



Urban Spirit Newsletter

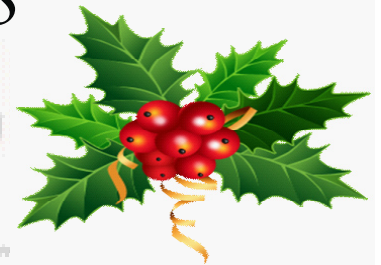
ACCESS envisions an urban Aboriginal community empowered through culture, wellness, achievement and self sufficiency.

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

November 2011



Season's Greetings From the Staff at ACCESS



Michelle Dragon, an ACCESS client, is enrolled in the Human Resources Management program at BCIT.

See interview on page 3



Bracelet by James McGuire
Skidegate, Haida Gwaii

Featured Articles

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Helpful Job Search Hints | Page 2 |
| Client Interview | Page 3 |
| BladeRunners Program | Page 4 |
| Community Forum News | Page 5 |
| ACCESS Trades | Page 6 |
| Urban Spirit Foundation | Page 7 |
| ACCESS Funded Programs | Page 8 |



KEY MOVES TO HELP WITH YOUR JOB SEARCH



Here are some helpful hints to assist you with your job search.

Identify Target Companies and Ideal Jobs: Be specific and detailed in identifying companies and organizations that you are sending resumes to online, through the mail or through personal contact. Identify 5 -10 companies where you would like to work and why.

Brush Up on Your Job Hunting Skills: Tailor your resume to fit your target company. It should reflect accurately what you have done and what matches and qualifies you for that particular company and the position.

Put Your Network to Work: Ask your network people how you can help them, in addition to telling them about your specifics for the job search. Talk to people inside your target companies to set up informational interviews. Remember to make the effort to meet more contacts and keep their contact information available for future use.

Set Mini-Goals and Establish a Routine: Make daily simple goals for your job search so that you will keep focused on the job search. If you are currently unemployed, set up a routine of getting up and starting your "work day." Create an office environment to conduct your search. Think of your job search as if it were a full time job!

Balance Your Mind and Stay Positive: Keep in balance with healthy exercise and eating habits and stay positive no matter how long your job search becomes. Get involved in community volunteering as this will boost or maintain your confidence, and could help to make contacts. Reward yourself with little treats along the job search path.

Give Yourself Permission to be Frustrated: It is possible to be doing all the right things in a job search and still not find a job. It is not just your fault if there are little or no jobs. Review what you have been doing, ask for feedback and look for ways to improve. Ask your employment counsellor for tips and to rehearse job interview skills or to find out about workshops and job clubs that are available out there that could help you in your job search. It is always your focused effort that will in the long run help you find and land that job.

Lastly, remember those 4 little words that could open up an opportunity just by asking, "Are they hiring here?" You may be amazed at the response.

Keep it simple and Good luck with your job search!

ACCESS INTERVIEW with Michelle Dragon

"If you want something, go after it, even if it's asking for a little help sometimes"



Michelle Dragon is currently enrolled in the Human Resource Program at BCIT and is funded by ACCESS. We asked to interview her to find out why she chose a career in the HR field.

Where did you grow up?

Coquitlam, BC.

What are your hobbies or volunteer interests?

Love to take pictures, paint. Volunteer interests are to work with younger kids in order to help them succeed.

How did you hear about ACCESS?

I did some extensive research on the Internet, and called ACCESS and was told to make an appointment.

Why did you apply for the HR program at BCIT?

I chose Human Resources because of my experience at my previous job at RBC, where I took part in some mentoring/training roles, and absolutely loved it. I started to research more about training and what field it was under, and I discovered Human Resources. I spent a few years deciding how to go back to school, and where I was going to go. My first step was typing in "Human Resources Management Diploma in Vancouver". BCIT came up.

