



# 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

May 2013

## ACCESS:

Providing services to Aboriginal people in the Metro Vancouver area since 2000

## URBAN SPIRIT FOUNDATION:

Providing opportunities for urban Aboriginal people on their journey to success

See page 5

## BLADERUNNERS :

Providing services to Youth at risk-provides 24/7 support

See Page 2

## ACCESS DAY-November 15th



*City Councillor Tony Tang presents ACCESS President and CEO John Webster with a Proclamation that November 15th is now officially known as ACCESS Day!*

*For more information on ACCESS Services please see our website at [www.accessfutures.com](http://www.accessfutures.com)*

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the 2013 Spring edition of the Urban Spirit Newsletter. The future is looking very bright for those who are ready for a change and who wish to attend an ACCESS funded program. ACCESS has many training

opportunities for urban Aboriginal people and we hope you will take time to check them out, whether it is to increase your earnings or to enhance your present skill sets.

The 2012-13 fiscal year was a hub of activity for ACCESS Trades. First they partnered with BCIT to deliver a Boilermaker foundation program, two Metal Fabrication foundation programs and a Pipefitting foundation program. They also partnered with the Pipefitters Industry College to deliver a Pipefitting program. ACCESS Trades has also assembled a group of their own journey-people for the Provincial Instructor Program. For more information call ACCESS Trades office 604-922-4077.

Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures has a new Employment and Training Competency ETC program. (See Story on Page 6.) ESAF has just successfully completed the 311 Call Center program in partnership with the City of Vancouver and all are now employed with the city. For information about other upcoming programs contact Cori Thunderchild at 604-521-5929.

The Building Service Worker certification course is now being offered. The start dates of the next program are coming up May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup>. You can contact Brenda Crump for more information at 604-688-9116.

ACCESS Programs is partnering with Helping Spirit

Lodge and Circle of Eagles Lodge to deliver pre-employment and employment programs. ACCESS also partnered with Native Education College to deliver a pilot project, The Aboriginal Flight Attendant program. The Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts Program begins in August.

Youth are a priority and The BladeRunners program is there to provide support to youth at risk and to help train them to become job ready. Call BladeRunners today to find out what programs are up and coming at 604-688 9116.

The Summer Student Employment program is set to begin. Aboriginal organizations are funded by ACCESS to hire secondary and post secondary students. This provides them with an opportunity to learn new skills and gain on-the-job experience.

For more information on this program and other programs call today and make an appointment to speak with an ACCESS Employment Counsellor at 604-251-7955 or peruse our website to view our services and job postings at [www.accessfutures.com](http://www.accessfutures.com).

Finally, its official! Congratulations to ACCESS and staff for being recognized by the City of Vancouver that from here on in November 15<sup>th</sup> is ACCESS Day! Way to go, ACCESS!

Good luck with your job/career search and have a great summer everyone!

Elaine Clare  
Editor

Urban Spirit Newsletter



# ACCESS TRADES



*Graduation event on March 22, 2013 for fourteen graduates of the Metal Fabrication program along with staff from ACCESS, ITA, BCIT, SkillPlan BC*

*“Landed a great job. It could not have been done without the support and connections through ACCESS Trades, ITA and BCIT! Knowing key aspects of the trade is what I have in my toolbox. My goal is Red Seal certification! Push yourself and get ‘er done!”*

*-Anson Tse*



*Anson Tse - First year Metal Fabrication apprentice*

*Bird by Julie Flett*



*“ACCESS helped me find a job, helped me get training and a career. I would say they helped me grow into a better person and in a way, helped me to believe in myself.”*

*-Justin Leo*



*Justin Leo - First year Metal Fabrication apprentice*

**J**ustin Leo is a member of the Mount Currie Indian Band and is a first year Metal Fabricator. Justin is 22 years old and is employed with a Fabrication company, The Steel Guys. Justin attended training at BCIT and completed the Metal Fabricator Foundation course sponsored through ACCESS Trades.



# BLADERUNNERS SUCCESS STORY



**M**y name is Peter Sinclair; the name given to me is “Standing in the Shadow.” I am of the Wetsu ‘weten Nation. I am 38 years old. Until I was 19, all I knew was gangs and crime. At the age of 19, I went to prison for life without

parole eligibility for 10 years. I got out after 10 years. It was difficult for me to put a resume together, fortunately for me, construction was booming. I got a job doing demolition but felt that the demolition company I was working for did not have my safety as a priority.

I heard about BladeRunners through my friend Eddie Taylor who is a BR Coordinator. He helped me to get into the program. I took a pay cut from \$16 to \$11, but felt it was worth it. Through the BR program I learned about construction safety and what my rights were as an employee. After completing the BR program, they secured a job for me doing demo again. I worked for the demo company for several months, six days a week doing 10 hour shifts. The drywall company noticed I started work before them and finished after them. One day, they asked me to do something that was not part of my job. A BR instructor once told me that if a sub-trade asks you to do something for them, do it, cause they might be checking you out. I was asked to take down a steel stud wall attached to a concrete wall without damaging adjacent steel stud wall.

I did it and they liked the job I did, and then offered

me an apprenticeship. I worked for the drywall company for just under a year. They couldn’t give me the hours I wanted so I let all trades know that I was quitting. The site superintendent took interest in me and hired me on as a carpenter apprentice. I had my red seal carpentry ticket within 4 years. After having the ticket for approximately a year, I became a foreman with the company. I am now working towards the position of site superintendent.

I am also interested in instructing. I was asked by the BR coordinator to do a two-week entry level program for them. It was an awesome experience for me. I thoroughly enjoy working with youth who are trying to change their lives. It is refreshing seeing youth on the same path that I am on and who are trying to improve their lives. I hope to have a positive influence on other’s lives through sharing my experiences, and hope they don’t have to go through what I did.

