



## Employment & Training Department

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Dave Johanson was hired as the new Employment and Training Coordinator for the Okanagan Indian Band.



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My name is Dave Johanson, and I am the new Employment and Training Coordinator for OKIB. I am a member of the Cree Nation from Heart Lake Alberta, but grew up here in the Okanagan. I have experience and training at the post-secondary and trades school levels, as well as, Okanagan language and culture training. I have a degree in Indigenous Studies from UBC-Okanagan (UBC-O) and I also took 2 years of N'Sylxcen (Okanagan) Language courses for my degree.

These were very fun classes thanks to my awesome teachers, Richard and Jennette Armstrong and Delphine Derrickson. I have also completed the first year of the Elementary Teacher Program at UBC-O. I am also a journeyman gasfitter and have worked in the heating industry for 19 years and have had my own business, Grizzly Gas Services, for the last 12 years. I have worked a variety of other jobs, such as a lifeguard/first aid instructor, framer, welder, painter, fire-fighter, first responder, plumbing and sprinkler fitter, "R'Native Voice Youth Program" Facilitator for Okanagan Nation Alliance and Aboriginal Peer-Mentor at UBC Okanagan. I feel that drawing from my education, training, trades, business and life experiences will help me to relate, encourage, guide and ultimately serve people better as they seek out their employment and training paths.

### Partnership building:

I have been working jointly with Edwin Kolausok from Economic Development to ensure that we coordinate and maximize on any present or future economic or employment and training opportunities for our people. Part of our new OTDC/ASETS agreement is to engage in more partnerships with businesses, industry, governments and other agencies. So, as it is the actual mandate of Economic Development to do this too, it is logical that the Employment and Training and Economic Development departments work together and this has been happening quite successfully. We work well together and have collaborated on some great projects, proposals and events in the past few months.

- **Westpro Manufacturing-** We have gone to meet with this very successful Mining and Aggregate processing equipment manufacturer in Vernon and on April 7<sup>th</sup>, they hired six Okanagan Indian Band members. We also have some people in Welding training and will work with Westpro to develop Apprenticeship opportunities.



- **Journey to Successful Employment (JTSE)-** This Program is exactly as it says in its name... it is a 8 month program that helps individuals assess their abilities and challenges and then works with them to address those challenges through foundational, essential skills training and specific training to assist them in attaining long term, meaningful employment. While this program is not a fix-all solution, it is a huge step and opportunity for those individuals who are struggling to move forward positively with their lives. This program was held in Vernon, but did have 50% of the class made up of OKIB members. I personally have seen the many positive changes in those individuals who took this program. Then, I was informed by the Administrators of JTSE that the federal funding for this program was not being renewed. Working with them and Edwin, we resubmitted a proposal for funding with OKIB as a partner with the intent of bringing the program on reserve to service OKIB members. I know there is a huge demand and need for this type of program and I am hopeful that we will receive good news in the next few months that this program will continue to happen and tentatively start in September 2011.
- **VANASEP Training Society/ BC Hydro Mica Dam Partnership**



At the OKIB EC/Dev Open House on March 23rd, Jay Mearns from VANASEP approached Chief Fabian Alexis and myself to propose a partnership with OKIB for training and employment opportunities for the BC Hydro Mica Dam project. With direction from Chief Alexis, Edwin and I set off to work on this agreement and plan for training. Things moved very fast and we have already had two successful sessions of VANASEP training at Okanagan Indian Band. The first group of 20 had 3 weeks of CORE Foundation training for Heavy equipment Operator and safety certifications. The second group of 18 spent 6

weeks taking the Industrial and Safety Coordinator Certificate Program which gives them the skills and credentials to be a Safety Officer at any workplace. Jay Mearns from VANASEP praised this group's accomplishment saying that this was the most successful training session VANASEP has ever had with the best attendance and successful completion rate. Way to go guys!

### Some Other Training at Okanagan Indian Band:



- Occupational First Aid level I with Transportation
- Occupational First Aid Level 3
- WHMIS, H2S Alive, Forklift, Traffic Control, Chainsaw
- Wildland Fire and Safety course
- Fire Suppression S-100, S-185, Pumps & Hoses, Burn-off & Backfiring, communications
- Aboriginal BEST Entrepreneurial Program.
- Lateral Violence in the Workplace Workshop
- Kamloops Aboriginal Employment Law Conference

24 Trainees at OKIB Fire Suppression/ WHIMIS/ H2S Aware class