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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2016AVED0008-000115  
Jan. 29, 2016

Ministry of Advanced Education

### **Giving Aboriginal learners the skills to succeed for in-demand jobs**

VICTORIA – More than 30 Aboriginal communities in partnership with 14 public post-secondary education institutions are delivering education and skills training programs to help 581 Aboriginal learners secure jobs in sectors facing a demand for skilled workers.

In 2015-16, a total of 29 programs will be delivered in Aboriginal communities and will prepare participants for jobs such as language support workers, human service workers, health care translators, wildlife tour operators, fisheries technicians and health care assistants.

46% of the Aboriginal population in B.C. is under 25 and increasing their participation in the workforce is important to supporting a diverse, strong and growing economy.

The programs are being supported with \$5.7 million through Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships program. The funding amount includes \$1.4 million from the Ministry of Advanced Education and \$4.3 million from the Employment Services and Supports (ESS) stream of the Canada-B.C. Job Fund Agreement. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada is also contributing \$1 million for these training programs.

A total of 348 proposals for funding from 135 individual organizations were submitted to the B.C. government for ESS funding by the application deadline in April. In 2015-16, a total of \$36.4 million was provided to the province for all ESS programs, including the Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships programs and programs available through the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training.

The Canada Job Fund helps ensure training programs give individuals the skills to enter and succeed in the job market. The goal of ESS is to increase the labour market participation of British Columbians by assisting them to prepare for entry to, or return to, sustainable employment.

The programs support the BC Jobs Plan, B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint, and the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan (Aboriginal Framework).

#### **Quotes:**

#### **The Honourable MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour -**

“I am pleased that funding provided under the Canada-British Columbia Job Fund is helping Indigenous people in B.C. get the education, skills and training supports they need. Our government is committed to helping Indigenous people get good quality jobs.”

**The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada –**

"Increasing Indigenous participation in post-secondary programs leads to benefits for all Canadians. The Government of Canada is pleased to support the delivery of community-based skills training and education to First Nations communities through the Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships program. Our goal is to support Indigenous learners as they transition into meaningful employment where they will have a real chance for success."

**Advanced Education Minister Andrew Wilkinson –**

"The government provides community-based programs to ensure that Aboriginal learners can succeed in training needed for skilled in-demand work. These programs are delivered in partnership with Aboriginal communities and post-secondary institutions to build communities, individuals and economies."

**Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister John Rustad –**

"Aboriginal people are the fastest growing and youngest population in B.C. Working to ensure their participation in the economy is important in meeting the skill needs of employers throughout B.C."

**First Nations Education Steering Committee president Tyrone McNeill –**

"As recognized in the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework, community-based delivery of post-secondary education and training is key to meeting the needs of First Nations students and communities. These partnerships will support local First Nations priorities and create new opportunities for our learners in their communities."

**Nicola Valley Institute of Technology president Ken Tourand –**

"With a vision dedicated to strengthening Aboriginal communities, one learner at a time, NVIT has delivered education in communities for over 30 years. Through community-based trades programming, NVIT has prepared over 120 learners to either enter the work force or further develop skilled trade talent. This additional funding support through provincial and national initiatives provides further opportunities for hundreds of prospective Aboriginal learners to access the training required to assist provincial and national efforts to close skills gaps."

**Learn More:**

BC Jobs Plan and Aboriginal Peoples and First Nations: <http://ow.ly/V4B0P>

B.C. 2024 Labour Market Outlook: <http://ow.ly/V4B5D>

B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: <http://ow.ly/XBDsv>

Canada-B.C. Job Fund Agreement: <http://ow.ly/XBlna>

Aboriginal Framework: <http://ow.ly/V5rVn>

A backgrounder follows.

**Media Contacts:**

Richelle Dawn Funk  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
250 356-7876

Media Relations Office  
Employment and Social Development Canada  
819 994-5559  
media@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

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## BACKGROUND

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### **Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships funding 2015-16**

Partnerships between public post-secondary institutions and Aboriginal communities receiving funding through Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships programs in 2015-16:

Programs listed by region where programs will be delivered.

