
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Advanced Education

Lhtako Dene Nation and CNC gearing up for trades jobs

QUESNEL – Twelve Aboriginal learners in the Quesnel area are brushing up on their skills as they prepare to enter the trades with support from a community-based education and training partnership between the College of New Caledonia and the Lhtako Dene Nation.

The program will provide Aboriginal learners with employment readiness, upgrading courses and industry safety certificates for entry level trades access. It is one of five new partnerships worth a total of \$1 million that are enabling Aboriginal people to get skills and education in their community to prepare for jobs in B.C.'s growing economy. The College of New Caledonia and the Lhtako Dene Nation are receiving \$145,200.

The other communities and organizations that will benefit from the partnership program with public post-secondary institutions are Squamish Nation, Xeni Gwet'in First Nations, Osoyoos Indian Band, and Ooknakane Friendship Centre and En'owkin Centre in Penticton.

This \$1-million investment is in addition to the \$6.4 million in joint federal and provincial government funding previously announced for 23 projects to create partnerships between public post-secondary institutions and local Aboriginal communities. These projects are expected to deliver education and training that ranges from academic upgrading to skilled qualifications to more than 440 Aboriginal people. Today's announcement builds on that investment, and will provide training for a further 105 participants in five communities.

Quotes:

MLA for Cariboo North and Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Coralee Oakes on behalf of Advanced Education Minister Amrik Virk –

"B.C.'s job market is expanding – especially in the oil and gas and mining sectors – so it just makes sense to ensure we prepare workers with the skills they need to secure well-paying jobs. These training partnerships build stronger communities and enhance the skills and employability of our residents."

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Minister Bernard Valcourt–

"Our Government continues to take concrete steps to create the conditions for more prosperous, self-sufficient Aboriginal communities. Investing in skills training and education will not only support Aboriginal individuals to achieve success in the job market but will lead to greater participation of Aboriginal peoples in the economy, healthier Aboriginal communities, and a stronger Canada."

Employment and Social Development Canada Minister Jason Kenney–

“Canada’s long-term prosperity depends on the labour market participation of all Canadians, including underrepresented groups such as Aboriginal people. Our government is taking action to help Aboriginal people get the right skills and experience needed for available jobs, through initiatives such as the First Nations Job Fund, the Skills and Partnership Fund and the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy.”

Background:

The funding is being provided through the Aboriginal Community-based Delivery Partnerships Program. To date, total funding for the program is up to \$7.4 million, which includes \$3 million from the Ministry of Advanced Education, and up to \$4.4 million from the Government of Canada. Funding includes participant costs for programs to be delivered in First Nations communities.

In April 2014, government introduced B.C.’s Skills for Jobs Blueprint and committed to continuing to provide funding for in-community delivery of skills and training programs that meet Aboriginal learners’ needs and help prepare them to enter B.C.’s labour market.

The Aboriginal Community-Based Delivery Partnerships Program also delivers on commitments of the Aboriginal Post-secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan: 2020 Vision for the Future, including:

- Improving partnerships between public post-secondary institutions and Aboriginal institutes and communities.
- Increasing the number of Aboriginal learners in rural and remote communities accessing post-secondary education and training programs.

Learn More:

News Release:

www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/10/bcs-blueprint-helps-aboriginal-learners-get-skills-for-jobs.html

B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: www.workbc.ca/skills

Aboriginal Post-secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan: www.aved.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal/docs/Aboriginal_Action_Plan.pdf

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