



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*

November 2009



Toronto, Ontario - On October 23, 2009 the Aboriginal Community Career Services Society (ACCESS), Métis Nation British Columbia and BC Housing were honoured at the Canadian Society for Training and Development (CSTD) President's Dinner with a WOW Award for Training Excellence in recognition of the success of its Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures - BC Housing initiative.



Mask by Joe Bolton, past participant of the Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts Program

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

by Elaine Clare



Welcome to the fall edition of *Urban Spirit*. With the Olympics only a few short months away, ACCESS has been actively seeking jobs that are in demand and continues to partner with organizations to deliver training programs that lead to employ-

ment for Aboriginal clients in the Metro Vancouver area. ACCESS' goal is to see clients benefit as much as possible from the opportunities created by the 2010 Olympics, whether it is in self-employment endeavours, working in construction, customer service or security.

The Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers program is a new program for ACCESS. It offers Aboriginal participants an opportunity to explore various health careers and then receive support to move forward to pursue their career goals. ACCESS acknowledges that there is a shortage of health care workers and hopes to do its part to decrease the gap between supply and demand and increase the number of Aboriginal people working in the health care field.

ACCESS Trades and BCIT have partnered to deliver the Automotive Collision program and the eight trainees will have attended a forty-week foundation program. By the end of this program, students will have completed the necessary technical training and will only need to complete the required workbased training to become Red Seal certified journeypeople. Graduation is on December 15, 2009.

In November, ACCESS Trades staff, apprentices and community partners gathered to honour fifteen trainees who have now officially become Red Seal certified journeypeople.

The BladeRunners program celebrated their 15th anniversary recently by hosting a celebration at GM Place and Concord Pacific featuring guest speakers from the provincial government, BladeRunners signature sites, and past BladeRunners participants. The BladeRunners program continues to provide 24-7 support to youth at risk in the Metro Vancouver and other areas of the province, and the BladeRunners Delivery Agents deserve to be recognized for their commitment to assist youth into the construction field as well as other new and upcoming fields. In addition, BladeRunners received an award from Charities Intelligence Canada for making a difference to the lives of youth in need.

The Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts program began a new intake in September. Sixteen Aboriginal artists will gain new skills in the area of jewelry making by instructor and mentor Dan Wallace. The program is held at the Native Education College and runs until March 31, 2010.

Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures will soon be wrapping up the Call Centre Technician Level 1 training program. The participants have received call centre training resulting in employment at various VANOC sites. ESAF also won a "WOW" award from the Canadian Society for Training and Development for their training initiative with BC Housing. Congratulations!

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

RED SEAL HONOURING CEREMONY



The Honorable Minister George Abbott, centre, attended the dinner to honour the Red Seal participants

On November 19, 2009, ACCESS Trades hosted a dinner for fifteen Red Seal graduates who have successfully completed their Red Seal Certification. The event included family members, friends, dignitaries and community members from Aboriginal organizations and educational and training institutions across the Lower Mainland.

The Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation addressed the grads and their families and honored them for all their hard work and perseverance. He said his own father was a skilled tradesman, and he learned all his carpentry skills from him. He explained that he soon found out that he did not possess the same skills as his father, and chose to pursue another field more suitable to his talents.

The Red Seal graduates who attended the ceremony were Jennifer Azak, Buddy Cardinal, Bill Gowans, Kelvin Johnson, Carey Speck, Patrick Joseph, Wayne Pennier, Scott Ward, Mark Isbester, and Charles Narcisse. Other honorees who were not able to attend were Jody Sparrow, Kenneth Russell, Lee Langois, Lance Perkall, and Ross Demers.

ACCESS would like to wish them good luck with their future endeavours and careers.

BUDDY CARDINAL: RED SEAL CERTIFIED

Buddy Cardinal attended and completed the Carpentry IP Refresher course delivered through BCIT and ACCESS Trades. The course started on November, 2008 and finished on March 12, 2009. Buddy wrote the carpentry Red-Seal examination and passed with a 75% mark. The Carpentry Inter-Provincial Refresher course was 90 hours in length and was delivered in 3-hour sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Thirteen First Nations students attended the course. ACCESS would like to wish Buddy all the best in his career.

“This was a good opportunity provided by ACCESS to gain my Red Seal as a carpenter. My having a Red Seal opens more doors to employment and made me more marketable as a tradesman”



Buddy Cardinal, centre, proudly displays his Red Seal Certificate, along with ACCESS trades Employment Counsellors Rob Egan, left, and Larry Webster, far right.

CONSTABLE CHRISTIAN OLIVER - VPD



Constable Christian Oliver

The Vancouver Police Department's Aboriginal Cadet Program was established three years ago to promote employment and career development opportunities for Aboriginal people within the VPD. This initiative is aimed at mentoring and coaching Aboriginal youth (19-28 years) who have demonstrated a desire to become police officers. During the program Cadets spend half of each work week assisting with maintenance and assignment of fleet vehicles and the other half 'riding along' with various sections within the department.

Due to their success in the Cadet program, two cadets from past years have been hired as police officers by the VPD and are currently working in patrol. This program continues to build a strong relationship with the Aboriginal community and encourages policing as a viable career option for Aboriginal youth.

