



Skeena Native Development Messenger

July/August/September 2008

www.snds.bc.ca

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Search for: Skeena Native Development Society and join our group! Stay up to date with up and coming program information, browse our photo album, start a discussion, post a comment or question on *The Wall*. We hope to see you soon!

It is that time of the year! The Samuel A. Munroe Educational Assistance Program deadline is October 6th! For more information call or click for a complete application package!

Please update your contact information. When email is undeliverable the address is deleted. If you haven't received updates from SNDS in past months, your address is not up to date! To update your address or to receive copies of this newsletter please email:
hilaryzornow@snds.bc.ca

Academic Success Opens Doors

As our children head into another year of school we prep them with new resolve, challenge them to stay motivated, to do better, to reach higher. In their earliest years we want them to strive to be more, so why does this commitment to challenge our young seem to dwindle as they inch closer to the finish line?

The *Aboriginal Report 2002/03-2006/07: How Are We Doing?* published by the Ministry of Education assessed the success rates of (self-identified) Aboriginal students from grade eight to graduation. By grade nine the Aboriginal population began to see a rapid rate of decline in grade progression as the years of high school moved forward. Only 49% of the Aboriginal population represented in this report, completed high school with a Dogwood Certificate, while the non-Aboriginal population had a success rate of 83%¹. Some students may take more than six years to complete high school and are therefore not represented in these completion statistics,

1. Province. "Aboriginal Report 2002/03-2006/07: How Are We Doing?" <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/achieve/ab-pref/php>

however, the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal school experience is still dramatically different. Not only do fewer Aboriginal students graduate, those that do may not have the pre-requisites to move forward with their education. As Heather Morin indicates, "although there has been a general increase in the completion rate of Aboriginal students, these students are not consistently writing provincial exams. Without writing and passing provincial exams, Aboriginal students have difficulties getting into post-secondary education and further training"². For instance, Aboriginal students "are enrolled in Communications 12 as opposed to English 12 or a basic math course (Essentials of Math) as opposed to the more academic math course (Math 12)"³. Typically recommended when students express difficulty with the academic courses, these easier alternatives are not always necessary. ... *con't pg 2* ...

2. Morin, Heather. "Student Performance Data and Research Tools to Ensure Aboriginal Student Success." http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/research/ab_students_success.pdf
3. Morin, Heather

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Challenging an academic course is difficult, but not impossible. Traditional theories purport that humans are born with a level of intelligence that cannot be changed. Unfortunately, this flawed impression of human capacity has taught people, through standardized testing for instance, that their ability to learn is limited by their genetics. In other words, they are born smart or they are not, this could not be farther from the truth. Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligence (MI Theory), contends that all people possess seven forms of intelligence (linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal and intrapersonal)⁴. To simplify the theory: people have different levels of aptitude in the various forms of intelligence, most will be stronger in some forms than others⁵. This means students need to be taught in a way that corresponds with their learning

4 Gardner, Howard. "A Multiplicity of Intelligences: In tribute to Professor Luigi Vignolo". Scientific American, 1998. <http://www.howardgardner.com/papers/papers.htm>

5 Gardner, Howard

style, they are never unteachable.

This is where parents need to do *their* homework. Talk to teachers about how they help students grasp difficult subjects, you may be able to work with them to develop a learning plan for your child. Tutors can help students make sense of the subjects they are struggling with and they are accessible. Options are available for BC students that are free of charge. Learn Now BC offers on-line tutorials and links to alternatives. You will need a Personal Education Number (PEN) in order to access these on-line services. You can access this number by calling your school, or school district office (if you have been out of the school system for an extended period).

It is important to realize that **there are no missed opportunities**. Even when students graduate without the pre-requisites they need, or do not graduate at all, there are options for every person in Canada to complete grade 12 or upgrade in order to pursue new career goals.

What has this got to do with SNDS? Completion of Grade 12 is vitally important to the Trades Apprenticeship Program, which requires individuals to be prepared for the theoretical portion of their training. This may require having academic English, Math and various optional high school courses (Physics, Chemistry, etc.) depending on the trade. Even if the trade of interest does not require grade 12, many employers will. Be sure to consider your options if you need upgrading or need to finish school. If you would like to get into a trade, our Job Development Coach will assess your needs and help you to develop an action plan.

