

## **Back on Track**

William Adams quit school in grade 11 at the age of 17 deciding instead to pursue work opportunities. First he was hired by Peter Kiewit + Son for two months as a laborer on a transmission line south of Powell River. When his laboring job ended, Adams was sponsored by Kiewit and VanAsep and successfully completed a 10 month welding course. Unfortunately Adams was not able to complete all of his apprentice hours.

Now 20 years old and pondering his future career plans, Adams decided to enroll in a six week Essential Skills class that runs from May 9 to June 17 at Ahms Tah Ow School. "I wanted to use this time in my life to do some upgrading and to look at some other career ideas. I am thinking about getting my Adult Dogwood Certificate or else trying to finish my welding apprentice hours possibly in Fort Mc Murray or back at Toba. Hopefully I can be helped with my career decisions during this course," said Adams.

Ahms Tah Ow Career Achievement Centre is playing an important role in helping Sliammon and Klahoose First Nation adults achieve their career potentials. People like Adams are finding that going back to school can have a huge effect on their career. Ahms Tah Ow helps people make informed and realistic career choices.

The six week program also helps participants to develop critical exploratory skills such as reflection and goal setting. Journaling and various other writing activities are used to strengthen students writing skills. Public speaking is also an important part of the program. Barb Rees, a Toastmasters instructor, helps students at all levels develop these important skills.

Regardless of your educational background or skill level staff at Ahms Tah Ow are prepared to support all students to ensure their success in the program.

If you are interested in improving your employment prospects check us out in September 2011 to find out when Ahms Tah Ow will be sponsoring its next Essential Skills class. Contact First Nations Employment Society Job Coach Walter Paul at 604 414-1731 for more information.

Gerry Brach  
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