ESAF/VANOC CALL CENTRE TRAINING



*Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures
Call Centre participants.*

Essential skills are the skills that are needed for work, learning and everyday life. They provide the foundation to learn a multitude of skills that enable learners to evolve and adapt to changes within the workplace.

In partnership with VANOC, ESAF has developed an Essential Skills training program targeting employment as Call Centre Technicians with the 2010 Winter Games. The Essential Skills training has developed curriculum for participants based on their specific needs as well as the requirements for the job. The specific Essential Skills focussed on reading/writing, computer use, oral communication, numeracy and working with others. The program started September 8, 2009 and ends November 27th, 2009. For more information about upcoming programs call Cori Thunderchild at the ESAF office at 604-521-5929.

AARON NELSON - ABORIGINAL ARTIST

Aaron Nelson Moody is a past participant of the Native Education College Northwest Coast Jewellery Arts program and an assistant instructor. The program runs from September to March 31, 2010.



BLADERUNNERS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

The BLADERUNNERS program recently celebrated their 15 year anniversary. The celebration began at GM place with a huge crowd in attendance to cheer on the many dignitaries that were in attendance. BladeRunners participants and delivery agents came from all over the province along with many other supporters of the program. The celebration continued on to Concord Pacific, one of BladeRunners most supportive partners. Since construction began, this site has provided employment for up to eighty BladeRunners youth.

Photos by Bev O'Neil



BladeRunners - National Toque Campaign and Launch in Toronto



Garry Jobin awaits to speak to Sir Richard Branson of Virgin Mobile



Darcy McDiarmid, John Webster and Sean Gaddon, President of Raising the Roof, a national homelessness organization based in Toronto

On November 19, 2009 John Webster, Darcy McDiarmid and Garry Jobin attended the national Raising the Roof Toque Campaign Launch in Toronto.

Vancouver ACCESS BladeRunners is partners with Raising the Roof to generate funds for youth homelessness in Canada. Virgin Mobile is also a major partner in the campaign.

BLADERUNNERS MILLENNIUM PINS

BladeRunners has developed an exciting new partnership with Millennium, the award winning developer of Millennium Water, home of the 2010 Olympic Village.

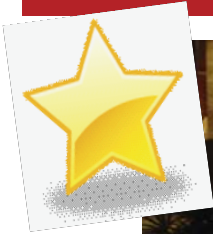
Currently there are three BladeRunners youth working at the Millennium Water site. Featured are BladeRunners Graham Minoose and Jason Laforme displaying the pins. Proceeds from the international delivery of Millennium Water Vancouver 2010 pins will be donated to support the ACCESS BladeRunners program.

For more information, please click on the link www.millenniumdevelopment.com



Graham Minoose and Jason Laforme shown above displaying the 2010 Olympic pins.

CHARITIES INTELLIGENCE CANADA AWARD

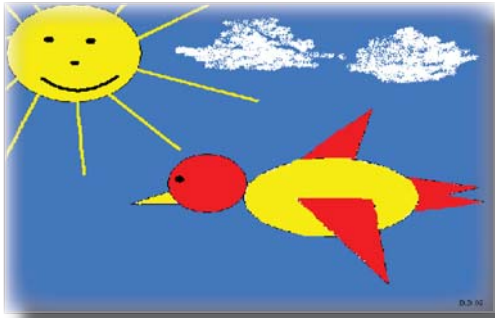


Garry Jobin and John Webster attended the Charities Intelligence Canada Awards Dinner on Nov 19, 2009 in Toronto to accept on behalf of Urban Spirit Foundation and Vancouver ACCESS BladeRunners an award for “top performing charity and making a real difference.” BladeRunners is one of only 32 recommended charities out of an initial 435 researched/screened.

2009 ACCESS Funded Programs

- ACCESS Trades
- Aboriginal Connections to Employment
- BladeRunners
- Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures
- ACCESS/MNBC Surrey EAS site
- 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

Artwork by Blair Bellerose



Once again Fall has arrived and the birds have begun their journey south. We say good-bye to the birds and the warm summer breeze and prepare for winter, much like our ancestors did many generations ago. They would leave their summer homes after harvesting and prepare for the cold winter ahead.

ABORIGINAL GATEWAY TO HEALTH CAREERS PROGRAM

ACCESS and Vancouver Community College have partnered to offer the Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers program. The program is designed to encourage Aboriginal people to explore and pursue careers in the health care field while offering essential skills, upgrading, health career preparation courses, and individual support.

The length of the program is 16 weeks with two weeks reading time. Along with a cultural component, the program will offer participant customized essential skills training, TOWES testing, and certification in first aid, WHMIS, and FoodSafe. There will be field trips and health facility tours, academic support, life planning and assistance in developing a portfolio. The participants will also receive assistance identifying a career goal, resume writing and job search.

There will be three intake dates:
 January 4, 2010 - May 7, 2010
 May 31, 2010 - October 1, 2010
 November 1, 2010 - March 4, 2011

For more information please contact:

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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

