

# OKANAGAN TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (OTDC)



## SERVICE AREA SUCCESS STORIES 2014/2015

FOR THE ABORIGINAL SKILLS AND  
EMPLOYMENT TRAINING STRATEGY (ASETS)

# Service Area Reports

## First Nations Employment Services 2014-2015 Annual Report



### Okanagan Training and Development Council Annual Report

**Accomplishments:** This has been an exciting year of growth and accomplishment for FNES. We started the year by launching the Bladerunners program. A second intake saw overall twenty-four youths completing training with certification in the Security & Safety fields. Many of these youth are continuing their education and gaining valuable contacts to create real sustainable employment.

**Drop-In Clients:** From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 we served 2,067 drop in clients. Our mandate is to serve the Urban Aboriginal population which includes Status, Non-status, Métis, Inuit and persons self identifying as Aboriginal. Computer assistance is available for our clients as well as the use of a fax machine, phone for work related long distance and local calls, and photocopy services all at no charge to the client.

**Case Managed Clients:** In 2014/2015 FNES managed 204 case files. Clients that are case managed have at least two interventions. All case managed clients are assessed by the case manager and services are determined from that assessment.

**Various Funds:** In 2014/2015 - 109 clients accessed various funds. These funds included interview clothes as well as clothing for work, specifically work boots and work shoes; travel dollars for work, short training to maintain or attach to employment, and some dollars to support self employment. Clients Employed 2014/2015 - 132.



### **BladeRunners:**

The Blade Runner Program ran in Vernon from September 1, 2014 to the end of October, 2014. There were 12 participants. These participants came out of the program with amazing test scores, 98% and 100%, which was an everyday success rate. Out of the 12 participants; 8 have job offers and 1 has moved to the Nelson area, actively seeking employment.



The Okanagan Training and Development Council worked with High Velocity Heavy Equipment to provide training in Enderby. We continue to work with 3 of these clients to complete their training in this field. Two of the clients are now working in the construction field; 1 in Kelowna at the Hospital and another client works in Alberta. Congratulations to all who completed this Heavy Equipment Construction Training!



Training with Christian Saint Cyr  
With OTDC – EAS Reps In Westbank

Ms. Johanna explored her career options and it became clear that her passion and compassion lie in helping people. She completed a 7-month course in Peer Counseling.



Ms. Johanna  
Peer Counseling

Congratulations to all!



C. Simpson completed  
Mr. Johanson completed  
Extreme Pro Driving

What a tremendous year with all our clients! First Nations Employment Services would like to thank the Okanagan Training and Development Council, for making the year such a success for our clients in Vernon and the surrounding area. Thank you to the First Nations Friendship Centre for all their support, the Executive Director, and the Board of Directors for another successful year!!



Second Level Pipefitting

Arthur Azak, Manager, Education and Housing Services, Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw, Trades Training Centre, BC Hydro said:



"I was impressed with your (**Dion Nyce**) performance during your training to be a **Powerline Technician** and your subsequent training at the **BC Hydro Trades Training Centre** at Surrey, British Columbia. I am led to believe you are the first Aboriginal person to be a Hydro Line Technician in the Province of British Columbia. I am proud of you".



# *KI-LOW-NA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY*

## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES DIVISION

2014/2015

## OTDC ANNUAL REPORT

Way' - We, Sherida Crane Employment Coordinator, and Caroline Bechtel Employment Administrative Assistant, would like to give heartfelt "Lim Limpt" thank-you to the Squilx' Nation for sharing their cultural and territory upon which we service our Peoples. A major objective for the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society Employment Program is to continue to provide high quality Employment programs and services to the Urban Indigenous clients in the Kelowna/Winfield Service Area.

The *Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society*, Employment Services Division, with a staff of 2, continues to be busy each year as our services are well known. The 2014 – 2015 Statistical Reporting shows an increase in some areas and a decrease in others with an average in "people-served" at 449 per month. This year we served 5390 clients!

Our strategy aims to meet the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) by being both client-driven and employer (labour market) driven. I have been networking with employers to optimize the opportunities for employers to attract, retain, and develop the careers of our Urban Aboriginal Peoples in the Ki-Low-Na service area. I also network with employers so that I can assist them in creating a supportive working environment, where Aboriginal people feel valued and included, and are encouraged to pursue a public sector career. At the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, Employment Programs, we foster our clients to become Aboriginal leaders in their chosen occupational fields.