I went to an information session and spoke to the Program Head about Human Resources and she made it sound exciting and very interesting. After I spoke to her, my interests for Human Resources at BCIT spiked! My next step was to figure out "how" I was going to do it. It took about 4 months until I had this most amazing opportunity. I found ACCESS!!

What type of work experience do you have in the business field?

I worked for Royal Bank of Canada starting from when I was 15. My counsellor from my old high school came up to me and told me about a "Stay in School Program for Aboriginals." He thought I would be perfect for it so I applied. After I graduated, RBC offered me a job as a Customer Service Representative.

How did ACCESS employees assist you?

All of the employees at ACCESS have been super supportive and helpful when I need anything. Shannon, as my advisor, has not only helped me financially but she has been there for me in really dark times during my first year. She helped me believe in myself, and it was absolutely what I needed at that time.

Did you find ACCESS services to be helpful?

Very helpful! Shannon has a lot of knowledge in many different areas, which I find very helpful when I ask for advice, even if it's not for me.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I see myself working for a large firm specializing in training and development, and going to BCIT part-time to complete my Bachelor's degree and then finishing off with my CHRP certification for Human Resources, and CPLP Certification, specializing in Training and Development.

Good luck with your future goals, Michelle!



BLADERUNNERS PROGRAM



Jerry Whitehead Jr. participated in the Building Service Worker Training program at BladeRunners from July 25- August 12, 2011. He is now working for ATIRA Property Management and is performing both the BSW job and Front Desk position.

“BladeRunners really helped me with training and gave me the confidence I needed to go out there and find work. It put me into a section in the labour world I never thought I would get into which is a Building Service Worker job.”



*Class of 2011
BladeRunners Building Service Worker Training Program*



Adam Lakshman participated in the Building Service Worker Training program from July 25 to August 12, 2011. He is currently working for ATIRA Property management as a Building Maintenance Worker/Front Desk Worker.

Adam lives with his Grandmother and had been seeking an opportunity to move ahead in his life and career when he heard about the BladeRunners Program. When he is not working he likes to assist his grandmother with daily shopping and other chores. Adam maintained excellent attendance while in the BSW program.



“BladeRunners opens so many windows of opportunity. There’s no obstacle you can’t overcome, some may need help to overcome the challenge and if you’re one of them, BladeRunners will help you on the right path.”



COMMUNITY FORUM JUNE 2, 2011

ACCESS holds two community forums, one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring forum was held on June 2, 2010 at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre and the theme was “Future Forward Thinking: Employment Options, Issues and Opportunities.” The forum highlighted future employment issues and solutions for Aboriginal youth, average workers and older workers.

Tom Galway, an ACCESS Director, presented information on ACCESS training programs offered in the past and forthcoming in the future. A collage of photos of ACCESS programs and clients provided a great backdrop for the presentation.

Keynote speaker Brenda Scott, A/Director, Labour Market Information Services, Government of BC, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation delivered an interesting talk about the types of jobs that would be in demand across various regions in BC for the next 5-10 years.

A panel was set up to discuss future employment options, issues and opportunities available for specific work group that the panel member represent (youth, older workers and the average work). The audience were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions to the thematic panel that was comprised of ACCESS EAS Director Blair Bel-

lerose, Brenda Scott, and Michel Pouliot, Pacific Resource Society Youth Program Director. Laara Mixon moderated the question and answer period following the presentations. Many of the audience provided feedback and questions.

More than 170 community members attended the forum and around 20 exhibit booths manned by non-profit organizations and post-secondary institutes were on hand to provide important information about their organization. This was an excellent opportunity for community members and organizations, educational institutions and potential employers to peruse the booths and to gather and share information.



Laara Mixon (right) was the moderator for the panel discussion.



Gramma Harris singing group provided cultural singing and dancing for the day.



Many community organizations had exhibitor booths at the Community Forum.

