



Skeena Native Development Messenger

October / November 2008

www.snds.bc.ca

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We would love to hear from individuals who have utilized our services. Post pictures of your experience or start a discussion!



Reminder:

SNDS is closed for the Christmas Holiday at days end December 19th and will re-open January 5th 2009. We wish everyone the best of the season!

Please update your contact information.

When email is returned as undeliverable the address is deleted from our distribution list. If you haven't received a monthly update, your address may have been deleted. To update/add your address or to receive copies of this newsletter please email:

hilaryzornow@snds.bc.ca

Don't forget to add this address to your safe list if you currently use a SPAM Blocker.

A Career in Broadcasting?

Skeena Native Development is pleased to partner with Astral Media BC North to offer the *Astral Media Aboriginal Broadcast Journalism Studies Scholarship & Internship*. This program will offer two successful First Nation or Inuit applicants, who reside in the SNDS service area, a complete tuition entrance scholarship at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). This excellent opportunity will also include a six month internship at the television news operation of CFTK TV Terrace which will provide invaluable professional experience. Various expenses will be covered while students are attending BCIT.

Applicants are required to complete the application package found on our website and complete a TOWES assessment. Applicants must also meet entrance requirements for BCIT which are: high school graduation and English 12 or language proficiency. A high level of oral and written English and proficiency with keyboarding and applied computer skills are essential for program success.

If you are serious about pursuing a career in broadcast journalism check out our website or call our office for more information.

The deadline to apply is December 19th 2008!

Skeena Native Development

Post Secondary Academic Bursary

COMING THIS FEBRUARY

www.snds.bc.ca

My Experience as an Ironworker Apprentice

Toron Mould is in his first year as an Ironworker apprentice. Currently pursuing his training through BCIT in Vancouver, he has had to adjust to a whole new life away from the comforts of home. When he visited our office he brought with him his warm smile and a positive story.

Sitting calmly in an office chair Toron revealed the highs and lows of his experience with the same conviction we heard from a young Jordan Daniels at the Ironworkers Information Session last summer. As Toron explains, "he has fallen in love all over again" with his chosen profession.

It isn't easy making the transition from a small reserve to a large city. In fact, Toron had never been to Vancouver before and moving away from his community for the first time was a huge culture shock. While he was overwhelmed at first he quickly came to know his neighbourhood and transit routes. He has adjusted to the fast pace of city life and is enjoying the exposure to a new world. He misses his family and friends but makes use of the Internet to stay connected, makes regular calls home, keeps his mind occupied with exercise and enjoys making new friends. Toron advises that it is important to be approachable and open to meeting new people, developing a support network away from home is important. While moving to a large center is exciting, in order to be successful it is important to maintain balance

and concentrate on your goals. With that attitude it is no wonder Toron has already received notice in his class by instructors who are pleased with his progress.

While working outside and getting hands on experience was an easy task, theory was difficult. Through assistance from tutors and "sticking to it" Toron met the challenge. Theory is often a stumbling block for apprentices in any trade, however, it is necessary in order to successfully receive journeyman status. Toron's advice is to apply yourself and not give up. He is open about not doing well initially, but rather than being discouraged he was motivated to work harder.

A strong work ethic is essential to being an Ironworker. Toron explains, "you need to have tough skin and be able to take criticism when you make mistakes", it will only make you better at what you do. "You can't have a chip on your shoulder", adds Toron, "you build together as a family." Success in Ironworking requires an open mind and an open heart. One must be agile and committed, traits Toron has demonstrated to us at SNDS. Learning about the Ironworking program was a turning point in Toron's life and he looks forward to developing his skills further. We are certainly proud of his achievements so far and look forward to the great things to come!

To learn more visit:
www.ironworkerslocal97.com



Toron Mould, Tsimshian

Skeena Native Development has formed a unique partnership with the Ironworkers Local 97 and has reserved 6 seats at the only training institute for Ironworking, the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). Skeena Native Development is prepared to assist individuals with tuition, books, supplies, accommodation and wage subsidy for the duration of training. If Ironworking sounds like a career path for you, call our office to begin the application process.

Tech Tip: We update our website regularly. If you are looking for a new post, but don't see it try this: with your web browser (ie. *Internet Explorer*) open click on "Tools" and select "Delete History", next click on "Delete Files..." from *Temporary Internet Files*, and finally refresh your page. You should now see any new changes and updates made to our site!

SNDS Success Story



Michelle Blackburn, Tahltan - Hunting & Fishing Guide

Michelle was in the middle of making bread when we contacted her for an interview; a skill she learned while employed with *Profit Muskwa*

Outfitters last summer. The difference being of course the first time she made bread was in a wood burning stove while fulfilling a host of other tasks. In addition to being a camp cook, Michelle was also a wrangler and entry level guide. Her tasks ranged from taking care of the horses, skidding logs, packing the hunters kill and then capeing skin! A strong woman indeed.

Michelle grew up on a ranch, has been riding horses since she was four and had been out in the wilderness since she was eight. Hard work seems to be something that comes naturally to this mother of

two. When asked why she was motivated to pursue a Guiding career, her pride was beaming through the phone lines. She explained that the Tahltan have a strong tradition of guiding and Michelle says, she is "walking in the footsteps." Her goal is to encourage other young people to chose the same profession and carry on this important element of their heritage.

Michelle plans to carry on with Guiding and is looking forward to securing work year round. With such a strong work ethic, we know Michelle will have success with anything she does!

SAM Program Makes a Difference

Adele Neaslos, Gitasu, never thought she would get past grade nine. Having grown up with adversity, she admits to developing a substance abuse problem at the age of 13. During a New Years celebration, Adele decided that she wanted to be somebody and resolved to make better choices.

In her final year at Parkside Secondary, Adele is extremely self-aware for such a young woman. It took a lot of personal struggle to get to this point in her life. Having overcome many obstacles, including having to live on her own while trying to finish school, Adele is clearly a strong individual. While she has felt like quitting under the stress of the realities of her life, she has maintained her course and is now looking toward graduating with her Dogwood in the near

future. She will be the first female to graduate in her family. Adele is inspired by her brother, who she describes as a genius, and attributes her motivation to Ruth, her teacher at the *Teen Learning Centre*. Ruth believed in her and that encouragement has carried Adele on her journey to success.

Adele was awarded a Laptop computer through last years *Samuel A. Munroe (SAM) Educational Assistance Program* and has since put it to good use. It was a demonstrable help when it came to helping her conduct research, write her essays, complete projects and because it came with a printer allowed her to use it as a job search tool, as she could easily print resumes when needed. The laptop will likely be of great help as she plans to pursue Culinary Arts next year. It was her passion for cooking

(developed at the tender age of four), which has pushed Adele to finish grade 12 as it is a requirement for most post secondary programs. Adele continues to encourage her friends to try harder and stay in school as well. We look forward to her fulfilling her dream of opening her own restaurant.



Adele Neaslos (right) with friend Chantel Gray

The winners for this years Samuel A. Munroe Educational Assistance Program will be posted on our website in December...stay tuned!



Aboriginal Broadcast Journalism Scholarship & Internship

Are you serious about pursuing a career in broadcasting?



"...aiming higher..."

Call or Click for more information:

www.snds.bc.ca

1-800-721-1333