With ASETS we still offer OTDC short term and long term funding. We sent a number of clients on short term courses such as First Aid, BST (Basic Security Training), Flagging/Traffic Control, Emergency Medical Responder, and Dangerous Tree Assessor courses, such as Forklift Training, Food Safe and H2S Alive. We assisted 65 clients with short term funding this fiscal!

One OTDC short term funding success story was Crystal Smallboy. Crystal is a mother of two school aged children. KFS and OTDC were able to assist her with books and licensing fees. Crystal just graduated from UBC-Okanagan with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing!!

Crystal was able to balance motherhood while completing high anatomy, health, and science requirements. We are so proud of Crystal, who is an excellent role model to other parents attending intense University and/or College/ training. Crystal will treat her patients with such dignity, and respect - they will love her!



(Crystal Smallboy, Bachelor of Science in Nursing)



(Angelene McIntyre - Dean's List NVIT Aboriginal Leadership Program)

A long Success story is Angelene McIntyre who just graduated on NVIT's Dean's List for her high academic achievement in the Aboriginal Leadership Program. Angelene is currently working for the Commissionaires but has been working hard to become hired with the Osoyoos Band's provincial Corrections facility opening in the fall. Prior to her training Angelene worked for Parks Canada for over 18 years as a receptionist. Unfortunately she was laid off, and required retraining. After much career exploration Angelene decided she wanted a career in Corrections. KFS and OTDC were able to assist Angelene with her retraining. Angelene is well on her way!

KFS Employment Division, staff and community would like to congratulate Angelene for her hard work and dedication. Angelene demonstrated academic excellence and is an inspiration to others!

"Dignity and Respect" is our approach with our clients which reflects onto our client base with incredible results!



**Sherida Crane**  
**Employment Coordinator**  
*Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society*  
Employment Services Division

**Caroline Becthel**  
**Employment Assistant**  
*Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society*  
Employment Services Division



## **LSIB Service Area - Annual Report June 2014- 2015**

### **Submitted by: Veronica Terbasket**

Hi everyone! It's been an interesting and frustrating year for my department! To start the year off with funding then having to see it go by the end of September due to budget reallocations was pretty shocking! Though we were warned in April that it could happen.

Zeke Terbasket completed the Medical Office Assistant course with outstanding academic results. This in turn had him attain the Director's List which is a prestigious recognition given to students who achieve an overall grade average of at least 90% in the program. Way to go Zeke!!

Kathleen Louie had completed the Women In Trades program with Okanagan College in December 2014. Previously Kathleen had worked as the Band School receptionist and had felt that she needed a change. She thoroughly enjoyed the program and has decided that she would like to pursue further training in carpentry. However, since then she has had some challenges finding employment with her limited experience. I am hoping that should she go further into becoming an apprentice in Carpentry she will see more opportunities with employers who due to the change in the procurement of bids for contracts over \$50,000.00 have to show that the subcontractors will be using registered apprentices in any of the Red Seal trade category as well as submit confirmation of intent to use registered apprentices. This will be enforced after July 1, 2015 in B.C. Which is a great initiative for apprentices in the trades industry who will gain the experience as well as the hours towards their trade of choice and employers will have the opportunity to recognize the benefit of providing the opportunity.

We have had the following individuals complete the RISC (Resource Information Standards Committee) Training that enables them to do some Archaeology field work for our Natural Resource department :

John Louie  
Nicole Mack  
Shannon Terbasket  
Ira Edward  
Robert Brewer  
Dustin Louis

Earlier this year the Natural Resource Department had added a small training day on the use of a GPS to add to this training to enhance the skill required when doing referral work.

Troy Allison has completed the Custodial Worker Training course with Okanagan College in Penticton in January 2015. The following month he was hired by the Lower Similkameen Band Administration to be the custodian of our new administration building.

We had the following people obtain certificates or renewals in the following:

Mark Richter	SFA Lvl 1 & H2S Alive
Alison Terbasket	OFA Lvl 1 & WHMIS
Skye Terbasket	OFA Lvl 1
Maynard Terbasket	Faller Certificate Renewal
Doreen Louie	OFA Lvl 1
Kathy Louie	CSTS
Lillian Gottfriedson	Class 2 License renewal
Fred Allison	SFA Lvl 1
	H2S Alive
	Fire Safety
	Transportation of Dangerous Goods
	WHMIS
	Working Alone Safely in B.C.
	OSSA Fall Protection

Congratulations to all who completed their training!

