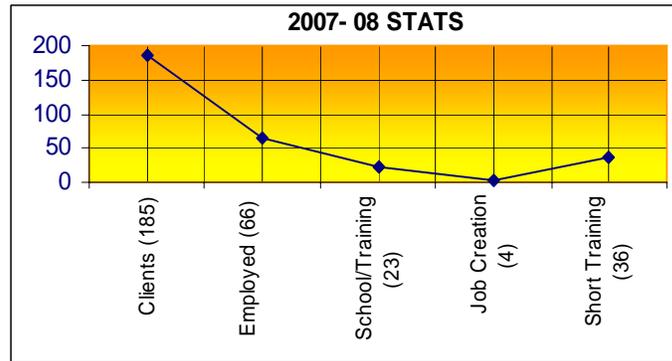




**First Nations Employment Services,  
OTDC Annual Report - Fiscal year 2007 – 2008  
By Lorraine Denomme and Marilyn Evans**

**Making a difference**

The 2007-2008 fiscal year was a fruitful one for the First Nations Employment Services. We experienced many new developments, which we are confident will lead to a better and more comprehensive service delivery for our clients in years to come. First, we were successful at obtaining a new facility across the street from the Friendship Centre as part of the renovation plan executed by Wendy Antoine, Executive Director. This new facility offers greater opportunities to better service our clients and program delivery. We now have space to conduct workshops and training sessions. Clients now have access to a small resource area to carry out their labour market research, other employment related work, access to the job board and to computers. This new facility will play a key role in assisting us to enhance our commitment to meet our mandate and in the implementation of new initiatives such as *Literacy and Essential training*. In the last fiscal year we had 1,153 drop-ins during seven months of contract. We expect these numbers to increase in the next year.



greater  
more  
play a key  
our  
mandate  
initiatives  
*Skills*  
had 1,153  
our  
numbers to

We received, again this year, more capacity building training in computer use, Guiding Circles and Essential Skills from Karen Abramsen, OTDC Manager. Furthermore, she planned and organized a Workforce Connect Forum and follow-up meetings. This enabled us to establish new contacts with employers, and where possible, we negotiated work arrangements for our clients. This networking is opening up new possibilities for our clients to obtain sustainable and long lasting, meaningful employment.

As a member & representative of the OKAMS/OTDC BC AHRDA Essential Skills Guiding Team, and the training we have received, we were successful at developing a conceptual framework (Essential Skills "Sure Start"). This framework was presented to the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance (MEIA) for implementation hopefully in the fall. This 12-week program would ultimately, prepare our clients on income assistance to obtain and retain sustainable and meaningful long-term employment. This will be a first comprehensive Aboriginal program delivery of this nature when OTDC is successful at negotiating a MOU with the Ministry Employment and Income Assistance (MEIA).

We continued to focus and strengthen our networking capacity with Colleges, UBCO, social/employment agencies in and about Vernon BC. Both Employment Counsellors sit on various

community committees and are actively involved in the implementation of related activities. As a result, we were able to discuss issues of mutual interest such as Literacy, Essential Skills, the Y generation and hiring practices. We developed and shared ideas, innovation and knowledge of best practices for our clients. We were successful at negotiating co-funding agreements again this year for our clients.

*We are pleased to introduce and honor the following clients who have pursued and successfully achieved their dream.*



## Wall of Success



*The funding I received from OTDC and the help from FNES has helped me focus on my education without the stress of juggling work and studies. Because I could focus completely on my studies in the Community Support Worker Program, I was able to become an honor student. Forever grateful,*  
*-Wilma Niemi (CSW-SS)*

*Thanks to OTDC, I have been able to complete my 4<sup>th</sup> year Electrician training and am now a qualified Journeyman. I couldn't have done this without the funding assistance I received. FNES was very encouraging and supportive in helping me obtain the funding and made the process easy."*

*- Jess Villeneuve*



*I would like to thank FNES and OTDC for funding me for the Natural Resources Technology Program at NVT. Without their financial and moral support I would not have been able to enter the program. I am now finished my first year with great success and am looking forward to the second year. I have also had the pleasure of representing the NVT Student Body as a member of the Board of Governors as well as the Education Council. The past year has offered a wealth of educational experiences.*  
*- Nessa White*

*I graduated as a Resident Care Aid from Sprott Shaw College. This comprehensive course and practicum gave me the confidence to go out and work with Elders. Before I took this course, I worked at a \$9/hour job supporting my children as a single mom, trying to better my life. When I went to FNES, they were very supportive in helping me get funding to achieve my goals. I am very grateful to OTDC for making this possible so that I can enter the work force in a field that I am passionate about.*

*- Mary Jane Isnardy*



### Have you Heard.....

*"FNES is a very helpful place to come. They helped me prepare my business cards and flyer and my business has taken off since then. They are sweet, kind, positive women."* Rothoula Vlasopoulos

*"FNES was a big help for getting me enrolled into school and the funding too. If it wasn't for the staff at the Employment Centre I wouldn't be going to school and filling my dream. Thanks for all the help."* Tai McMillan