

Travel Writer Brings Stories to Ahms Tah Ow School

Research indicates that effective communication skills are the most critical employability skills that employers want in potential employees. Participants in a six week course were first given the opportunity to improve their customer service skills by attending an all day World Host workshop taught by World Host Trainer and Toastmaster Barb Rees.

Students learned good listening skills and how to communicate effectively with customers among other things. This certificate program will add value to the students' resumes when looking for employment. All of the ten participants passed!

Congratulations to Janice Ashton, Troy Barnes, Bonnie Charlie, Darlene Charlie, Sandy Emmonds, Deanna Jones, Bev Joseph, Stephanie Nelmes, Ron Pielle and Sandy Point.

The second part of Barb's course is called, "Speak Up: How to Use Storytelling Skills to Get Your Point Across." She shows how to use storytelling for effective communication. Everyone tells stories, but the key is to hone those skills to help present the message clearly. In a fun, relaxed setting students learn impromptu speaking, and how to write and present a story. As a Métis travel writer, and author of three books, with the next book coming out in April, Barb's stories have inspired people all over Canada.

Barb says, "You can make a difference in the life of your family and yourself, and yes, in the world too. If you want to make a difference, one of the things you can do for yourself is learn to tell your story better."

The knowledge and skills gained by the participants during this time will hopefully open up more employment opportunities.

Sliammon First Nation in partnership with School District 47 is working hard to help individuals improve their participation in the local economy by improving their employment skills.

The next Employability Skills Course is scheduled for May 9 – June 17. See Walter Paul (FNES Job Coach) for details.

Gerry Brach
Head Teacher – Ahms Tah Ow School