The following is a letter received from Erin Fraser who completed the LPN course in June 2015:



Erin Fraser  
Practical Nurse

### Make your Dreams a Reality with OTDC

My name is Erin Fraser and my journey began when I wanted to continue my education within the health field and better my future for my family. The process of going back to school is both daunting and exciting because it is a very big commitment for me and the supporters in my life.

I was able to make my dream come true because of the support I received from Okanagan Training and Development Center. The support and encouragement was greatly appreciated; without this benefit my journey may not have been possible. I am now a successful graduate of the Practical Nursing Program, and currently hired at a local hospital in the Acute Ward. My life has been changed in a positive way because of the support I received from Okanagan Training and Development Center.

Thank you very much for assisting me and my family. "The sky is the limit." It is possible to achieve your goals in life with strong motivation and provision of our people.



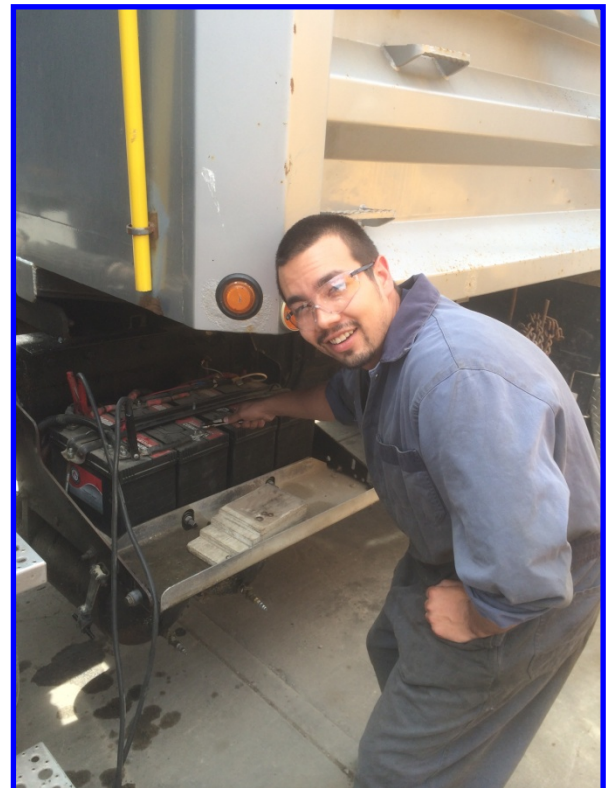
## OOKNAKANE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 146 Ellis St. Penticton BC, V2A 4L5



(Rhonda McLean with Chief John Kruger at the Aboriginal Business Match, hosted by Penticton Indian Band 2015)

**WILDCRAFTER**– This course introduces participants to the foundations of wild harvesting methods and the uses of wild botanicals. Rhonda has had an interest in understanding more about the traditional harvesting of foods and medicines and is currently establishing her own business called **“Created by Mother Earth, Transformed by Rhonda”**. Her goal is to work towards a Wildcrafter Practitioner Diploma which will also assist in stewardship initiatives.

**HEAVY DUTY MECHANIC** – With changes that happened within the Industry Training Authority (effective September 1, 2014 the new apprenticeship training model will begin to replace the existing Heavy Duty Equipment Technician (HDET), Truck and Transport Mechanic (TTM), Diesel Engine Mechanic (DEM) and Transport Trailer Technician (TTT) training and certification models). We had to search high and low to find a seat as they rolled four models into one new title. The wait lists were incredible, with over 60 at Thompson Rivers University and over 27 at Okanagan College, and waitlists everywhere. We were able to secure a seat at North Island College. Layne McLean is doing well and had completed with a great average. He has completed his Level 1 and has gone back to work with his employer and apprenticeship sponsor, Pacific Rim Equipment Inc. Great Job Layne!!



(Layne McLean)

## **“ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM”**

Ooknakane Friendship Centre partnered with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and was the host for the Community Delivery Program which started with 11 participants.



*The 2015 Graduates from the Program; left to right:*

*Nicole Ramsay, Aleena McLean, Angelene McIntyre, Patricia Bates, and Wylla Pooler*

With the new prison being built on the Osoyoos Indian Band reserve we wanted to be proactive and bring in relevant training to upcoming job opportunities and to ensure adequate understanding of Aboriginal People, Culture and traditions within the Justice System. These ladies not only made the Dean's list, but did so in both the fall and spring semesters. Three are currently working, one has been accepted to the University of Guelph for law school and the other is in active job search. Congratulations ladies!

