



## **OTDC Annual Report 2011/2012**



Employment Coordinator – Charlene Allison

The Upper Similkameen Indian Band services the Hedley and Princeton areas with most members residing in Hedley.

These past few years, we have had to downsize our forestry operations due to the recession and we have seen a spike in unemployment in our communities. Throughout the year we have seen an increase in unemployment in our community as we have internally had to downsize in our forestry operations and with limited work opportunities our members have taken various course certificates to become more employable such as first aid, pesticide applicator and flagging courses.

We were fortunate to have Gateway to the Building Trades for Women being offered once again through Okanagan College Penticton campus with 1 young lady who completed the 12 week program.

Another highlight was an applicant who attended Okanagan College Kelowna campus for his Heavy Duty Equipment Technician 2 this was a 6 week program.

The Secwepemc Cultural Education Society in Kamloops, BC, offers a Residential Building Maintenance program and we have 1 member who has completed 16 weeks out of 24 weeks > This program is transferable through the ITA.

As well BCIT offered an Associate Certificate in Ventures Program where we had one of our members successfully complete the 15 weekend course in partnership with BCAMTA this program was also out of Kamloops.

We have been able to build capacity within our organization by having some of our employees take additional computer/accounting courses to enhance their skills in the workplace.

Additionally, we started a Job Development Project that would allow a member job shadow and get on the job experience in our Princeton field office. She will eventually be hired full time as the Administrative /Payroll clerk.

And last but not least our youngest applicant who is currently enrolled in a 10 month course at the Okanagan Cosmetology Institute out of Penticton. She is to finish in August 2012 and is doing exceptionally well.

Charlene Allison  
Employment Coordinator