



Urban Spirit Newsletter

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

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*Orenda David is working as a Lab Assistant at St. Paul's hospital
(See story on page 4)*

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Taos Pueblo Drum

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR ABORIGINAL FUTURES

Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures (ESAF) Intake 22 – Front Desk Clerk in partnership with ATIRA Property Management -November 21 to December 16, 2011



Courtney Baker is a young Non-status Urban Aboriginal woman who had limited education and work experience and a strong interest in learning about ESAF. She saw that it was a way for her to reach her personal goal of full-time

employment and financial security.

Courtney dedicated herself to the program and worked hard to enhance her essential skills in writ-

ing, document use and numeracy. She received training in First Aid, keyboarding and computer use. Her applied efforts in these training areas strengthened her resume, confidence and employability options.

Courtney was successful in her interview with ATIRA Property Management Inc. and was offered employment with full-time hours as a Front Desk Clerk /Security Person. Her shifts vary and include weekends and nights. Courtney is pleased with the direction her life has taken; since graduating from ESAF she has celebrated several milestones in her personal life, including a recent marriage and a move towards an improved quality of living.

Courtney is a strong, self-directed learner. She exclaimed, “I found the ESAF staff friendly and helpful when I needed their help”. We at ESAF believe that her excellent work ethic, strong motivation and determination were instrumental in helping her achieve her goals. We wish her continued success and will continue to provide on-going support and encouragement to Courtney and to other ESAF students, past and present!

Press Release: Vancouver, Surrey aim to increase number of Aboriginal people working in government

Vancouver and Surrey are signing on to a skills-development program aimed at increasing the number of Aboriginal people working in civic government. Beginning this spring, up to 12 people will receive training for entry-level clerical jobs in both cities as part of a nine-week program operated by the Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society. At the end of the program, the candidates will be given interviews for a handful of jobs at Vancouver’s public library, parks and recreation department and corporate human resources department, and within Surrey’s corporate structure. Paul Mochrie, Vancouver’s general manager of human resources, said the city eagerly joined the program at the invitation of Surrey because it recognizes that Aboriginal people are under-represented in municipal employment workforces. Last year, city council created an “urban Aboriginal peoples advisory committee” to build relations with First Nations communities. (Vancouver Sun – April 10, 2012)

ACCESS TRADES

On Monday, April 2, 2012 students from the Metal Fabrication and Boilermakers programs were given a tour of Seaspan Marine Corporation Vancouver Shipyards in North Vancouver, BC.



Clifton Fred – Metal Fabricator: *“I was awed by the size of the project the welders were working on. The barges*

never seemed so huge before. Seeing one cut in half I realized what went into its construction. They’re hollow inside. I never knew that before. I always wondered why they can float weighing what they do.”

Guy Mercredi – Metal Fabricator: *“First of all I would like to thank Helen, Rob and ACCESS for making the tour happen. I was amazed how enormous projects can be based on metal alone. Some of the things I was impressed by are how every little cut, weld and detail makes for a huge outcome, not to mention the cool machinery and the size of the yard.”*

ACCESS Trades is pleased to announce that Zachary Tait is our newest Apprentice to achieve his Red Seal certification in the Automotive Service Technician trade. *“I am really happy in getting my Red Seal.*



It took a lot of hard work. My family is also very proud of what I accomplished. They have been always there right through my apprenticeship.

Getting my Red Seal opens up a lot of doors for me.

It can give me a better standard of living. My employment is secure. I will never be out of a job.”

Employer Engagement Dinner, January 26, 2012

Over 200 people attended the Employer Engagement Dinner on January 26, 2012 at the Croation Cultural Centre. The dinner showcased the achievement of ACCESS Apprentices and journey people. We thank everyone for attending and making the evening a successful event.



Photos by BCIT photographer Scott McAlpine

BLADERUNNERS PROGRAM



Daniel joined Bladerunners in 2010. Upon completing his training he was placed in full time construction work. Daniel decided to go back to school and begin his carpentry apprenticeship, so he enrolled into a carpentry class at Squamish Trade Centre. Daniel graduated with his first year carpentry apprentice in January 2012, and then was successful in securing employment with Nacel Properties. Daniel's employer is very happy with his work ethic and attention to detail. The future looks very bright for Daniel. ACCESS and BladeRunners wish him the very best!

Daniel Martin BladeRunners is steadily climbing the ladder to success with an Apprenticeship in Carpentry.

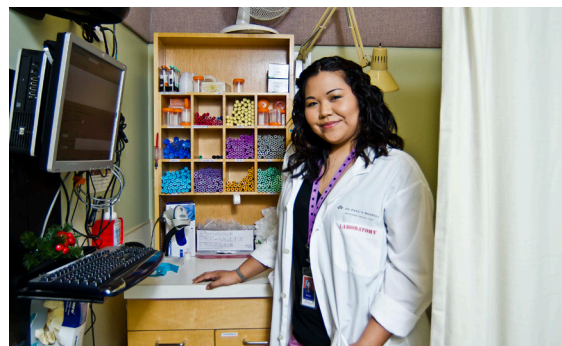
ACCESS PROGRAMS SUCCESS STORY

Orenda David was an on call receptionist when she heard about the Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers program that was delivered at Vancouver Community College. In January 2010 Orenda enrolled in the joint program between VCC and ACCESS. The program introduced students to a variety of health-care careers.

"Medical Lab Assistant looked really fun," says David, now employed as a medical lab assistant at St. Paul's Hospital. "They do teach theory, but also focus a lot of being hands-on. Near the end of school, we practiced on each other. We heard students at other schools just learned from books; when we were hired we already had 60 to 70 pokes under our belts."