## **LISTED ARE SOME OF THE VARIOUS TRAININGS SPONSORED:**



First Aid Level 1  
First Aid Level 3  
Foodsafe  
Transportation  
Dangerous Goods  
H2S Alive  
WHMIS  
Serving it Right  
Computer Training  
Early Learning courses  
Criminal record checks  
Job Supports  
And registration fees for various courses





### **Osoyoos Indian Band**

1165 Sen\*Pok\*Chin Blvd

Oliver, BC V0H 1T0

Phone 250 498 6935 or Fax 250 498 6577

## **2014/ 2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Osoyoos Indian Band continues to receive support and funding through the Okanagan Training and Development Council, to provide employment and training opportunities to the Osoyoos Indian Band community and surrounding areas.

### **Justin Hall**

Justin Hall was sponsored by OTDC funding in 2009 and he went to New Zealand for a 10 month wine making program. When he returned, he went back work at Nk'Mip Cellars to work under Randy Picton who has won many awards for Nk'Mip Cellar. He came back as the Cellar Supervisor/ Safety employee and now he is Wine Maker Assistant. Today Justin is still enjoying making wine and as he says, "you got to love what you do." He says he has long hours and sometimes he gives up his weekends but he enjoys what he does and he is able to experience all aspects in making wine from growing the grapes to bottling the wine. Justin also has a mechanical background which helps



him greatly in the job as he is able to fix a pump when it break downs, as he says, "I can fix most anything at the winery." He says, he makes all the decisions for the Pinot Blanc and they can put out 1400 cases. Justin has been with Nk'Mip winery since 2004 which is 11 years and he "Loves" what he does as it shows in the wine he makes.

### **Alex Walls**

Congratulations to Alex Walls who has completed his second year Apprenticeship in Plumbing at Okanagan College in Kelowna. Alex was also funded last year through our department and has found a job in Saskatchewan. He told me he is looking forward toward doing his third year in Kelowna.

## **Cook Level 1 Training Program**



This year we are very pleased to run a Cook Level one program out of Spirit Ridge with Ben Genalille, an industry Chef for 40 years and Culinary Arts Instructor for 18 years and an ITABC cook trade assessor as well as he has his Red Seal. Ben developed the 17 week program which started January 12 and ended May 8<sup>th</sup>. We had 8 students who had attended the program and completed. Those who completed were offered employment at Spirit Ridge in restaurant.

## **Stepping Forward Program**

This program was in partnership with Okanogan College and Osoyoos Indian Band Social Worker. The program was geared toward getting grade 12 Math and English which was a major priority for employment with the prison. The program also helped the student gain certification in first aide, food safe, WHMIS, traffic control flagging, World Host Fundamentals, serving it right, and cashier training.

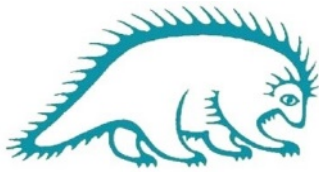


## **Variety Funds**

Using the Variety Funds we have been helping those who are working on the prison site to get start up equipment to work on the PCL site. Two band members working for a contracting company called A&B Grouting has made arrangement to fly them to New York to work for his company and from there they will drive to Seattle to do another contract and then back home.

Congratulate to all those who have successfully completed their programs. Special thanks to OTDC Reps for all their time and effort they put into making this all possible, as well as Karen and Debbie for their hard work and for pushing us to do our best.

**Ramona Bent – Employment Training Coordinator**



## 2014 - 2015 ANNUAL REPORT - OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND

The Employment Assistance Services (EAS) Coordinator's office has been relocated to the Health & Social Development Department, now known as "Community & Organizational Services & Development Department as a part of OKIB's Strategic Realignment of Services.

Accomplishments (April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015)

Wildfire Management Training September 2014 – January 2015

Funding provided through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Agreement, the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS), in partnership with Okanagan Indian Band. 25 participants from Okanagan Indian Band, Westbank First Nation and Penticton Indian Band undertook training focused on preparing candidates for job placements in the areas of: Emergency Management; Wildfire Fighting; Forest Fuel Management; and Related forestry work.