ACCESS TRADES



Calvin Patrick Guss: Sprinkler Systems Installer

Calvin is from the Squamish Nation, where he has spent most of his life. Calvin has spent a number of years working in customer service with Staples. After a period of time, he decided that this was not the career he was looking for. Calvin first got involved with ACCESS by taking a piping foundation course through BCIT. ACCESS counselled him, and his Band paid for the course.

The piping foundation course gave him the option to go into plumbing, steamfitting or sprinklerfitting. After completing the piping

course he decided on the sprinkler systems installer trade. He learned theory through school; however he gained hands on experience through his employment with Hydroworks where he worked for most of his apprenticeship. Level 3 & 4 were the most difficult periods. Calvin was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with good journey people. This excellent on the job training led to his Red Seal Certification. His goal is to work for about five years and then go into his own business.

ACCESS Trades is very proud of him and wishes him continued success in the future!



Cody Rose: Welder Level C

Cody entered the Welding Level C program at BCIT in October 2010. Prior to starting the welding program, Cody successfully completed one month of essential skills upgrading at Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures (ESAF). Initially, Cody faced a number of personal and academic barriers that needed addressing. Cody was very keen on success, and willing to make the necessary changes. The ACCESS Trades Job Coach worked with the staff at ESAF and the instructors at BCIT to help Cody overcome his barriers.

Cody finished the nine month program successfully completing all of the required technical course and theory for C Level, and was successful on the Canadian Welding Bureau Certification Manual Welding Test. Now his future is bright. He moved to Alberta and met up with an uncle who steered him into the Pipe Fitters Union. He is now employed by one of the most successful structural steel manufacturing company in Canada, Northern Weldarc with Local 805.

ACCESS Trades is very proud of him and wishes him continued success in the future!

URBAN SPIRIT FOUNDATION



The Urban Spirit Foundation furthers the success and self reliance of Urban Aboriginal people in the Metro Vancouver Region.



The Urban Spirit Foundation is a charitable organization that exists to further the success and self reliance of Urban Aboriginals in the Metro Vancouver Region. USF was created by the founders of ACCESS. We are united in our purpose, with the Foundation working to grow philanthropic resources to provide education and employment training opportunities, post-secondary scholarships and bursaries, and community based programs and projects that move people from poverty to self-sufficiency.

*2011/2012 USF Board of Directors:
Merv Thomas, Stewart Anderson, John Webster,
Marge White, Susan Tatoosh, Jerry Adams.
(Missing: Ross Ramsey)*



SUCCESSFUL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Metro Vancouver Scholarship Program launched in 2010 and will continue to recognize young Aboriginal scholars in 2011 through our established partnerships.

Special thanks to Vancouver Foundation - Pinky Ryan Fund for making our first awards possible and to our community partners, the Vancouver School Board, the Surrey Board of Education, The Native Education College and British Columbia Institute of Technology for working with us to identify our young leaders of tomorrow.

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



2011 USF Continuation of Learning scholarship award winner Nathan Whonock from Britania Secondary School with Board Member Stewart Anderson.



ACCESS FUNDED PROGRAMS

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



Quote of the day!

“..... everything on the earth has a purpose, every disease an herb to cure it, and every person a mission. This is the Indian theory of existence.”

Mourning Dove Salish, 1888-1936



Quote of the day!

The beauty of the trees, the softness of the air,
the fragrance of the grass speaks to me.
The summit of the mountain, the thunder of the sky,
The rhythm of the sea, speaks to me.
The faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning,
the dewdrop on the flower, speaks to me.
The strength of the fire, the taste of salmon, the trail
of the sun,
and the life that never goes away, they speak to me
And my heart soars.

Chief Dan George

If you would like to have your organization advertised in the Urban Spirit Newsletter please contact: eclare@accessfutures.com or Phone: 604-913-7933 ext 229

Mission Statement

To increase Aboriginal participation in the labour market

If you would like to subscribe to ACCESS newsletter, submit an article, or provide general comments, or artwork please contact: elaine@accessfutures.com Fax 604-913-7938



ACCESS Website: www.accessfutures.com