I would like to thank BR staff for this opportunity to share my story and appreciate the influence they have had in my life and for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the positive influence their organization is having in our community.

*“Believe that you can accomplish anything, and never let anyone tell you that you can’t do something.”*



*Rabbit by Julie Flett*

# ACCESS FALL COMMUNITY FORUM



1



*1. ACCESS celebrated its ten year anniversary at the community forum on November 15, 2012*

*2. ACCESS CEO John Webster pictured with Board Chairperson Susan Tatoosh, and Board members Christine Smith and Jerry Adams*

*3. ACCESS CEO John Webster receives a congratulatory handshake from Vancouver City Councillor Tony Tang who presented him with a document declaring November 15th as ACCESS Day in the city of Vancouver.*

*4. ACCESS 10-year Birthday cake*



2



3



4



# ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR ABORIGINAL FUTURES



*Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures staff Cathy Roy, Richard Bull, Cori Thunderchild and Heather Crosby*



*Intake 26 - City of Vancouver and City of Surrey partnership for Clerical/Administration program*



*Intake 27- Fabrication pre-apprenticeship program students demonstrate a cultural activity*

Essential Skills are the skills needed for work, learning and life. They provide the foundation to learn a multitude of skills that enable our Aboriginal learners to evolve and adapt to changes within the workplace and to take their place in the work force. Our innovative approach to training is focused on the development of jobs skills that will support continued successful employment and the skills to be self-sufficient.

ESAF recently completed their 29th intake, an Essential Skills program in partnership with the City of Vancouver - 311 Call Centre. ESAF participants spent 12 weeks at ESAF upgrading their Essential Skills, while also building the foundational skills necessary to become a Citizen Service Representative for the City of Vancouver.

Twelve participants graduated and were all offered employment with the City. The graduates will be working with the City to provide information and guidelines to the public on the City's newest "Green Initiative".

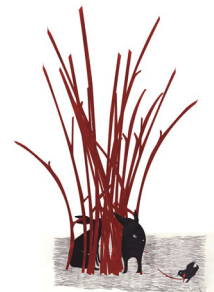
As "Green Team Ambassadors," program graduates will be responsible for preparing the public for significant change in the City of Vancouver's approach to recycling and food scraps composting.

In March ESAF began the 31st intake with a new program model. Instead of working with an employer partner, ESAF has developed an innovative approach to provide a program that will help participants develop a career and training plan. This program, Employment and Training Competency (ETC), will focus on educating and moving participants to a level of competency that equips them to successfully meet the entry requirements for further technical skills training or employment in the career of their choice.

The ETC program consists of 4 course modules including Personal Management, Career Planning, Essential Skills Enhancement and Job Search/Action Planning.

*"Thanks so much for this course, it opened up a lot of doors for me" - QJ*

*Painting by Julie Flett*



# URBAN SPIRIT FOUNDATION

*2012 USF Scholarship Awarded to BCIT student Jim Walton*



**H**i, I'm Jim Walton, I grew up in a small town in the Yukon with high aspirations of becoming a top notch tradesman. The Urban Spirit Foundation award helped me step up to the plate and give it a go! Because of the USF award I am currently a second year

apprentice carpenter. I'm on my way and should be a Red Seal in no time!

The USF award helped fund my vocational training at BCIT for carpentry which allowed me to give

*The Vancouver Aboriginal Children's Back Pack Program is supported by USF.*



*The Kid's Back Pack program gives school aged children a head start in the new school year. ACCESS employee and volunteer Linda Federation helps with the distribution of back packs.*

my studies 100% of my effort. With the help of the USF I came out top of my class for both year one and two which gave me a head start in my lifetime career and path to becoming a Red Seal carpenter.

I give many thanks to the Urban Spirit Foundation and to the people who run it for all they do. They allow individuals like myself to reach their aspirations and to make a positive change in this world.



*The Children's Christmas party was hosted by Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre and supported by USF.*

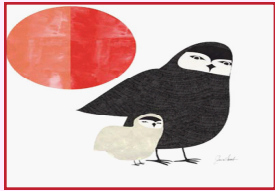


Please visit us online at [www.urbanspiritfoundation.com](http://www.urbanspiritfoundation.com) or to make a donation you may contact the Foundation directly at (604) 913-7933



# PICS AND PANS

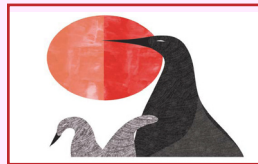
Gift cards featuring The Three Core Purposes of Urban Spirit Foundation



Education and Training



Scholarship Awards



Short Term Assistance



2012 Urban Spirit Foundation Scholarship Award recipient Tenaia Gatland from Surrey School District with Merv Thomas, USF Director

Cards designed by Julie Flett

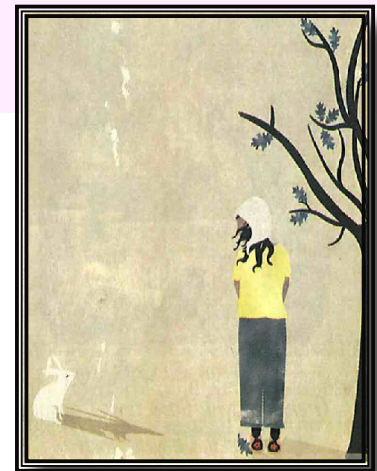
\* Cards can be ordered online at [www.urbanspiritfoundation.com](http://www.urbanspiritfoundation.com).



Hummingbird by Richard Shorty



Wi woma by Francis Dick



Little Girl by Julie Flett



## Mission Statement

To increase Aboriginal participation in the labour market

ACCESS Website: [www.accessfutures.com](http://www.accessfutures.com)

