



## OSOYOOS INDIAN BAND ANNUAL REPORT 2007/ 2008



The Osoyoos Indian Band has remained dedicated to providing employment and training opportunities to members of the Osoyoos Indian Band community, and the Osoyoos Indian Band Development Corporation for the fiscal year 2007/ 2008. We are proud of what our members have achieved this past year, thanks to the support, and funding received through the Okanagan Training and Development Council.



**Mike Gallagher and Mitchell Anderson**

We have had great accomplishments in the area of trades. One of our band members, Mike Gallagher has completed his fourth year apprenticeship course, wrote his IPSE, and is now a certified Journeyman Carpenter. Mitchell Anderson is one test away from reaching his journeymen status in carpentry as well. Shaun Stelkia just completed his third year apprenticeship course, and will be returning this fall to obtain his certification. I do not doubt that these two young men will have their journeymen papers by Christmas 2008. We also had another member; Nathan McGinnis complete his second year towards a millwright apprenticeship program. Nathan's program is a partnership with the international company Vincor.



Osoyoos Indian Band member, Terry Baptiste, complete an Excavator Operators Program. He has relocated to Grand Prairie, Alberta for employment. Terry did very well in his course, but has run into barriers. Due to lack of "on the job" experience, it has proven difficult to find employment in this field. Terry remains persistent, and optimistic that he will find a job soon.



We would also like to recognize Cassandra Falkus for the amazing work she has done at our very own Sen Pok Chin Elementary School. Cassandra began working at the school on a Youth Development Program as a teacher's assistant. Through the course of her program she spent some time in the library learning the computer system. When her teacher's assistant program ended, Cassandra was hired as the librarian for the school. She has been working really hard to organize and catalogue all the books within the library. She has established a system for children, and community members to access, and sign out books. Our new school opened in 1998 and this is the first time we have had a functioning library. With the help of OTDC funding she was able to receive additional training on the program Library for Universal, to make this possible.



There were two employees of the Nk'Mip Desert and Cultural Centre that received additional training to advance within their organization. Derek Bryson took over the area of Technical Management for the facility, and Robert Etienne became responsible for the area of Facility Operations.

In Addition to these programs, we also provided many short training courses for our community members such as H2S Alive, Occupational First Aid Level 1, Whmis, Food Safe, Forklift Operators Certificate, and computer upgrading courses. Skills enhancement workshops were also provided for existing employees of the Osoyoos Indian Band businesses to expand their knowledge, and to keep them competitive in today's labor market.

The Osoyoos Indian Band has always been progressive. From the early years of ranching, trading and small farms the people have continued to change with the times. Now, huge vineyards sprawl across these lands, businesses are being invited to call this home, and the people are becoming business oriented.

Thank you Okanagan Training and Development Council for all the assistance that has been provided to our community members for the 2007/ 2008 fiscal year.



Lindsay Anderson