



## OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND

### EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING DEPARTMENT



The Okanagan Indian Band is located at the head of Okanagan Lake in Vernon, BC, and totals 11,282 hectares. There are approximately 1800 Okanagan Indian Band members. Half of which reside on reserve. The Okanagan Indian Band offers a variety of services and facilities including health care, social services, and early childhood education to name a few.

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

- Friends of Fintry – 2 Positions (Receptionist/Interpreter);
- OKIB – 2 Parks Maintenance Students and Administrative Assistant (1);
- Snc'c'amala?tn Day Care – 4 Summer Day Camp Workers.
- Secondary Summer Student Workers – 8 Labour positions.

Aside from OTDC there were several other ventures that created Employment & Training:

- Media/Communications – Sen'klip & Webpage Developer;
- Information/Communications Assistant – OKIB;
- Backhoe Operator Training – Community Development Division (OKIB);
- Early Childhood Education Program – Pacific Rim Institute & Snc'c'amala?tn

The Employment & Training Coordinator has had a very busy 6 months with the start of the following Training Programs:

February was the start of the **Residential Construction Program**, which is a joint-venture the OKIB Social Development Department, Employment & Training and Okanagan – Vernon Campus.

For 3 of the Participants this was a continuation from the OKIB Gateway to the Program. We had 6 Community Members the 9 month training program which is expected to complete on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008. To date they have put in approximately 700 hours. Upon the completion of the program the participants will have gained the necessary theoretical and practical knowledge to seek employment as an Apprentice Carpenter.



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The **Aboriginal Gateway to the Trades Program** currently has 15 Participants – to date three of the participants are interested in entering the Residential Construction Program and another into the Automotive Service Technician.

The 12 Week Program will provide the participants with both

practical and theoretical experience in a wide variety of building trade sectors. The intention of the program is to provide the students with hands-on-knowledge necessary make an informed decision on which trade to pursue.



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The students had 243 hours of Building Trades Exploration which include the followings areas: Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Painting, Insulating/Vapour Barrier, Drywall, Joinery and Roofing.

Luckily for the Okanagan Band the students built 5 Covered Picnic Tables which are located at the various Departments of the Band.

**Resident Care Aid Program** – Academy of Learning & OKIB. We were fortunate to have 2 community members attend the 6 Month RCA Training Program in Salmon Arm, upon successful completion both participants will receive their RCA Certificate that will enable them to become employed in this area.

The **Youth Work Experience Program** was very successful, OKIB Education & Employment & Training had 4 Youth participate in the 6 month Program – which provided work experience for out-of-school, unemployed youth in community service or other work that will contribute to the long term success of the young participants. The main focus of the program is to develop their leadership skills and knowledge of the Okanagan Indian Band's culture, history and traditions to help build self esteem, respect and awareness. The youth had the opportunity to participate in a variety of work experiences in areas of their career interests that provide for meaningful learning opportunities.



Each year Education & Employment Training continues to advance its mission in supporting our students in their pursuit of a higher education and career goals. We were pleased to present the **OKIB 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Career Fair** on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Head of the Lake Hall. The Promotion of educational opportunities will continue to make a difference and improvement in educational values.

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