



ACCESS SUCCESS STORY



Sandra Olson attended the ACCESS' Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers program in 2009. She was able to complete her Grade 12 and

begin her college education.

She explored a career as an occupational/physical therapy assistant (OPTA) program offered at Vancouver Community College (VCC). She attended an OPTA information session and decided her goal was to become a physical therapist. Through AGHC she was able to take the VCC/ OPTA intro-

duction classes. She completed the AGHC program with a 100% attendance certificate.

She accepted a job in North Vancouver as a Rehabilitation Assistant at Cedarview Lodge residential care home part time and later found a full time job at Windermere Care Centre as a Rehabilitation Assistant. She has decided to enhance her career by taking the Registered Massage Therapy program.

"I would like to thank my family, friends and ACCESS for all your guidance, support and knowledge for a whole new life I've only dreamed of."



Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John Rustad and BCAAFC President Annette Morgan have signed a protocol called "Improving Employment Outcomes for Off-Reserve Aboriginal Peoples".

The protocol supports the provincial Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan to better the lives of Aboriginal people and places a strong focus on education, training and jobs.



Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John Rustad and ACCESS President & CEO John Webster

ACCESS Mission Statement:

To increase Aboriginal participation in the labour market.

www.accessfutures.com



URBAN SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

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

November 2014

Features

Urban Spirit Foundation:

Providing opportunities for urban Aboriginal people on their journey to success (page 7)

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)

Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures

ACCESS EAS

ACE

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



Michelle Parent is a Cree Metis who graduated with a diploma in nursing and is fulfilling her career dreams!



BladeRunners Coordinators Peter Nolan, Gary Jobin and Eddie Taylor ham it up at the ACCESS Community Forum. (See page 5)



John Webster, President and CEO of ACCESS received a traditional blanket for ten years of service to ACCESS.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



"Among the things you can give and still keep are your word, a smile, and a grateful heart."

Zig Ziglar

ACCESS is confident that we will continue to provide employment and training services to the Aboriginal community into the future.

ACCESS assists Aboriginal people with education, employment and training opportunities and works to increase their participation in the labour market.

ACCESS is proud of its achievements. Our clients continue to gain independence and self-reliance.

ACCESS also focuses on Aboriginal youth by assisting them with career exploration, job search and walking them through the process when applying for post-secondary education. This is done through BladeRunners, UNYA Youth Learning Centre and summer student employment programs.

ACCESS staff has walked with clients right from their very first appointment to where they felt confident to go rest of the way! They will continue to soar and move forward knowing that ACCESS is committed to being there for them, to follow up on their progress and to ensure they have all they need to achieve their educational and career goals.

ACCESS STAFF



URBAN SPIRIT FOUNDATION



USF Annual Charity Golf Tournament Team Trophy. Each year the winning team will have their names added

USF held its 2nd Annual Urban Aboriginal Charity Golf Tournament at Country Meadows Golf Club on June 27, 2014. The tournament featured 18 holes of golf, shot gun start, a silent auction with plenty of on course games, prize draws followed by dinner and awards.

Thank you to all our sponsors, TD Bank, HSBC, Kwikwetlem First Nations, ACCESS and all our other wonderful sponsors, players and volunteers who helped to make the tournament a huge success.

See you all at the third annual next June 2015.



Congratulations to the 2014 wining team : New Relationship Trust

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





NATIVE YOUTH PROGRAM –UBC

On June 1, 2014, the inner workings of the museum environment by leading public tours, completing research projects and participating in workshops with MOA staff. ACCESS is pleased to have funded the program each year and is proud of the excellent learning and cultural experience it gives the youth. The skills that they acquire are transferable skills that they can take to their future jobs.

During the summer, visitors were given the opportunity to experience a guided tour led by the urban Aboriginal youth in the Native Youth Program.

For the past 35 years, six youth from the greater Vancouver area are selected each summer to participate in the seven-week program. The interns learn

the inner workings of the museum environment by leading public tours, completing research projects and participating in workshops with MOA staff.

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The Claiming Space exhibition continues at MOA until January 4, 2015.



