



WESTBANK FIRST NATION

2007/2008

ANNUAL REPORT

Westbank First Nation Employment & Training department continues to support and promote programs of all different levels in education, training, certificates, diplomas, or working with clients in pursuing a job or career.

Westbank First Nation has been working with our growing community in the Economic Development Department. With new businesses on WFN land it's being a great opportunity for Westbank First Nation to work with the new outlets. London Drugs, Wal-Mart, Kelly O'Brien's, Jean Warehouse, Staples, Tim Hortons, Nature's Fare, Bell Customer Service are just a few new businesses on WFN lands, with many more opening up in the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009. The Education Department is a great partner for students with long term and large amounts of funding. This gives us the opportunity to work together in cost sharing or informational exchanging. The Social Development has been a great supporter and partner working with the S. A. clients. The work with the Life Skills has become an intricate part of the employment and training plan as it allows us to work with unhealthy life style individuals taking them from a point of unhealthiness of being dependent on Social Assistance to making good choices in their lives. We subsidize the summer programs such as Youth Works and Kids Camps that run each summer from June to August, this is in connection with the Recreation Department. Westbank First Nation is beginning to work on their 10 year Health Plan of which Employment & Training will play a very important role in the balance of this plan, creating a healthy community. With the change of office space from the band office at 301-515 Hwy 97S to 1900 Quail Lane there has been a noticeable increase in the number of individuals accessing the Employment and Training facilities. The computer lab being in the next room allows the resume writing and job search programs to be much more effective as well as there is lots of space to put on such training programs as First Aid, Food Safe and Whims.

Corinne Derickson – Natural Health and Healing Practitioner



Corinne Derickson is a member of the Westbank First Nation Band. Corinne has lived in the Westbank community all of her life and is a mother of 6 children. Corinne saw this as an opportunity to do something she knew the community was in need of. She is in search of a traditional healing practitioner of the Okanagan who she could apprenticeship with as along with the training from the Natural Healing School it would be a way to enhance her skills and giving herself a broader range of clientele.

Paul Leader – Articulating Rock Truck Training



Paul Leader

Paul in the Articulating Truck

Paul Leader is a non-status Aboriginal man, who was working as a gas jockey for Shell Oil. He asked to be interviewed to take the Articulating Rock Training with Emil Anderson Construction and Teamster Local Union 213. He was successful in his bid to be a participant. On March 10th, he started the training and on March 20th received his certificate as a qualified Articulating Rock Truck driver. He then applied to Extreme Professional Driving to complete his Class 3 drivers license to be qualified as an on the road Articulating Rock truck driver. On May 29th, did his government driving test with much success and is now ready for dispatch as an Articulating Rock Truck Driver.

Other successful individuals having completed programs funded by OTDC are:

Rohel Williams – now working in the Kelowna RCMP detachment

Jaclyn Wragg - LPN, now working for OKIB

Bob Swite – last year of Forestry at Thompson Rivers University, now working summers at

Heartland Economics – Westbank, B.C.

Sean Pedersen – 3rd year apprentice for Sheet Metal working

Dion Walz – Success completion of the Flagging course with Adele Flagging

Judith Good Sky WFN Employment and Training Facilitator