



ACCESS SUCCESS STORIES



Jennifer Haggarty and ACCESS/Urban Spirit Foundation Director, Lynn White

In 2010 ACCESS funded the Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers Exploratory program in partnership with VCC. Jennifer Haggarty attended the program and went on to take upgrading courses to enter into the RN program. She completed her upgrading and is currently enrolled into her second year at VCC in the

BSN program. Along with her studies she also volunteers with the student union and is now the student rep on the Board of Governors. Jenn spoke of her journey at the USF Donor Recognition event on Feb 26, 2015. She will also be speaking at the USF 3rd Annual Urban Aboriginal Charity Golf Tournament on June 26, 2015.



The USF Donor Recognition event on February 26, 2015 was catered by Salmon and Bannock Bistro. (Centre) USF Finance Director Lynn White, USF Director George Chow, USF Executive Director John Webster with violinist David Rabinovich. (Right) USF Director George Chow presents donor print to Premier Relationship Manager, HSBC Bank Canada, Michael Chan.

GIVING TUESDAY



Larry Webster, ACCESS Trades Coordinator volunteered his services at the 2014 Giving Tuesday fundraiser challenge among ACCESS offices. The ACCESS head office won 1st prize trophy for the most funds raised for the Giving Tuesday initiative. Proceeds go toward Urban Spirit Foundation. Thanks to all ACCESS Staff for supporting Urban Spirit Foundation.

ACCESS Mission Statement

To increase Aboriginal participation in the labour market.

www.accessfutures.com



URBAN SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

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

May 2015

Features

BladeRunners

Providing 24/7 support to at-risk youth
(page 2)

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 7)

Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures

ACCESS EAS

ACE

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



Jennifer Haggarty is enrolled in her second year at VCC in the BSN program. She was elected Health and Sciences Representative for the second year in a row. Jennifer also ran for the Vancouver Community College Board Of Governors and is now the new Student Representative.

Jennifer spoke at the Urban Spirit Foundation Donor Recognition event on February 26, 2015.



Urban Spirit Foundation held a Donor Appreciation event on February 26, 2015. The wine and appetizer event was an opportunity to thank donors for their ongoing support of USF. (Pictured above are David Driscoll, USF Directors Jerry Adams and George Chow.)



To register for the ACCESS 3rd Annual Urban Aboriginal Charity Golf Tournament please see our website www.accessfutures.com



ShipShape Conference and Workshop

ACCCESS received funding from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to host a very successful conference and workshop for over 100 frontline workers on March 2 & 3, 2015. Frontline workers were provided with the knowledge and tools to assist their clients in gaining long-term employment in the marine industry. Information was provided on the National Procurement Strategy, the apprenticeship system in BC, potential skills training needed, employment opportunities and the process of hiring apprentices and trades people by marine industry employers, the government and unions.

*Gary Herman
CEO ITA of BC*

*Jonathan Whitworth
CEO Seaspac ULC*

*Daniel Carpenter
Apprentice Welder, Seaspac*

*Kathy Kinloch
President BCIT*

*John Webster
President and CEO ACCESS*



PINK SHIRT DAY

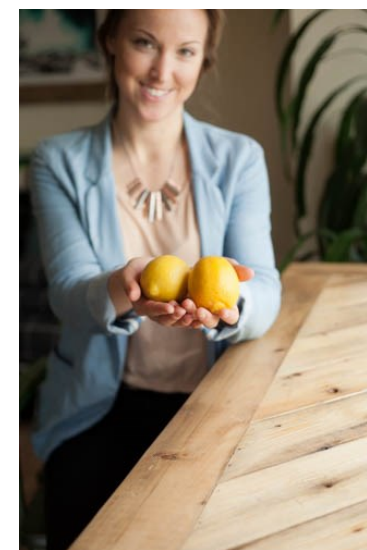
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Staff and ACCESS Staff wore their pink shirts to support Anti-Bullying Day

*November
16-20, 2015.*



Urban Spirit Foundation held two community wellness events on February 28 and March 28, 2015 at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre through funding from BCAAFC Urban Partnerships.

These events help to promote self-employment for Aboriginal service providers and caregivers in the health and wellness field. It was an opportunity for entrepreneurs to increase their clientele by showcasing their services at these community events. Well-known physician and public speaker Dr. Gabor Maté covered topics on Recovery: Finding your True Self and The Myth of Normal: Depression, Anxiety and Addictions from a New Perspective.



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





ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR ABORIGINAL FUTURES



Anna Dragon learns proper serving techniques from Donald Hadaad, DMH Hospitality President and Owner



Access to Hospitality program. Left to right: Maxine Copegog, Latisha Leo, Lisa Moraes, Margaret Duncan, Selma Thevarge, Jolene Johnson, Delia van Engel, Muriel Parnell, Corbin Cone, Jerilynn Erickson

In September 2014, ESAF embarked on a partnership with Douglas College which consisted of two intakes that was focused on the hospitality industry. The first intake started September 29 and ended November 21, 2014. The second intake began on January 5th and ended February 13, 2015. During the conclusion of the first intake ESAF was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their long standing relationship and Excellence in Essential Skills Theory from Douglas College.