The program offered students an opportunity to explore various health careers while working on their upgrading and pre reqs. The AGHC program offered 24/7 support, and quite often that

is what Aboriginal students need to start off and that seems to help them to be successful in completing their studies and moving onto securing a job. ACCESS follows up on the clients for up to two years after completion of the program to give them extra support.



Orenda is now employed full time at St. Paul's Hospital as a Lab Assistant. She attended the Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers program, a health career exploratory program in partnership with Vancouver Community College.

ACCESS COMMUNITY FORUM

ACCESS holds two community forums, one in the Spring and one in the fall. The fall forum was held on November 24, 2011 at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre.

Community organizations, government funders, and potential employers and community members are encouraged to peruse the booths and to gather and share information. The panel of ACCESS Directors discussed the impact that the new Business plan will have on ACCESS and its clientele.

The theme of the community forum was Strengthening Our Aboriginal Community. ACCESS encourages all clients and partners to attend the forums to gain valuable information about current LMI information, to visit and get to meet the other Aboriginal organizations and network. The spring community forum is on May 31st at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre. See you there!



EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT SERVICES

By Blair Bellerose



On April 2, 2012 the Province of British Columbia launched the new Employment Program of B.C (EPBC). This program replaces

previously existing provincially funded employment programs, as well as those funded under the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Development Agreement. The Employment Program of B.C. is offered out of WorkBC Employment Services Centres and their designated satellite offices, and is available to all unemployed British Columbians who are seeking employment and are legally eligible to work in B.C. The EPBC also identifies specialized populations, including Aboriginal Peoples, who may require alternative service delivery arrange

ments to meet their unique needs. Wanting to ensure that quality, culturally sensitive services are being provided to Aboriginal Peoples under the Employment Program of B.C., ACCESS has teamed up with many of the EPBC contractors in the Metro Vancouver area.

ACCESS has been identified as a service provider for 17 service locations in Metro Vancouver, and will be working with contractors including Open Door Group, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Back in Motion, Young Women's Christian Association, Pacific Community Resources Society, M.O.S.A.I.C, and Sources Community Resources Society. For more information on ACCESS' involvement in the Employment Program of B.C., please contact Blair Bellerose, Director of Employment Services for ACCESS, at (604) 251-7955.

ACCESS SUCCESS STORIES

Ryan LeNeal- Certified Red Seal Metal Fabricator

Ryan is a Red Seal certified Metal Fabricator at Frasersview Fabricators and Machine, attributes his success to his ACCESS experience. "I completed my four year apprenticeship, and could not have done it without the support provided by ACCESS. Thanks for the life changing opportunity."

Ryan is currently working towards buying his first home and becoming a mentor. Ryan is a member of the Métis Nation, originally from Treherne, Manitoba.



Robert Holler -Native Education College

Robert Holler is last year's award recipient for the USF post secondary scholarship program. Mr. Holler is a graduate of the Aboriginal Adult Basic Education program at Native Education College, where he has just completed his 2nd semester in Aboriginal Tourism program.

Robert is from the Anishinabe Nation in Spanish River, Ontario.

URBAN SPIRIT FOUNDATION



URBAN SPIRIT
Foundation

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 provides opportunities for urban Aboriginal people on their journey to success. The adversities facing today's urban Aboriginal community determine USF's three core purposes, Education and Employment and Training, Scholarship Awards and Short Term Assistance.

- Urban Spirit Foundation staff attended the Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy (MVUAS) Steering Committee *Strengthening Relationships Urban Aboriginal Partners Event* at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre on February 22, 2012.
- On May 17, 2012 USF held a Launch luncheon at the Bill Reid Gallery. Manley McLachlan, President of BC Construction Association was the key note speaker. Two former trades students

and two USF scholarships recipients were on hand to speak about their successes. The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed the salmon and bannock lunch provided by Friendship Catering.

- USF will have a booth at Trout Lake on Aboriginal Day June 21st. Drop by and say hello. Enjoy a cup of Tim Horton's coffee and at the same time meet the staff from Whole Foods who will be cooking up some healthy food samples. They will provide information on nutrition and healthy lifestyles.
- If you would like to learn more or donate to Urban Spirit Foundation please visit our website at www.urbanspiritfoundaton.com.

Join us on the Urban Spirit Foundation Walkathon on June 21, 2012. The walk begins at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre to Trout Lake. Contact Elaine Clare or Lucie Lacaille if you are interested. Registration takes place at the Friendship Centre for more details check out the the Urban Spirit Website at: www.urbanspiritfoundation.com. or visit the NAD website at www.nationalaboriginalday.com.

ACCESS FUNDED PROGRAMS

- ACCESS Trades
- Aboriginal Connections to Employment
- BladeRunners
- Circle of Eagles Lodge
- Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures
- ACCESS EAS sites
- Visions and Decisions Pre Employment Program
- ATEC Aboriginal Training and Employment Cooperative (new)
- Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association (KAYA) Pre Employment Program
- Summer Student Program
- UNYA Native Youth Learning Centre
- Pre Employment Programs



USF Medicine Bundle centrepiece



Green Wedding drum by Mike Dangeli

Tom Brown, Jr., The Tracker

“We learned to be patient observers like the owl. We learned cleverness from the crow, and courage from the jay, who will attack an owl ten times its size to drive it off its territory. But above all of them ranked the chickadee because of its indomitable energy for life.”

“Vegetarian - that’s an old Indian word meaning ‘lousy hunter’” -Andy Rooney

Mission Statement

To increase Aboriginal participation in the labour market



ACCESS Website: www.accessfutures.com

