



Employment & Training Department 2011-2012 Annual Report

The Okanagan Indian Band is located at the head of the Okanagan Lake in Vernon BC, and totals 11.282 hectares. There are approximately 1878 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.


Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Glenda Louis and I am born and raised on the Okanagan Indian Band, my parents are Lucy and the late Emery Louis. I have 5 brothers and 5 sisters and therefore I am the youngest in my family. I have a set of children; yes 1 boy and 1 girl; I have been working with the Okanagan Indian Band since July 1999 and did start off in the Health Department as the Medical Clerk-Administrative Assistant to the Health Director for 6 years, a transition to the Education Department as an Education Administrative Assistant to the Education Manager for the last 6 years.

The Employment & Training Department has been vacant since the fall of 2011 and I have been assisting with the day to day administration on 20 hours a week since February 2012 until recently as of July 30th, 2012 I will be full-time Employment Services Worker; where I hope to provide success for my community, family and friends of Okanagan Indian Band.

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

 Friends of Fintry- 2 positions (Interpreters/Tour Guides)

 Operations, Lands & Housing (OKIB) 2 Parks Maintenance Students

 Administration (OKIB) 1 Administrative Assistant

 Sn'c'amala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre- 4 Summer Day Camp Workers

Youth Highlights

Youth /Student Development

2011 Okanagan Indian Band Cultural Camp:

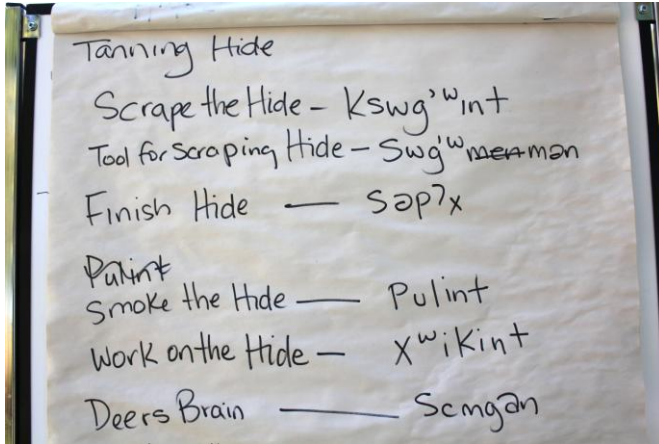
2 students worked under the coordination and supervision of the Director of Social Development & Youth Program Coordinators for August 15th-26th, 2011 at Komasket Park, OKIB#1. Duties included in the organization, coordination, set-up and day to day activities of the Cultural Camp. Week 1 was designated to younger children and Week 2 was designated to older children; both sessions were open to adults that accompanied the children/youth.

The 2 students were also to assist with light food preparations that required for the day, taking an active participating role in the cultural teachings throughout the 2 weeks. The teachings included but not limited to hide scrapping, drum making, salmon & venison processing as well as light language immersion provided by Elders. This Cultural Camp was beneficial to the attendees and to the summer student workers to re-strengthen traditional knowledge and cultural activities while introducing and acquiring unknown traditional knowledge that they will carry with them for life until

they become the knowledge keepers whose turn will be to pass on that traditional knowledge.

One summer student returned to Secondary School to graduate this academic year on the honor roll and is enrolled in Bachelor of Arts with the intent to major in Indigenous Studies.

The Second Summer Student has returned to Post-Secondary to pursue a Bachelor of Anthropology and has started Syilx Language classes that are offered at that academic institute.



Youth /Student Development

There were 10 individuals that utilized short-term funding that offset their field trips costs for the employment readiness program and the program ended with 9 participants. The employment readiness program allowed the participants to develop interpersonal skills, interview techniques, academic options and working with Okanagan College Academic Advisors for schooling placement and application process, budgetary skills, and earned a variety of ticketed certificates such as forklift tickets, first aid, WHMIS and food safe.

Of the 9 completed are as follows:

3 have gained full time employment

4 have returned to School: Post-Secondary and 1 is vocational schooling

1 has dropped out of the workforce

1 is employed and is still actively seeking employment