



"The effect is profound. Without the HCA program, I wouldn't be able to get a job that could support myself and my family."

Louise

Graduate of Native Education College's Health Care Assistant program

"The program really opened my eyes and made me decide what I wanted to do. I loved it."

Charlotte

Graduate of Métis Skills and Education Centre's Culinary Arts Program

"When students leave, they're so much stronger. They become aware that they can accomplish things."

Colleen Hodgson

General Manager for Métis Skills and Education Centre, host of the MSEC Culinary Arts Program

"Our program encourages people to consider the possibilities in their lives and take action on their decisions for the well being of their families, their communities and themselves."

Sylvia Schmidt

CEO of Turtle Island Indigenous Education, host of the Reawakening Our Entrepreneurial Spirit Aboriginal Self-Employment Program

(Front cover): A drawing of the "Connected Through Our Roots" totem pole, carved by ATEP participants and Master Carver Carey Newman.

The totem pole stands in welcome outside the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. Drawing by Carey Newman.

For more information on ATEP programs in your area, or to see if you are eligible to enroll, visit:

<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/atep/>

Funding provided through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Agreement



BRITISH COLUMBIA

For more information about B.C.'s labour market programs, visit www.workbc.ca



Aboriginal Training for Employment Program



BRITISH COLUMBIA



ATEP: An Overview

The Aboriginal Training for Employment Program (ATEP), funded by the Canada-BC Labour Market Agreement, seeks to connect Aboriginal individuals with growing industries in BC. In April 2010, 17 Service Providers began their ATEP employment training programs. Since then, over 500 people have graduated from various ATEP programs.

ATEP programs are located throughout the province, ensuring that more Aboriginal people have access to employment training. Aboriginal organizations, friendship centres, and First Nations offer programs in urban areas such as Vancouver, Victoria, and Prince George, and in rural areas, several of them on First Nations reserves. ATEP prepares participants for a diverse array of occupations, in fields such as health care, trades, culinary arts, hospitality and tourism, office administration, entrepreneurship, and others.

Classroom-based instruction is coupled with hands-on, culturally relevant learning in workshops, and practicum and volunteer experience. Additionally, job coaches are available to enhance employability by assisting students in résumé preparation, interview skills, job search strategies and career planning.



Benefits of ATEP

For Students:

- Comprehensive, culturally relevant employment readiness training with no tuition or student fees
- Preparation for jobs offering higher incomes and more stability
- Various support services available during training, including access to job coaches for 6 months after graduation
- Array of certification courses, such as First Aid, FoodSafe, Work Safe, etc.
- Guidance in career planning

For Communities:

- More skilled workers
- Higher labour force participation
- Improved awareness and prevention of family and community health issues
- Enhanced cultural awareness and pride
- Greater appreciation for the value of education and employment

For British Columbia:

- Larger pool of skilled workers to meet the upcoming labour shortage anticipated for BC
- Lower unemployment rates as workers gain new skills
- More citizens working in higher-paying, more stable jobs



- (L) ATEP participants in the Boilermakers Program at BCIT.
- (C) Participants in the Women in Trades Training Program at Thompson Rivers University.
- (R) ATEP participants receive instruction from Chef Nathan Hyam (right) in the MSEC Culinary Arts Program.