#### **Cariboo-Chilcotin – \$320,078 investment to support 67 Aboriginal learners**

\$96,283 to the University of Northern British Columbia and Tsilhqot'in National Government partnership

Funding is to deliver the Tsilhqot'in language certificate program, level 1, in Williams Lake. Participants will get the skills required to work as language support workers within band schools, School District #27, as a health care translator, or a translator for land-use management projects. Obtained credits can transfer to other professional programs, including bachelor degrees. 20 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$48,236 to the Thompson Rivers University and Alexis Creek First Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the university prep, education assistant and community support certificate program at the Redstone Reserve. Participants will gain the skills needed to assist individuals with special needs. They will also learn educational, social, vocational, recreational and personal life skills. Graduates will also be able to transfer directly into year two of the human service diploma program. 15 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$84,652 to the Thompson Rivers University and Northern Shuswap Tribal Council partnership

Funding is to deliver The Journey Home – the final leg of the developmental standard term certificate – language journey in the Cariboo Chilcotin. Participants will enrol in the final year of the three-year 92-credit program with academic, language, culture and education courses. Graduates will earn Teachers Regulation Branch certification and acknowledgement of the appropriate First Nations Language Authority. 12 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$90,907 to the University of Northern British Columbia and Nazko First Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the Carrier language certificate program, level 1. Participants will obtain the skills required to work as language support workers within Band schools, school districts, as a healthcare translator or as a translator for land-use management projects. 20 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

#### **Northern British Columbia - \$806,000 investment to support 79 Aboriginal learners**

\$24,060 to the College of New Caledonia and Tl'azt'en Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the health access – health care assistant certificate program. Participants will acquire the skills necessary to care for individuals with disabilities living in long-term care facilities or private homes. Students will also receive upgrading courses in English and math. 16 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$169,072 to the College of New Caledonia and Yekooche First Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the pre-employment access to trades program. Participants will develop resumes and cover letters and participate in mock interviews. Training will also include adult upgrading courses and safety certificates such as construction safety training system and strata IT fundamentals. 12 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$197,406 to the College of New Caledonia and Takla Lake First Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the pre-employment residential building maintenance assistant program. Participants will gain a range of essential work skills, such as resume writing, as well as certificate and technical training for building maintenance such as trades math, carpentry and plumbing. 12 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$178,853 to the College of New Caledonia and Saik'uz First Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver college and career preparation. Participants will undergo a skills assessment and enrol in appropriate English, math or computer courses. 15 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$236,677 to the College of New Caledonia and Saik'uz, Nadleh Whut'en and the Stellat'en First Nations partnership

Funding is to deliver the Aboriginal workplace readiness program. Participants will focus on subjects such as Aboriginal culture, computer skills and financial literacy. Students will obtain certificate including occupational first aid and resource road radio operation. 24 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

### **Thompson Okanagan - \$1,239,173 million investment to support 141 Aboriginal learners**

\$243,714 to the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and Coldwater, Lower Nicola and Upper Nicola Indian Bands partnership

Funds are to deliver the developmental studies for Aboriginal people in the Nicola Valley program. Participants will receive online and face-to-face learning that includes upgrading in English and math, and industry certificate training including occupational first aid, mineral exploration and Foodsafe. 60 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$106,012 to the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and Lillooet Tribal Council partnership

Funding is to deliver the LTC college readiness program. Participants will achieve credits towards the adult dogwood that also prepare learners for college, with upgrading courses in English, indigenous studies and algebra. 15 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$384,979 to the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and Okanagan Indian Education

#### Resources Society and Penticton Indian Band partnership

Funding is to deliver the Penticton heavy equipment training program. Participants will receive upgrading courses towards their adult dogwood in writing skills and Indigenous studies, as well as excavator and heavy equipment operator training. 20 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

#### \$195,596 to the Okanagan College and Okanagan Indian Band partnership

Funding is to deliver the stepping forward to employment / education program. Participants will receive adult basic education upgrading and develop skills essential to the workplace, such as reading, document use, oral communication and using digital technology such as computers. 14 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

#### \$84,321 to the Okanagan College and Westbank First Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the construction craft worker Aboriginal bridging program. Participants will prepare to enter construction craft work level 1 training by acquiring safety and workplace certification. They will also have access to Aboriginal mentoring, education and employment advising and will be registered apprentices upon program completion. 14 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

#### \$224,551 for the University of Victoria Gustavson School of Business and Lake Division Bands (Neskonlith, Adams Lake, Little Shuswap Lake and Splitsin Indian Bands) partnership