Each participant whom successfully completed the training received safety work gear as well as safety certification such as:

First Aid Level 1 &  
Transportation Endorsement  
S-100 Basic Fire  
Suppression & Safety  
S-185 Fire Entrapment  
Avoidance  
S-232 Pumps and Water  
Delivery  
Basic Power Saw Safety 2  
Days  
Wildfire Danger Tree  
Assessors Wild Fire Module

S-130: Fire Line  
Construction  
S-190: Introduction to Fire  
Behavior  
S-211: Fire Weather/Fire  
Assessment  
S-212: Communications  
S-230: Single Resource  
Leader/Crew Boss  
S-115: Structure and Site  
Preparation



At current, (June 10, 2015) 7 participants are on stand-by for call out to the Prince George and Area wildfires.

This past year the Okanagan Indian Band and surrounding businesses utilized OTDC funding towards hiring "Summer Students" in the following areas:

- 🌀 Operations, Lands & Housing (OKIB) Land Use Planning Summer Student
- 🌀 OKIB Human Resources Administration Summer Student

- 🌀 OKIB Cultural Support Worker Summer Student
- 🌀 Sn'c'amala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre (OKIB): 4 Summer Day Camp Workers

- 🌀 Round Lake Treatment Treatment Centre: 2 Parks Maintenance & 1 Administrative Assistant

The fiscal year 14 – 15 also provided funding to individuals who made applications from the X-files in the following areas:

Pipefitting Apprenticeship  
Level 3  
Plumbing Apprenticeship  
Level 3  
Automotive Foundations  
Certificate  
Carpentry/Cabinet Joinery  
Level 2  
Carpentry Journeyman  
Red Seal  
Welding Level B Certification  
Welding Pre-Apprenticeship  
Program  
Electrician Pre-Apprenticeship  
Program  
Heavy Equipment Operator  
Training

Emergency Medical  
Responder Certificate  
Infant-Toddler Certificate  
University College Entrance  
Preparation Completion for  
Dental Hygienist Entrance  
Geographical Information  
Systems Certificate  
First Nations Job Fund:  
Construction Craft Worker  
Program (3)  
Professional Cooks  
Training Level 1  
Early Childhood Educator  
Wage Subsidy



#### Youth-Student Accomplishments:

Tony Alexis completed the Pre-Apprentice Electrician 6-month program, Okanagan College last September 2014. Tony is currently employed with JC Electric, owned by Okanagan Indian Band Member Jack Cole, who will continue to sponsor Tony during his apprenticeship.

Tony wishes to continue his apprenticeship into future journeyman to build a stronger and sustainable future for his family and himself. It is in Tony's aspirations to become a successful electrician who will have his Journeyman Red Seal Certification in

the next 4 years.

#### First Nations Job Fund Success!!

Tallin Gregoire, 24 year old Okanagan Indian Band Member, has completed her Professional Cook Training at Spirit Ridge this past winter. Tallin has a limited work experience in hospitality tourism industry and was very excited to learn a trade path which will lead to a Red Seal Trade.

This training has also provided her with increased self-confidence, development of resiliency, personal leadership and self-awareness. These newly acquired essential skills will further assist Tallin in her culinary skills while establishing herself as a part-time caterer. Tallin is taking the necessary steps to ensure a better tomorrow for herself; to become self-sufficient for a stronger tomorrow.





June 03, 2015

Penticton Service Area Report for OTDC

## **OTDC Annual Report June 2014-2015    Employment Counselor: Cheryl Dekock**



Penticton Indian Band has had another very busy and successful year in 2014-2015.

As I am now in my Fourth year as the EAS Coordinator, where has the time gone? I have learned so much about the Standard Employment Services and what they offer throughout the years. They have Course seat purchase for people looking to obtain a trade, career certification, or workplace training. We can offer a wage subsidy for up to a minimum 20 weeks as long as they have a guaranteed job at the end of training.

OTDC now has a new partnership that is set up with PIB Social Development called the First Nations Job fund for our young adults 19-24 year olds. We assist in getting them trained and ready to go out into the workforce. One of the tools that we use is the Employment Readiness assessment that was done as a partnership with Social Development. We have had FNJF (First Nations Job Fund) for the past 2 years. This offers job development and wage subsidies for targeted age ranges of 19-24 years old over a period of 18 months. This is another way to get training and work experience or a practicum to help them meet with success. This is all included – wage subsidy, work clothes and certification short term courses e.g. WHIMAS, First Aid Driver Training – Class 5 (However we do not cover past fines).

