS team
proudly look on*



*The grads performed a drumming
song with the Gathering place staff*

CHEYENNE JOHN - HEALTH SCIENCES



Hello, My name is Cheyenne John and I was a full-time student and I work part-time as well. I hail from the Interior of British Columbia in a small town called Lillooet. I recently graduated from secondary school in June 2009. I was enrolled in the Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers program at Vancouver Community College. I plan to become a Licensed Practical Nurse within the next two years. I'll work for the required time than go into the bridging course to become a Registered Nurse. Later, I might go back to school to become a family doctor or a general practitioner.

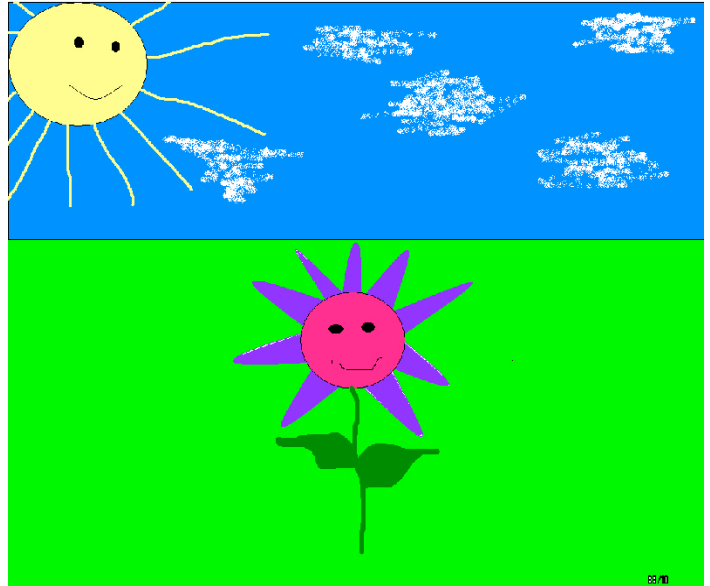
ESAF HORSE GROOMING PROGRAM



Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures partnered with Hastings Racecourse Groom School to offer an Essential Skills program for participants interested in learning about becoming a groom for thoroughbred race horses. The program consisted of four weeks of classroom activities at the ESAF office in New Westminster working on essential skills followed by two weeks of Groom School at the Hastings Racetrack. On April 16th all fifteen participants graduated from the program. Over the course of the next few weeks, 10 participants were offered jobs as "Hot Walkers / Groomers" with more openings anticipated as the racing season gears up.

2010 ACCESS Funded Programs

- ACCESS Trades
- Aboriginal Connections to Employment
- BladeRunners
- Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures
- ACCESS EAS sites
- Kla-how-eya EAS Program
- Native Education College
Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts
- Summer Student Program
- UNYA Native Youth Learning Centre
- Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers
Program
- Pre Employment Programs



Created by Blair Bellerose

Summer Memories

Bring back the warm summer breeze and let it again brush our tanned brown faces. As children we loved to lay upon the grassy meadow in the hot sun gazing at the clouds and creating imaginary animals and shapes.

Summer was a time to laze and be free and feel healthy, to eat hotdogs with friends over a smoky BBQ and race around in the afternoon sun.

Evening comes and uncle brings the old truck along and half a dozen kids jump in the back and off we would go to the local swimming pond for an evening swim and romp.

We feel safe, secure, happy.

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.accessfutures.com