Students provide cultural tours and information to visitors of the MOA



Claiming Space: Voices of Aboriginal Youth



Video still from Raymond Caplin's animation Traditional Healing; Sarah Wilson.



MOA's Native Youth Program interns share their own experiences and research with the general public through tours of the temporary exhibition Claiming Space



ACCESS TRADES

Don Scott Constant is from Gods Lake Narrows, Manitoba and was born in Winnipeg.

He got his start in plumbing through Labor Unlimited. After doing hard labor digging some perimeter drains for a week, he was offered a job with a local company.

ACCESS funded his first aid level 3. He found it

hard finding work without his CSO ticket so he attended Pacific Vocational School for Level 1 and Level 2 and Level 3 plumbing. He completed his Level 4 and acquired his Red Seal certification. ACCESS funded him through this entire process.

"It has opened up doors of job opportunities."



"Thank you to my counselors and to Mr. Larry Webster, ACCESS Trades Counsellor. If you are a hard worker, believe me there's a lot of opportunity in this field."



Welding and Metal Fabrication students on a site tour at Seaspan



ACCESS Trades is proud to present another one of our Red Seal Journey people. Darren Patenaude achieved his Red Seal on July 21 2014. Congratulation Darren!

On October 16, 2014, Seaspan ULC hosted a tour of the new Vancouver Operations Facility for the ACCESS sponsored BCIT Aboriginal students attending welding and metal fab foundation programs. Students were excited to see this new high tech facility and had a firsthand look at the inside operations of the Seaspan yard. Many of the students hope to gain an apprenticeship with Seaspan and hope to have long term careers with the company.



BLADERUNNERS

In October 2012, a new partnership was started between the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, ACCESS and the BC Contract Cleaners Association (BCCCA).

The training program is for Aboriginal persons interested in the janitorial or commercial cleaning industry.

The course consisted of 3 weeks of classroom instruction including WCB Health and Safety Training, WCB Emergency First Aid Level 1 including CPR, WHMIS, Building Service Worker Training (hands on) and FoodSafe certification.

When offered a practicum by the BCCCA participants had a chance to do a volunteer work placement to hone their new

found skills in a real work setting. 195 students completed the program and 104 are working so far. Calls are coming in weekly as participants are securing work with employers.

Some of the comments about this program from employers and students are as follows:

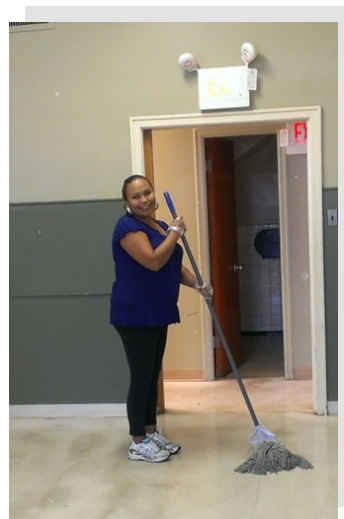
“The training offered is thorough, industry specific and includes some valuable extras needed in the cleaning industry...” - Director and Past President of the BCCCA

“I congratulate you on an outstanding program that is notably professional and transformational” - Director of the Salvation Amy Cross Cultural program

“..we have had the opportunity to use the students as interns as well as employ some of them...our experience has been very positive...” - *Manager of Human resources - BCCCA member*

“We see each day how ACCESS has a positive impact on the lives of their clients and it’s a privilege working with ACCESS’s kind and knowledgeable staff.” - *HAVE café Culinary Training Society*

“When I finished the program I got a job a month later and am still working and I love my job and I thank God every day that this program was there for me...” G, Casciano



ACCESS COMMUNITY FORUM



Haunted House by artist Adam young

Thank you to clients and the community for supporting ACCESS over the years. The forums are ACCESS’ clients and community partners to generally theme oriented depending on current come together to share ideas and to showcase events and employment trends. Featured pics are ACCESS’ employment and training opportunities, programs and services. It is also a time to give and get feedback on to how to improve our services. For more information on the next community forum see ACCESS website at www.accessfutures.com