There have been many training and development opportunities for myself through on the job training courses held by OTDC Administrators – Karen Abramsen and Debbie Conlin. They include training opportunities such as Advanced Motivational Interviewing Training with Empowering Change, The Labour Market Intake Workshop by Christian Saint Cyr on the Labour Market, and ARMS Training; a new system that we have been working with for the past 2.5 years. Every year there is a refresher course of changes with the system resulting in system upgrades that help OTDC Counsellors to be more efficient.

PIB community members in the last year have had a great year with a variety of different training opportunities available to them such as First Aid Level 3, Plumbing Certificates, Heavy duty Mechanics, ECE Certificates, Janitorial Certificates and MOA Medical Office Assistance Certificates, Autism Spectrum Certificate and AFOA Certificate.

I utilize and am building a strong capacity with partners that I have made outside the community such as Britco, Greyback, and EAC (Emil Anderson Construction), Okanagan College and also partners within the community such as other departments within Penticton Indian Band, Foot Prints and the Enowkin Centre.

With all the support of the various partners, departments and Businesses we are looking at the same signora to help Train, Develop and Employ as many people as possible.

In 2014, our focus was in the Trades. We have four members that have been going to school over the past couple of years working towards their trades Red Seal Certification. We have 2 people who have gotten their ECE Certificates in 2014. We have 2 band members that obtained and got the Medical Office Assistant Certification at the Okanagan College. We have another member that received an Aboriginal Certified Managers Certification through the AFOA (Aboriginal Finance Officers Association). PIB has 1,035 people with 552 band members that live on reserve and 483 that live off reserve. I serve all band members and community members that are aboriginal that live on reserve and off reserve also.



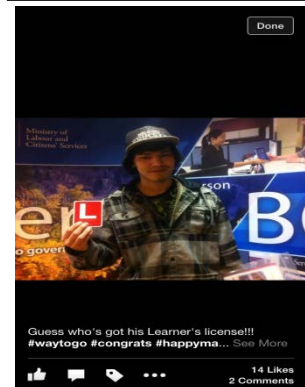
**Jody Gabriel Medical Office Assistant**



**Chris Marchand Level 2 Heavy Duty Mechanic**



**Class 1 Driver Training**



Guess who's got his Learner's license!!!  
#waytogo #congrats #happyma... See More  
14 Likes  
2 Comments



## 2014-2015 Final Report

submitted by Theresa Sam, Temp EAS

This past year was successful. I am proud to say that Mark McRae completed his 4th and final year as a Red Seal Heavy Duty Technician (Mechanic) at Okanagan College. Congratulations Mark! – Good luck in your future endeavours and I am sure your employers' are very lucky to have you as a part of their team.

Another band member, Brandon Squakin has completed Year 1 as Millwright Apprenticeship. He is employed at the Copper Mine. Way to Go Brandon! Keep up the good work!

Congratulations to Robyn Holmes who has completed the Drivers Practical Training and the ICBC GLP classroom instructor's training. She is now certified to teach Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. So if any band in the Okanagan-Similkameen needs a driving instructor, Robyn is the one to call. I always say "hire our own people who have the skills and training"!

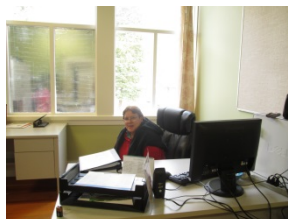
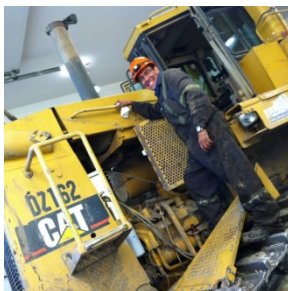
A few members have used the various funds to renew their First Aid, Level 1 and a couple women enrolled in a business writing course to help them in their jobs.

Other projects: The summer student program which employed two students for the summer; they set up a summer program for the kids. Good job Jennifer and Anthony! Also, the program did a Job Development that hired a band member Karen Holmes to do maintenance and landscaping in around the campgrounds and band buildings. The job taught her new skills that she can utilize again.

I really applaud these members who want to do better for themselves, more power to you. Once you make up your mind, you can do countless things and the feeling of accomplishment can do wonders for the soul and most of all self-confidence.

