

Port Alberni Friendship Center

Urban Partnerships Aboriginal Youth Employment & Training 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 of aboriginal descent **ages 16 to 24** to join us for our new phase of our Aboriginal Youth Employment & Training program. Potential candidates could be enrolled in school or not attending school (but should not quit school to attend). Although all the costs of training, schooling, transportation (ie. bus pass), may be covered, no money is paid directly to participants by PAFC during the training portion of the program. The Port Alberni Friendship Center will be offering points for participants to attend workshops which will go towards attending GOV as well as daily door prizes. 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, Communication Skills, Conflict Resolution, Retail Sales Training, Switchback, Strategies for Navigating Life, Best Lives, Driver's Education and Aboriginal First Host. The program will run over a six - month period, and **will begin May 4**. However, all interested candidates **must be screened and interviewed prior to the start of training**. Registration will be available April 6, 2015 (funding still to be determined).

What the Program Offers

The program offers participants ongoing individual support from a qualified job coach and other program partners such as North Island College, INEO, VAST Centre and NETP. We as partners will be personally working with several participants as they address the areas that have made it challenging to hold down, sustainable employment in the past. During the **6 months** of the program, the Youth will work intensively on pre-employment training in the form of workshops geared to enhance the participants overall communication, organization, and educational skill sets. The intent is that participants will continue to complete any upgrading they require at NETP. 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 and moving forward.

What the Program is Designed to Do

The AYETP program for Youth 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 employment within the community of Port Alberni. 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 **Darlene Leonew or Jeff Jeffries** at **250-723-8281** if you have any further questions or are interested in taking this amazing program.