The 8-week training program *Access to Hospitality* was de-

signed for Aboriginal persons who would like the opportunity to explore the essential skills required for work in the hospitality sector. The course content included lessons that covered the Essential Skills for housekeeping, food and beverage service delivery, front desk work, cashier and bussing. Learners were introduced to these industry related topics: Providing Information to Guests, Learning How to Become a Leader and Influencer, Guest Check-In Processes, Guest Services, and Selling Rooms & Packages.

Students job shadowed staff in the areas of Housekeeping and

Front Desk Clerk at two large hotels in Burnaby and New Westminster. They learned about daily routines over a two-day period. Learners then had training with our employer partner DMH Hospitality in Downtown Vancouver at the Vancouver Club.

The learners also obtained current certifications in Serving It Right, First Aid Level 1, Food Safe, WHMIS, and World Host. They're now equipped with up-to-date industry related skills for employment and are now actively seeking employment. Out of 24 who completed the Access to Hospitality Program, 12 have secured employment.



ACCESS TRADES SUCCESS STORIES



Steven Wealick is a Red Seal Machinist who is currently working for Raute Canada.



"This Red Seal Certification has opened many employment opportunities. It also gives me a much higher wage which in turn gives me a better standard of living..

Would I recommend this ACCESS training to others? Yes, absolutely!"

-Steven Wealick



Kelvin Pascal is from the ACCESS plumbing foundation program. He is currently working for Synergy Plumbing and Heating at the Trump Tower.

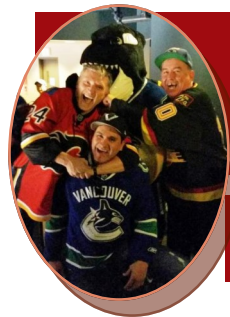


"ACCESS has provided me with a career.. My future outlook is great thanks to ACCESS."

-Kelvin Pascal

ART WORK BY JULIE FLETT





BLADERUNNERS



BLADERUNNERS CUTS DOWN BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

The construction industry has always appealed to Victoria's Jessica McGregor, who started working as a general labourer. McGregor 21, is part of the BladeRunners program which trains and helps find jobs for people between the ages of 17 and 30 who face barriers to employment. It's been operating in the capital region for 20 years by The John Howard Society.

"My grandfather is a welder and my father is a truck driver. Ever since I was young, I was really attracted to the construction trades," McGregor states.



Victoria's Bladerunners Women on Worksites (WOW) graduation class

BUILDING SERVICE WORKER PROGRAM

The Building Service Worker Training Program (BSW) consisted of 4 weeks of classroom instruction including WorkSafe BC Health and Safety Training, Emergency First Aid Level 1 including CPR, WHMIS, Building Service Worker Certificate and FoodSafe certification. When offered, participants had a chance to do a volunteer work placement to hone their new found skills in a real work setting. Out of 63 Participants that went through the BSW Program 38 have confirmed employment.

Participants successfully found employment with some of the following employers:

BC Women's Hospital

Groundswell Cafe

National Building Maintenance

Lookout Emergency Shelter

Prime Building Maintenance

The Cleaning Solution

Surrey Urban mission

ATIRA Women's Resource Society



Evelyn Ferrera and Myrna Quindoza were hired by Groundswell Cafe as building service workers.



Building Service Worker Coordinators Sabrina Cicansky and Brenda Crump



ACCESS SUCCESS STORIES



Joseph displays his Deluxe Seafood Award

"I'd like to thank ACCESS for helping me out with my career changes and assisting me with living support in order for me to attend school."



One of Joseph's culinary creations

Joseph James is from the Chilcotin and Carrier Nation. He started cooking at a young age and always dreamed of becoming a chef. He took the Culinary Arts program at Vancouver Community College where he won two awards: the BC Chef Association Scholarship and the Deluxe Seafood Award.

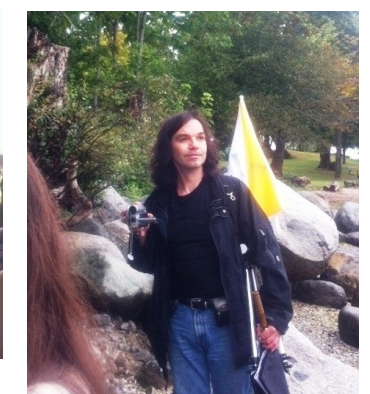
NATIVE EDUCATION COLLEGE ABORIGINAL TOURISM PROGRAM



Takaya Tours visit



Squamish Lil'wat Centre tour



ATO student Richard Schabler

Native Education College delivered the Aboriginal Tourism Operations program. The program offered students the skills and knowledge to seek employment in the tourism industry. The program contained an Aboriginal cultural component as well as an opportunity to complete a practicum which included a variety of settings including Aboriginal tourism companies and non-profit tourism organizations.