Funding is to deliver the Lake Division Aboriginal Canadian entrepreneurs program. The program helps participants identify and implement business opportunities within their local economy and the program also includes a mentorship component. 18 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

### **Lower Mainland – \$1,836,352 investment to support 170 Aboriginal learners**

#### \$149,514 to the Capilano University and Lil'Wat Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the Mt. Currie Aboriginal sustainable employment program: industry training certificate. Participants will receive upgrading courses that focus on trades, camp service worker, retail and customer service, and obtain industry certificates including occupational first aid, WHMIS, cashier training, Serving it Right and Foodsafe, along with supported work experience. 12 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

#### \$234,895 to the Vancouver Island University and Lil'Wat Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the Mt. Currie Aboriginal sustainable employment: introduction to construction trades program. Participants will explore trades training with a focus on trades foundations, carpentry and supported work experience. 18 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

#### \$205,321 to the Justice Institute of B.C. and the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre and Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council partnership

Funding is to deliver the justice and public safety career preparatory certificate program. Participants will receive training that includes standard first aid, CPR for health care providers and the B.C. Adult Dogwood diploma along with introductory courses in collaboration with Native Education College. 20 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$795,293 to the Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Squamish Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the skills and trades training for Aboriginal Students program. Program includes introduction to construction, environmental monitoring, piping foundations and carpentry. 60 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$137,714 to the Vancouver Community College and Stó:lō Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the SASET culinary arts pre-trades foundation program. Participants will be prepared for entry into culinary arts programs. The pre-trades program includes essential skills, employment certificates (food safe, first aid, WHMIS and world host) and a three-week practicum placement with a local restaurant. 15 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$67,204 to the Northern Lights College and Seabird Island Band partnership

Funding is to deliver the early childhood education and care diploma program. Participants will receive career preparation, along with work experience and opportunities for work placement. 33 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$246,411 to the Thompson Rivers University and Seabird Island Band partnership

Funding is to deliver the Integrated welder foundations program. Participants will access the welder foundations program that includes 10 modules of both theory and practical welding and an examination through the Industry Training Authority. In addition, learners will also receive job readiness training in a classroom setting and work experience opportunities. 12 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

### **Vancouver Island - \$1,492,627 investment to support 124 Aboriginal learners**

\$191,879 to the Camosun College and Tseycum First Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the CELÁSET (Entry Level Employment and Education Readiness Program) for W̱SÁNEĆ First Nation. Funding will provide five courses and six workplace certificates (including occupational first aid, Foodsafe, WHMIS, world host, cashier training and Serving It Right), along with worksite experience. 16 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$199,409 to the Camosun College and Songhees First Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the CELÁSET (Entry Level Employment and Education Readiness Program) for Lekwungen First Nation. Funding will provide five courses and six workplace certificates (including occupational first aid, Foodsafe, WHMIS, world host, cashier training and Serving It Right), along with worksite experience. 16 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$214,326 to the University of Victoria Gustavson School of Business, in partnership with TRICORP, and Haida First Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the sustainable forestry businesses program. Entrepreneurial training will enable members of the Haida Nation to meet demand for local forestry contracts. The program also includes a mentorship component. 18 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$301,109 to the Vancouver Island University and the Cowichan Tribes and Stz-uminus First Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the Ta'tul'ut Shaqwaluwun – Trades Exploration program. Participants will obtain basic credentials including, emergency first aid, WHMIS, and worksite safety. Program also includes adult education upgrading courses. 32 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$258,659 to the Vancouver Island University and Heiltsuk Tribal Council partnership

Funding is to deliver the Aboriginal ecotourism training program. Through classroom time and experiential learning, participants will obtain university credits and industry certifications. This is followed by an eight-week internship. Participants will graduate with the skills needed for entry-level leadership and guiding positions working for resorts, wildlife tour operators, outdoor centres, and a variety of wilderness and adventure camp programs. 14 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

\$299,095 to the Vancouver Island University and Coastal First Nations partnership

Funding is to deliver the stewardship technicians training for First Nations program. Program includes technical and field-based courses leading to potential employment as fisheries technicians, heritage surveyors, or environmental monitors. 16 Aboriginal participants will benefit.

\$28,150 to the North Island College and Nuxalk Nation partnership

Funding is to deliver the adult basic education with pathways to employment training program. Participants will upgrade their schooling in preparation for education and training programs leading to employment in the trades, health, and applied business technology fields. 12 Aboriginal learners will benefit.

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