



Secwepemc Lakes Training & Employment

The Secwepemc Lakes Bands previously participated in a six Community labour market research project, which included City of Salmon Arm and CSRD Area C.

This project left some labour market questions unanswered so a proposal to seek additional information was initiated, with a focus on the youth ages 14 to 29.

This proposal was submitted to the BC Rural Dividend Fund, through Community Futures Shuswap, and was successfully funded to complete a two-year Labour Market research project, beginning in the Spring of 2019.

A team of three was hired to undertake the work and re-introduce the program ideas to the Secwepemc Lakes Communities.

TEAM MEMBERS:

The project team is comprised of:

Dorothy Argent, Project Coordinator

Julie John, Indigenous Entrepreneur Coordinator

Bonnie Thomas, Indigenous Labour Market Coordinator

FOCUSING ON SUPPORT FOR OUR YOUTH

Giving a voice to the future leaders

The Elders traditionally assisted in identifying the “gifts” of the youth as they grew up in Community.

With the historical colonization that affected the People, this process changed.

The reconnection of the youth to Community is key to honoring them and assisting in identifying their roles and responsibilities first to themselves, then to Family and Community overall.

The main objective to begin the project was to collect data from the youth of the Communities.

Focus groups were hosted through the School District high schools, with participation and support of School Districts 73 and 83.

A survey was also designed to fit the needs of data collection for the four Bands, from three simultaneous running projects – Secwepemc Lakes Training and Employment, Tourism Strategy and Neskonlith Training Needs Assessment.

The Secwepemc Lakes Training and Employment Initiative is now moving into the next phases of the project, which primarily addresses review of the survey results, continued sharing of results with the Community and identifying collaborative relationships to service the needs of youth in training and entrepreneurship services.

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Secwepemc Lakes Training & Employment Reporting

The Secwepemc Lakes Tourism Committee oversee the financial obligations of the Secwepemc Lakes Training and Employment Project. This committee is comprised of:

Splatsin Councillor Doug Thomas

Neskonlith Councillor Louis Thomas

Adams Lake Councillor Shelley Witzky

Rob Marshall,
Community Futures
Shuswap

Richard Toperczer,
Ministry of Forests,
Lands, Natural
Resource Operations

Robyn Cyr, Sorrento
Center

Administratively, the Project Team works with the Education Departments of the participating Bands, which works out excellent when it comes to discussing the future of the Youth within each Community.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Main tasks of the project are: (a brief description of what these are needs to be added)

- **Compilation of youth concerns related to training & employment**

The next step is to review the survey with participating Communities, set priorities for action planning and assist to implement new supports.

- **Youth entrepreneurial support and promotion**

A compilation of entrepreneurs, their areas of expertise, and levels of success will be documented. Supports will be offered for those that are within the varying stages of development and promotional success stories will be circulated for those in operating stage.

- **Community engagement and collaboration to promote training and employment**

Review of the survey results and Community planning strategies will be undertaken and the Team will work with the Band administrations to identify where they can best participate to initiate employment supports.

- **Land Use information workshop**

In the first and most recent survey, a demand for land use management from Band Members that owned land was identified. Most were interested in the process to develop their land and the basics around the procedures that are required in proper land use planning specifically related to their business ideas. The Team will coordinate a one day workshop for land owners to receive this information.



Secwepemc Lakes Training & Employment Team (left to right): Julie John, Bonnie Thomas and Dorothy Argent

Upcoming Events

Entrepreneurial Business Walk

A brief survey will be conducted with local Secwepemc Entrepreneurs and partners will be conducted to identify economic supports that are missing. Development of an Indigenous resource binder will be developed for sharing with the entrepreneurs.

Focus Group with Income Assistance Clients

The recent survey did not reach as many Community members as was hoped, so the Team will work with Band Administrations to set up focus group sessions with participating Communities. These focus groups will invite current income assistant clients to share their concerns related to employment and training barriers.

Youth Entrepreneur Public Profiles

Our newsletter will identify successful local Community entrepreneurs and create success stories that identifies the journey they have taken to start their businesses, keeping it moving forward and discussing challenges they have experienced. Our Communities are very proud of those individuals and it will be an honour to share these stories!

Lands Management Workshop

What is a lease or permit? How and who can I lease to? What steps do I have to do to set up a lease or develop my land? Who do I need to talk to? All of these kinds of questions will be answered in a scheduled informational meeting for participating Community members. Watch for our flyers when this is scheduled.

Community Collaborative Employment Planning

The Team will collect, review and discuss how they can assist in the process of updating Community planning, to implement training and employment initiatives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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