



BLADERUNNERS TRAINING

The fifth successful Nuu-chah-nulth BladeRunners program completed training in Ucluelet this past May. Ten out of 11 participants successfully completed the four week program. We'd like to congratulate Alex Frank from Tla-o-qui-aht FN, Bevan Webster, Elias Murray from Ahousaht FN, Henderson Charlie from Ahousaht FN, James George from Ucluelet FN, Jonathan Thompson from Ucluelet FN, Steve Peters from Huu-ay-aht- FN, Robbie Frank from Tla-o-qui-aht FN, Ryan Touchie from Ahousaht FN, and Wally Thomas from Ahousaht FN.

The training included Life Skills by Daniel Blackstone, Health and Safety/ Construction Math by Steve Southin, First Aid Level 1 and Transportation Endorsement by Alberni First Aid, and Hearing Tests by Industrial Vancouver Island Hearing Services.

The health and safety training included Workers Compensation Board Awareness, WHMIS, Confined Space Awareness, Fall Protection, Ladder Safety,

Scaffolding and Construction Math. The training gives a foundation to help the participants get started and learn to practice safety, caution, and understanding when on the work sites. Steve had the participants practice getting into harnesses daily so that they knew how they worked; they also practiced how to do scaffolding the correct way.

Completing the training successfully requires commitment, four of the participants commuted everyday from Port Alberni, Esowista and Tofino. Three of the participants arranged room and board to take the training.

Project superintendent of Vic Van Isle Construction Ltd., Tony Wreggitt, visited

the classroom to share some of his experiences from the worksite, work expectations and the importance of always practicing safety.

"If you say on the resume you know how to do something, then you better know how to do it," he said.

Once the training was completed, Tony reviewed resumes and hired two of the BladeRunners full-time.



Shoreline BladeRunners

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James George started working on the site one week after his training completed and Wally Thomas started two weeks after his training. Wally has the opportunity to start working with Pace-West Mechanical Ltd., a plumbing company working with Vic Van Isle Construction Ltd. The company is interested in training and apprenticing Wally in the plumbing trade. Tony explained that plumbing is a trade that remains constant and is one of the highest paid trades in North America.

The BladeRunners Coordinators continue to support the BladeRunners once they obtain employment. Job site visits are done on a regular basis to ensure the BladeRunners settle into their jobs and know what their duties and expectations are.

“It has helped to understand what kind of person I am, realize my goals, and connect with a good employer,” James said. “I’m here at work now, met new people and made friends.”

Wally is pleased that he took the training and said, “I’d be sitting at home doing nothing, if I didn’t take the

BladeRunners training.”

Wally commented that since taking the course, he has met new people and made new friends, and learned new skills; Wally got closer to his extended family and is now working for a good boss, Tony Wreggitt, project superintendent.

Wally’s message for people who are considering taking the training is: “Do your best and make use of the training.”

He added, thoughtfully, “I’m a better person now.”

Vic Van Isle Construction Ltd. has hired five Nuuchah-nulth BladeRunners to date. I met with Tony Wreggitt and Rob Monteith, construction manager, and they both assured me that all the BladeRunners working on their job site are doing really well and they are pleased with their work.

Thank you, Vic Van Isle Construction Ltd., for all of your support to the Nuuchah-nulth BladeRunners training program.



TLA-O-QUI-AHT FIRST NATION CHILD CARE

The Nuu-chah-nulth Employment and Training Program provided funding to the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation Child Care Program via the donation of a much-needed playground.

The playground was purchased from Miracle Playground Equipment months before the donation, but wasn't installed until the spring weather. Chris, a professional installer, went to Meares Island with a crew

of three and also hired two members from the community. Overcoming the challenges of transporting the tools and equipment on the ten-minute boat ride to the island, the playground finally emerged.

Meares Island children and parents are very excited to see a new edition to the community. The playground is certain to bring many hours of fun and happiness for the children.



“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

KUTIIS SUCCESS STORY - IRIS ROSE JOHN

Iris Rose John participated in the Nuu-chah-nulth Employment & Training Program's eight week Employability and Skills Training Program (kutiis) from July 24 to September 5, 2007 in the Ahousaht First Nation community. All of the materials and information in the program are designed to meet the unique needs of each student as a whole person: mental, emotional, spiritual and physical. Eighteen modules are worked through by the students which include crafting a resume and cover letter, and conducting their own job search online.

Iris, with her children as her inspiration and a supportive husband, grabbed hold of her new found skills and obtained a job two weeks before the program ended. Almost one year later Iris continues to be independent. Working at the Clayoquot Orca Resort Lodge in Tofino and their local school in the Ahousaht community has brought pride and fulfillment for Iris. The daily commutes on the sea bus from Ahousaht to Tofino for work is not a journey of hardship but a journey of joy and reward.