CHECK THIS OUT!

www.casacanada.com/mulin.html

-This site offers great insight into different learning styles

www.literacyworks.org/mi/assessment/findyourstrengths.htm

-Learn your mix of strengths, have fun browsing the tabs



Looking
to
Graduate
or
Upgrade?
These
links
are an
excellent
place to
start!

www.learnnowbc.ca

An opportunity to finish school On-Line! This website not only offers a link to the Province's virtual classroom, but it also provides help with homework, planning, and so much more. This is one way to complete the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program. The ABE program can also be completed through your local post-secondary institution (inquire with the school to learn more), or through the School District. There are **no fees or age limit** to access these services. This site is worth visiting!

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/ adult_graduation](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/adult_graduation)

This site provides information on the adult graduation program available in almost every school district in BC. Students have the option of pursuing their regular Dogwood diploma or the BC Adult Graduation Diploma. **Tuition is free**, however a fee is charged for additional courses after graduation. Visit this site to learn more or contact your local school district.

SNDS Success Story

Darryl Bryant Tsimshian 4th Year Carpenter

When a friend approached Darryl about a possible apprenticeship opportunity with Skeena Native Development he jumped at the chance. While he had some experience in the field of Carpentry, his passion grew as he learned more with the hands on experience an apprenticeship offers. Getting through the theoretical portion of the training proved much more challenging. Darryl recollects overcoming the challenges of Math and English



“I knew I had to beat it, nobody else would do it for me.”

and pushing through his studies, he states, “I knew I had to beat it, nobody else would [do it for me].” Darryl attributes his success to his positive attitude. He enjoys working with other people and feels that it is important to maintain a cooperative approach in order to get the best results.

His ambitious nature continues to carry him forward today as he admits that he enjoys meeting a new challenge. Darryl plans to continue to discover himself and his skills as he moves forward and is excited to contribute to the community of Terrace through the various construction

projects he will be a part of. He advises others who are interested in a Carpentry trade to be serious about their goals and to maintain a good attitude. He also advises young people to not be afraid to voice their opinion. When it comes to working together and problem solving, he says, “sometimes the best solution could be yours.” His final words of advice are to find a role model. Darryl’s father was very influential in his life, and he says, “having a role model keeps me going.” Darryl’s next move will be to challenge the Inter-Provincial exam in order to become a Journeyman. We wish him the best of luck and know that the confidence he has in himself to move on and try harder is going to take him far!

Congratulations to the recipients of the Skeena Native Development Post Secondary Bursary:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Julie Morrison, Gitksan | BA of Education |
| Sandra Reviakin, Gitksan | BA of Education |
| Carrie Nyce, Gitksan | BA of Education |
| Verna Howard, Gitksan | Business Administration |
| Valine Crist, Haida | BA of Arts |
| Carolyn Brown, Tsimshian | Master of Economics |
| Samantha Nyce, Nisga'a | Culinary Arts |
| Kelli Clifton, Tsimshian | BA of Fine Arts |
| Mary Stewart, Nisga'a | BA of Social Work |

The Post Secondary Bursary Awards Program is run twice per year. Applicants must at least be in their second year and returning to studies to be eligible. Application requirements can be found on our website at www.snds.bc.ca.

The deadline for the next intake is February 28th!

Not getting info about our programming and deadlines fast enough?
Email: hilaryzornow@snds.bc.ca and be added to the distribution list for updates as fast as your Internet connection, or join our FaceBook Group!

Do you have a Social Insurance Number (SIN)?

You cannot legally work in Canada without one you must have a SIN to access SNDS programs. It is easy to get, doesn't cost much and has no age limit. Find a link to the SIN application on our website or visit your local BC Access Centre today!

WE'VE GOT YOUR LINK!

Check out: www.amik.ca

A job referral website that connects Aboriginal job seekers with employers looking to hire Aboriginal people. Become an email subscriber and receive instant job postings and training opportunities. Employers: mass distribute job postings for a nominal fee.

Samuel A. Munroe Educational Assistance Program

Each year Skeena Native Development awards
50 deserving students a laptop computer
to assist with their studies....

This could be YOU!

**Deadline to apply
October 6th 2008!**

For First Nation & Inuit



"...aiming higher..."

To learn more about this unique opportunity
call or click for a complete application package...

1-800-721-1333
www.snds.bc.ca

*Under "Programs & Services"
Go to "Youth Services"*