



WINTER 2017/2018 Edition

Introducing Training Employment Program: Steps to Success



In October, the Steps to Success - Aboriginal Employment Foundations Program began. The response and interest in this program was huge and resulted in 16 individuals being accepted into the program for the first series of this 4-year funded training program. Those who expressed interest (over 40 people!) but unfortunately didn't make it into this round have been wait-listed for the May 2018 intake.

The Steps to Success program delivers services to unemployed and/or under-employed participants with the aim to enhance their employability while testing the impact of innovative and collaborative solutions to assist in addressing a wide range of socio-economic challenges within Indigenous communities.

Program Activities include: one-to-one counseling support, high school upgrading, driver's license test preparation, advocacy and cultural events. Other topics include: Self-Situational Awareness, Family & Community systems, Understanding & Overcoming Racism, Dealing with Grief & Loss, Self-Confidence, From Dreams to Action, Family & Cultural Systems, Masking the Symptoms, Peer Supports & Mentoring and Action Planning. An Elder and Cultural Advisor provides support to participants and facilitators through the sharing of traditional knowledge and skills and through the delivery of weekly cultural activities and events

FOR MORE INFO: Contact Jeff Jeffries or Michelle Shiner at (25) 723-8281

Cultural Camp Committee



Darlene Leonew has been working hard to raise funds for PAFC's Annual Cultural Camp. The Family camp has been such a huge success that we want to ensure that we are able to offer this year after year. It's such a massive endeavor that we've had to create a committee to raise funds to be able to continue to offer this event.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can help by becoming a member of the Cultural Committee, volunteer some of your time for fund raising , or would like to make a donation toward the camp, please call Darlene Leonew at the Port Alberni Friendship Center at 250-723-8281.

Tenancy or Landlord issues? We can help!

Outreach Legal Advocacy Program

There are a multitude of issues that can arise as a renter whether it is a need for repairs to your unit, questioning whether or not an eviction is a legal one, or you're not sure of what, if any, rights you have as a tenant when it comes to certain matters. While there is an online course you can access to educate yourself about all these issues and more www.RentingItRight.ca, sometimes a one-on-one meeting with a kind, caring individual to help you sort through it all works best.



Our Outreach Legal Advocacy Program worker Janice Amos is your person! Janice has facilitated this program at the Friendship Center for over 15 years and can also help with other areas of law to provide support and information.

Other help available through this program pertain to: Income Security program, Family Law, Credit/Debt law, criminal law (info only) personal bankruptcy, to name a few. If you are dealing with a rental related issue and need help with eviction, filing a dispute resolution. Some issues are time sensitive therefore; should be addressed as soon as possible. An advocate may also be available at the Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre at 1-800-665-1186 or visit their website at: www.tenants.bc.ca

For more information: please call Janice Amos at 250-723-8281



Reaching out

An extension to the services offered by the Outreach Legal Advocate program, The Tenant Advocate actively delivers tenancy and homelessness-related services to members of our community. Darlene Leonew works in the community and provides outreach legal advocacy every Wednesday at the Bread of Life. Darlene supports individuals around not only tenancy related issues but also provides and shares information regarding a multitude of other services available at the Friendship Center and in the community.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in learning more about Volunteer opportunities, please contact Shelley Poole or Michelle Shiner at 250-723-8281 or email at the

[address below](#)

[Click here](#)



Dad's group

The Friendship Center identified a need for the growing number of single fathers and male caregivers within the community. Historically, there has been little to no support for the men, and as a result, PAFC opened up an opportunity for the men to share with others their experiences, concerns, or just have a place to connect with other males raising children.

Our Early Childhood Development Outreach worker Mark Jensen facilitates Dad's group **every second Friday from 11:00 to 1:00**. A light lunch is served so come join us for a laid back, safe, open group. Although there are assigned topics at each group, it's more about an opportunity for others to share what they need to.

Further opportunities being explored for future groups include : meal planning and

Addictions Counseling & Men's Group

The addictions counseling program is available to all members of the community and strives to meet their needs in a friendly, compassionate and professional manner.

Using holistic, evidence based approaches to healing, the program offers both individual and couples counseling tailored to the specific needs of each individual.

The PAFC mental health and addiction service provides individual, couples, and group treatment to a primarily Aboriginal population in the Port Alberni area. The populations being served have profound multi-generational difficulties that are best served in short-term, focused interventions over extended periods of time.

Additional support is offered through weekly **Men's Groups which occur on Wednesdays from 11:00 pm-1:00 pm.**

cooking, guest speakers (our A&D counselor, and we hope to have an Infant Development Worker to come in and teach baby massage etc.).

Another focus of the group is encouraging positive parenting approaches, appropriate discipline, the importance of structure and routines within the home, being active together as opposed to excessive screen time.

We strongly promote the principles of the Moosehide campaign and zero tolerance for violence against women.

Please call Mark at 250-723-8281.

To find out more about the Dads Group or and the Moosehide campaign. You can also visit:

<https://moosehidecampaign.ca/>

The men's group is a safe and welcoming place for any man in Port Alberni. A hot lunch is available to the group participants.

For more information, please call Brendon Gibson at (250) 723-8281



Youth & Family Drop-in Nights

ʔiiḡmisuk taatḡaʔis Treasure Our Young Ones” Childcare Center

The primary goal of the Youth Program is to create opportunities which will support and assist Urban Aboriginal Youth in enhancing their economic, social, and personal growth in a safe, drug and alcohol free environment.

Some other activities include:

- Employment support
- Arts and crafts

One year old already!! Treasure Our Young Ones Childcare Center opened on January 23, 2017 with 1 child enrolled. To date we are near capacity with only one space available in the out-of-school-care program and 2 spaces in the 3—5 year old classroom. We currently have 5 full time teachers, one part time ECE Assistant and one Center Manager.

- Workshops
- Educational and traditional teachings
- Cultural camps
- Aboriginal Youth Employment and Training

Youth & Family Nights happen as follows:

Tuesday: Cultural Night from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Friday: Youth & Family Night 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm — *some events start earlier so it is recommended that you check the PAFC calendar*

We are pleased to be able to offer a Nuu-Chah-Nulth language immersion program (based on available funding) that includes circles, drumming, dancing, art, stories and time with our Elders. Other daily activities include planting with the children in the community garden next door, cooking activities, nature walks, art and science activities, field trips, circle time and so much more!

To find out more or make arrangements to come see our wonderful and welcoming space, please contact **Kristin Hunt at 250-723-8281, ex# 270**

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Port Alberni Friendship Center Hall
& Meeting Space Rental lease
enjoy this coupon for **10% off** your next
Rental of our Hall, Board Room or other
space:

[Click here for more info](#)

Phone Shelley or Michelle for more information (250) 723-8281.

Thank you for your support



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Friendship Center**

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