Iris' smiling face says it all, but Iris states that kutiis has "helped build her confidence and self-esteem and become independent. It now makes sense to move forward."



Iris Rose John's smiling face says it all.



"Success is a state of mind. If you want success, start thinking of yourself as a success."

~ Dr. Joyce Brothers

BLADERUNNERS SUCCESS STORY - MIKE OLEBAR



Mike Olebar hard at work.

Mike Olebar of Ka:'yu:k't'h' First Nation completed the training in Nuu-chah-nulth BladeRunners this past February in Port Alberni. Mike had relocated from Seattle to Port Alberni and was struggling to make ends meet.

“Before BladeRunners, I was unsure about my future and struggled to find employment,” Mike said.

He willingly embraced the opportunity of becoming a BladeRunner and maintained perfect attendance throughout the training program.

“The program provided me with better communication skills, workplace safety knowledge and required Health and Safety certificates for employment,” he said.

Today, Mike works as a Production Labourer at Acoustic Woods Ltd, a Port Alberni company that manufactures Acoustic Guitar soundboards and ships

their products world wide to guitar manufacturers.

Ed Dicks, the president of Acoustic Woods, shares his thoughts about Mike.

“Mike has exceeded our expectations. His First Aid certificate and Safety Training is a plus. He is reliable and has a good work ethic.”

Mike says, “I like working here; it’s interesting, I am learning new skills, and they are good people to work for. I am now more certain of my future and able to make ends meet.”

Mike has become a strong ambassador for Nuu-chah-nulth BladeRunners; three applicants for the next program have been personally referred by Mike. When asked why he recommends BladeRunners to others, he said, “I recommend the BladeRunners program because if you want to plan a future, they will help you.”



TLA-O-QUI-AHT P r e s c h o o l GRADUATING CLASS



Back left: Tyrese Curley, back right: Lawrence Curley

“We must teach our children to dream with their eyes open.”
~ Harry Edwards





POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN AHOUSAHT

The NETP have supported and encouraged the Ahousaht North Island College Campus for many years in the Ahousaht community. The ABE, College and University transfer courses that are taken at the centre, are a very important component of building a strong foundation for the students who attend.

On June 4, at Thunderbird hall in Ahousaht, fifteen students and approximately sixty family members and friends gathered together in celebration. A wonderful meal was provided and, following the meal, Wendy Gallic (NETP staff), Daphne Robinson (Ahousaht Education Authority Board Member) and Mark Jack (Ahousaht Council Member), to name just a few, gave words of support and encouragement to the students.

Tom Weegar, Principal of North Island College Port Alberni Campus, congratulated the students for their accomplishments and acknowledged Anne Atleo the instructor for the program.

*“Reach for the sky,
don’t let it go.
Hang on to your
dreams.”*

Pam Frank, Ahousaht Administrator and Board Chair of the Ahousaht Education Authority, gave special thanks to the program team: Anne Atleo (instructor) and Charity Mack and Terry Robinson (valuable support workers). Pam followed her speech with words of encouragement to the students.

“Reach for the sky, don’t let it go. Hang on to your dreams.”



JACQUI'S FIRST JOB

When I was 15, I remember getting hired for a summer student position with the Tseshaht First Nation.

That was the best feeling I had ever had - I was going to have my very own cheque for the very first time. I thought that I was going to lose my summer with my friends, but it turned out that most of them got hired on, as well.



I remember waking up, going to the band office, and waiting excitedly to see what was in store for me; we all thought we were going to be picking up garbage around the reserve or something like that. As it turned out, we were going to be planting trees. It was a job, but, by the end of each day, we all were play-

ing our crazy little games - throwing mud pies at each other. That was fun (at the time anyway!).

The skills I used (I did not know I had) were:

- ▶ **Oral Communication** – I knew when and where I would start work, and how it was to be done.
- ▶ **Team Work** - I needed to learn how to work with others to carry out the tasks that needed to be done.
- ▶ **Thinking Skills** – I had to process the distance between each tree.
- ▶ **Problem Solving** – I had to organize our tree planting system.

▶ **Decision Making** – I had to look at all factors when it came to planting the trees, so the job would run smoothly.

I now know how important it is to maintain these skills because they are necessary for any job you want to be successful in.

There are nine Essential Skills that employers are looking for in their employees. These are: Reading, Document Use, Numeracy, Writing, Oral Communication, Working with Others, Thinking, Computer Use and Continuous Learning.

Essential Skills help us carry out a wide variety of tasks and are used in all types of situations: home, school, work and beyond. These skills help us work with increased knowledge, efficiency and safety! These are the skills that we use and develop every single day.

WHAT ESSENTIAL SKILLS DID I USE?

Oral Communication	Yes
Team Work.....	Yes
Thinking Skills	Yes
Problem Solving.....	Yes
Decision Making.....	Yes
Working with Others.....	Yes
Thinking Skills	Yes



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