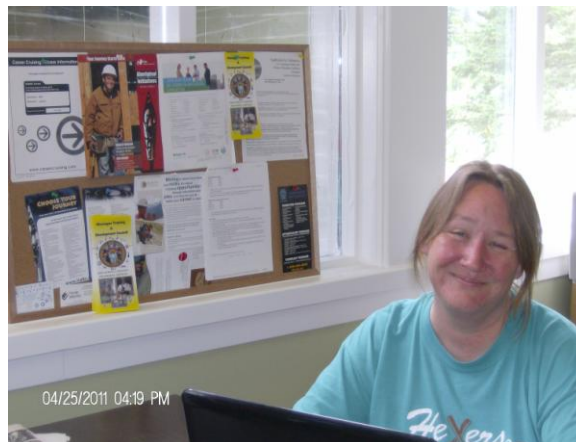




The Upper Similkameen Indian Band is located in the upper Similkameen watershed. Their reserves are located in Princeton and Hedley. The Band membership consists of fifty-nine members with most residing on the (IR#2) Chuchuwayha reserve at Hedley, BC. The band has been very involved in the business community for the past ten years and has become one of the larger employers in the area. They are involved in a variety of endeavors including all aspects of mining, forestry, archaeology, environmental studies as well as tourism.

As of December 2010 Charlene Allison came on board to become the Employment Assistance Services coordinator (in training) for the Upper Similkameen Indian band and surrounding area.



Here in our area the industries are of mining forestry tourism and agriculture and others as well.

With a growing population on reserve there has been a turnaround in employment where there is a dramatic fall possibly due to the economics as the forest industry is slowly downsizing. We have seen a number of members who are looking to diversify and would like to change their careers as forestry is shrinking in the employment sector and mining is the new way of life and tourism is up and down so with that they are looking to take on new trades and upgrade their skills to enter the new work zone.

We realize that as new jobs become available with a new mine recently opening in our area that new skills are required as well as education and this has been a challenge due to high costs of certification in certain career choices some members who wish to embark on are not always able to.

We had 10-12 fine young men who work on a seasonal basis for the Silviculture department receiving various certificates such as first aid level 1 and transportation endorsement whims S-100 and S-185 all are which require renewal of certificates for Worksafe B.C. to continue contract work in the forest.

Through the job development program we were able to have a trainee in our accounting department who now holds a full time position this program was for 27 weeks and now Mary is looking in to receiving some more certification through Okanagan College.

Other successes include our summer program coordinators and students.

Our administration staff is small compared to most organizations however we were able to utilize all staff members and train a young lady who was an EI reach back recipient as our receptionist who now holds a full time position in our administration and who now has the foundation to improve her skill set.

Throughout the year employment and opportunities has been a priority to the USIB .As part of our agreement with OTDC we are to keep statistics of clients and at this time this information is not readily available as well as information that may include new partnerships.



Mary Haugen accounting department