

# Port Alberni Friendship Center

## The Aboriginal Training for Employment Program Information Sheet

### Who should apply to be a Participant?

The Port Alberni Friendship Center is now beginning to screen for up to 15 participants to join us for the **Pathway to Success: Aboriginal Adult and Youth Employment Support Services**. Potential candidates could be unemployed or underemployed, but they must not have been on EI in the last three years. Although the costs of training, schooling, transportation (ie. bus pass), and requirements for work can be covered no money is paid directly to participants by PAFC during the training portion of the program. The target areas the program will be focused on are life skills workshops, upgrading required to attain their high school diploma, completing current certificates courses such as Food Safe, First Aid, CPR, and World Host. Specific training in the areas the participant chooses to focus on as well as monitored work placements will also be offered within the city of Port Alberni. These work placements are designed to lead to sustainable employment. The program will run over a nine-month period, and **officially will begin in May 2015**. However, all interested candidates **must be screened and interviewed prior to the start of training in April 2015**. Registrations will be available April 6<sup>th</sup>. Funding is still to be determined.

### What the Program Offers

The Pathway to SAAYESS program offers participants ongoing individual support from a qualified job coach and other program partners such as North Island College and INEO Employment Services. We as partners will be personally working with up to 15 participants as they address the areas that have made it challenging to hold down long term, sustainable employment in the past. The first three months of the Pathway to SAAYESS program will work intensively on pre-employment training in the form of workshops geared to enhance the participants overall communication, organization, and educational skill sets. Additionally, each participant will receive training through North Island College in one of three specific employment streams: Retail Sales, Construction/Labour and or Clerical/Office Support. Once training during the first four months has completed, the on-the-job training portion begins in the form of monitored part-time work placements within Port Alberni. The intent is that participants will continue to complete any upgrading they require at North Island College while also having the opportunity to receive on-the-job work experience in a field of interest to them. Participants will also have access to individual support from an ATEP Coach/Counselor over the next six-month period with the goal being sustained employment throughout and moving forward.

### What the Program is Designed to Do

The ATEP program is intended to work with participants to challenge themselves to grow in as many areas as they are able to identify within the time restraints of the program. Their hard work and our support will ultimately payoff by giving each of them the greatest opportunity for success as they continue on in their lives. Upon completing the ATEP program, the participants will have acquired the necessary skills to navigate the work world with greater confidence and very likely sustained, long-term employment within the community of Port Alberni. For some, this may look like continuing on with the employment gained during the program. While for others, they may choose to balance part-time employment with upgrading as they work towards fulfilling on their individual dreams by continuing onto post-secondary education.

### Who to Contact

Please **call Jeff Jeffries at 250-723-8281** if you have any further questions or interested clients. We would also be happy to schedule an info session at your organization.