Thanks to OTDC and their directors on behalf of the Upper Similkameen Band for their continued support so that our membership can access funding for short or long term training. Below are some pictures of band members who utilized the funding for their training including:

l to r: Mark McRae, Karen Holmes, Robyn Holmes and Brandon Squakin





## WESTBANK FIRST NATION EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

OTDC services First Nation, Status and Non-status people who are under skilled or employment ready. OTDCs goal is to work with clients to establish an action plan which includes further education or training, wage subsidies, job referrals and job supports. OTDC services individuals living in the Westbank/Peachland area.

The past few months have been busy working with Okanagan College to deliver the Construction Craft Worker Program. Two participants complete level 1 and 2, early spring, and they are now registered apprentices' with ITA. Okanagan College is planning to deliver Construction Craft Worker program this fall and next spring.

The Construction Craft Worker installs utility piping, places concrete, constructs roads, performs selective demolition, performs underground work and assists trade persons. Apprenticeship combines paid and on-the-job work experience working towards a Red Seal.

Local Construction companies have shown an interest in the Construction Craft Worker program and can benefit from hiring individuals who have been committed in completing program.



**Construction Craft Worker Program**

### **Employed Individuals as of April 2015**

Construction Craft	2
Electrician	2
Concrete Worker	1
Construction Worker	1
Economic Development/Planning	1
Heavy Equipment Operator	1
Customer Service	2
Flagging	2
Health Care Assistant	1

Participants are busy researching training opportunities in the trade industry and in health care. 3 students are completing their upgrading and 1 student is completing her accounting certificate.

Programs funded to date have been in Construction, Administration, Automotive, Nursing and Civil Engineering. Funding opportunities can be shared with other service providers to ensure success of training plans. Researching training and employment opportunities are beneficial to target the demand labor market areas.

### Hamilton Concrete

Hamilton Concrete has hired First Nation Clients to work with forming concrete blocks and slabs. Hamilton Concrete sells product to suppliers and consumers interested in concrete design. Designs include concrete blocks, slabs, curved concrete blocks for landscape design.



Short term funding is also available to obtain safety tickets, work supports to get to job, or supplies needed for job. This funding may support First Aid Tickets, WHMIS, H2S Alive, Confined Space and Forklift; as long as tickets are needed for employment that can be verified or that have been identified by employer.

Career Fairs are also attended by the EAS to promote services that are provided to make a career plan and identify training opportunities for First Nation clients. The Westbank First Nation career fair is held in April and Okanagan College Career Fair is in May each year. Okanagan College also hosts the Business Expo in February. The Career Fairs are well attended by the Employment Coordinators throughout the Okanagan and is a great way to meet and greet and obtain information on establishing a strong career plan and establishing an action plan to help meet your goals to obtaining sustainable employment.

Heavy Equipment Operator and Construction Craft Worker training may be delivered in the fall of 2015.

**For further information you can contact Coreen Bernier at (250) 768- 0227.**

# WEST KOOTENAY AREA

## OTDC Annual Report 2014/2015

2014/15 has been a terrific year. Clientele has been building as we have had continuous service over the last year. Selkirk College generously allows us to access the Gathering space at the Castlegar campus. This space is designed with an aboriginal focus and creates a familiar and safe place for clients to meet.

Dan Henderson	Carpenter 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
Keara Cunningham	Professional Cook Level 1
Darryl Harsch	Nursing Practicum
Ashley Spiers	Health Care Assistant

Alicia Pongracz	Rural Pre-Medicine
Mark Potter	Welding Foundation
Justin Batting	Heavy Equipment Operator
Chris Chipesia	Forestry Upgrading

Here are a few of our recent success stories from the West Kootenay area:



### **Keara Cunningham: Professional Cook 1– ACE-IT High School Transition Programs (Selkirk College – Nelson Campus)**

The ACE-IT program is designed to help secondary school students get a head-start on their trade career, while earning graduation credit. The BC Industry Training Authority (ITA) Accelerated Credit Enrolment in Industry Training (ACE IT) program is a perfect way to learn more about the industry.

*Before I found OTDC and started receiving funding, I never would have thought I would be where I am today. Since I have started working with OTDC my life has changed for the better in the most drastic way. I had the opportunity to take the first year of the Professional Cook Training Course to receive the experience I needed to find the type of work I wanted. I am now currently employed as a chef at the Birchbank Golf Course in Genelle BC, working towards receiving my work hours for the second year course. I feel like I have become a much more focused and confident person since I began working with OTDC. Once again, thank you for all you have done for me. I look forward to continuing working with OTDC throughout the second year course. Sincerely, Keara Cunningham*

### **Reannon LeCouffe: Upgrading for Nursing Program**

Reannon has been working towards entrance into the Nursing program at Selkirk College. Her long term goal is to develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the practice of Professional Nursing in a complex health care system.

She is very enthusiastic and determined to make her dream a reality. We continue to provide her with guidance and support with her journey.



### **Justin Batting: Heavy Equipment Operator (High Velocity)**



Justin had the opportunity to be a part of the ITA Roadbuilders and Heavy Equipment Operators Foundation Training Program in Enderby at Splatsin First Nation.

This was delivered in partnership by Southern Interior Construction Association (SICA) and High Velocity Equipment Training College (HVET). The program was designed to provide theory and machine hours to help individuals move toward HEO Apprenticeships. Justin is ready to utilize his skills and is currently seeking employment in Northern BC.

### **Darren Stanislaus: Environment and Geomatics (Registered Forest Technician)**

Darren had travelled from the Chilicoten area to further his career in the Forestry Industry and made the commitment to attend Selkirk because of their reputation in the industry. This program emphasizes resource skills, knowledge and professionalism in fish and wildlife ecology, botany and terrestrial ecology. Being so far away from home was hard and we were there to support him in those times. Darren has the signifying ring that represents his hard work towards graduation and is now a member of the Association of BC Forest Professionals. Congratulations Darren!!



### **Alicia Pongracz – Rural Pre-Medicine (Selkirk College – Castlegar Campus)**



My first year of college was a wonderful learning experience, I was not only able to learn things about chemistry and biology but also about myself and what I need to work on next year to make my second year of post-secondary education go even better. I would not have been able to learn so many interesting and life changing things without having the support I received from my friends, family, teachers and most importantly the support I received from OTDC.

Without OTDC I would not have been able to start my journey to fulfill my dream of becoming a Doctor and attend the Rural Pre-Medicine Program at Selkirk College. I am so grateful and thankful for all the support I have received from OTDC.

Thank you for everything, Alicia Pongracz

# Training Occupations

## TRAINING OCCUPATIONS

Arts	Media Arts – Film Making
Business	Applied Business Training Business Administration
Community and Social Services	Human Service Worker Social Services Diploma
Computers and Technology	Computer Skills Digital Film Making Production Coordinator
Culture	Archaeological Assistant Archival Assistant/Researcher Heritage Interpreter Language Instructor
Drivers	Bus Driver Class 1 Drivers (with Air) Class 1 Highway Class 3 Drivers ICBC Driving School Training
Education	Day Care Assistant Early Childhood Educator Facilitator Training Language Revitalization
Employment Assistance	Career Preparation Employment Counselling
Equipment Operator	Heavy Duty Equipment Operator
Finance	Accounting/Finance Clerk Basic Accounting/Payroll AFOA (Aboriginal Finance Officers Association) Computerized Accounting (SAGE 50 and Quicken)

Health	Emergency Medical Responder Food Safe First Aid – Level I First Aid – Level III Home Support Worker Human Service Worker Medical Office Assistant Nursing – Practicum Resident Care Aid
Justice	Aboriginal Justice Training
Maintenance/Security	Groundskeeper/landscaping Horticulture Custodial Certificate Loss Prevention and Protection
Management	Manager Trainee Marketing Housing Coordinator Training
Natural Resources/Forestry	Events Coordinator Chainsaw Certificate Faller/Bucker Firefighter Forestry Skills Training Lands Management Parks Maintenance Skidder Operator Environmental Technician WHMIS/TDG/H2S Alive
Office	Forestry Office Assistant Medical Office Assistant Records Management Clerk Maintenance Office/Office Assistant Office Skills/Administrative Assistant
Personal Care	Barber/hairdressing Aesthetics

Retail Trades/Sales and Service	Bakery/Deli Manager Trainee Gas Jockey Retail Clerk
Trades/Labour	Automotive Mechanic Years 1 – 2 Carpentry Years 1 – 4 Electrical Levels 3 – 4 Excavator Operator Millwright/Machinist Residential Construction Training Plumbing Apprentice Sheet Metal Apprentice Welding Levels B – C Oilfield Safety
Tourism/Hospitality	Cook/Culinary Arts Events Coordinator Food Security Water Safety Instructor Tourism/Hospitality Certificate Youth Workers