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## NENAS RECEIVES ASEP FUNDING

FORT ST. JOHN, BC  
May 21, 2008

The Honourable Jay Hill announced funding for an Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) initiative. The funding is expected to provide Aboriginal participants with the skills development, support and training they need to strengthen links to sustainable employment opportunities.

Speaking at the NENAS office, Mr. Hill announced that the Government of Canada will contribute over \$2.3 million to the North East Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (NEASEP) initiative managed by NENAS.

Mr. Hill said "The Government of Canada is committed to creating the best educated, most skilled and flexible work force in the world. This project will offer Aboriginal people the skills they need to find and keep good quality jobs, help local employers facing labour shortages,



From left: Jeff Beale, EnCana; William Nurnberger, Dunne-za Ventures; Audrey Sam, North East Native Advancing Society; and the Honourable Jay Hill.

and strengthen the local economy."

NENAS will be partnering with industry leaders such as Dunne-za Ventures Lp, and EnCana Corporation to help deliver the project.

"Being First Nations owned and a fully integrated service provider, Dunne-za Ventures LP requires a steady stream of skilled personnel," said Mr. William Nurnberger, President of Dunne-za Ventures LP. "This project will allow us to train and employ

additional Aboriginal people, help us meet our labour needs and ensure the continued advancement of our company, our community and Canada."

"EnCana is pleased to work with NENAS in helping to deliver programs offered under the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership," said Mike Forgo, VP, Business Services, EnCana Corporation. "This is a great fit with EnCana's ongoing support for

Lead story continued on page 2



*"Life isn't always easy, but it is about facing challenges and fears."*

## Devon Spiers – Visual and Graphic Arts Program

"I went into class scared and nervous, so much that I almost didn't apply. This is a prime example of how we, at times, need to take chance and risks to get to where we want to be. Life isn't always easy, but it is about facing challenges and fears. My art has improved and I will begin my tattoo apprenticeship in two weeks. I plan to travel the world, taking pictures along the way to submit to National Geographic. This is my dream

and with my determination and ambition, I WILL make it happen."



## ASEP Funding Announcement

(continued from page 1) ...education and training initiatives that help build capacity and sustainable economic opportunities for Aboriginal peoples."

Other industry partners also include BP Canada Energy, Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Core Pipelines, D.R.E. and the Métis Nation of BC.

The Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership is a nationally managed program that provides Aboriginal people with the skills they need to participate in economic opportunities such as northern mining, oil and gas, and forestry projects across Canada. ASEP's overall objective is sustainable employment for Aboriginal people in major economic industries, leading to lasting benefits for Aboriginal communities, families and individuals.

"The oil and gas industry offers many economic opportunities to the Aboriginal peoples of northeast British Columbia who can benefit from a targeted program such as NEASEP," said Audrey Sam, NENAS Executive Director. "We are excited about what the future has to offer our people and the opportunity to partner with companies that are committed to supporting the human resource development of the Aboriginal peoples of northeast B.C."



*"The oil and gas industry offers many economic opportunities to the Aboriginal peoples of northeast British Columbia."*



## GO KARTS 4 GIRLS



Contact your local NENAS office to apply for the next intake of "Go Karts 4 Girls" (to be held in August 2008).

In July 2007, the North East Native Advancing Society (NENAS) presented the first "GO KARTS 4 GIRLS" trades program and Community Race-Off with partnership funding from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and BC Hydro. The "Go Kart 4 Girls Project" was a ten day summer program aimed at promoting female involvement in trades.

The program was delivered, by qualified instructors, to four groups of aboriginal girls aged 11–14 with each group consisting of 4-5 participants. Each group successfully built a "Community" go kart.

Teams represented Fort St. John, Chetwynd / Moberly Lake and Dawson Creek – team recruitment took place in Hudson' Hope and Fort Nelson areas as well, but they were not represented this year.

The program engaged the participant's development of skills in numerous areas in a safe and respectful environment. The girls were challenged to develop skills and take on tasks that are traditionally seen as "male" skills/tasks and were exposed to new skills, possible future career options and new friendships.

The end result of the program was four "Community" go karts, built by twenty girls, featured in a community celebration and race off. The far end of the Northern Lights Raceway was utilized on July 20, 2007 for the community race-off, where a temporary track was set up. The general public and sponsors were invited to attend and cheer on the girls. This unique project brought families and communities together to celebrate the successes of youth.

Contact your local NENAS office to pick up an application for the next delivery to be held in August 2008.



## HALFWAY RIVER FIRST NATION CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM



*“NENAS is very proud to be part of such an amazing community program and of all the participants.”*



In October of 2007 the North East Native Advancing Society in partnership with Halfway River First Nation contracted Northern Lights College to deliver Level 1 of the Culinary Arts Certificate program in the Halfway River First Nations community. Twelve community members were enrolled in the 20 week training program developing skills in kitchen safety, basic food service, cutting meat/poultry/seafood, soups & sauces and baking and desserts. Participants also were exposed to real time workplace pressures and atmosphere by preparing meals for the elders “Meals to Go” program and for the school lunch program. Trainees were also utilized to prepare menus and meals for community meetings and functions. This program and training was a true community initiative and was well received by the Halfway First Nations community as a whole. All twelve students successfully completed the Level 1 training and eleven of the original twelve have enrolled in the 25 week Level 2

program which started May 5<sup>th</sup> 2008. Long term identified goals and dreams of participants include starting a catering company, becoming a papered Chef, opening a small Café on or near the reserve and assisting elders and other community members in healthy lifestyle choices. This program is not only successful in that participants are developing skills that will result in long term employability but also in that this training initiative is helping to build a healthier and cohesive First Nation community. On Wednesday May 21<sup>st</sup> the Halfway River Culinary Arts student’s skills were showcased at a formal

luncheon and ceremony in the unveiling of the joint Canada/US monument of the building of the Alaska Highway in Charlie Lake BC. In attendance was US Ambassador to Canada, David Wilkins, Member of Parliament, the Honorable Jay Hill and countless other local and regional dignitaries. The students were contracted to develop and prepare the luncheon menu which was met with high praise from those who attended. NENAS is very proud to be a part of such an amazing community program and of all the participants. We look forward to the graduation of the Level 2 Culinary Arts program in October 2008.



## RISING SPIRIT ABORIGINAL YOUTH CENTRE OPEN HOUSE

On May 30 the Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre had an open house and barbeque for youth and community members to welcome new youth to the center and show them what services are offered, invite community members to come in and take a look at the center, show appreciation for our regular visitors and provide some fun, food and prizes for everyone!

The highlight of the day was having the runners from the Peace and Dignity Journey 2008 come by the RSAYC in the morning to share their journey and their stories. The Peace and Dignity run fulfills a prophecy for South America, represented by the Condor, and North America represented by the Eagle. This traditional run unites the People of the Condor and the Eagle so that we can become one, and so we can work together. That the route through the North began in Alaska and came down through Fort Nelson, Fort St. John and all the First Nations communities in our area was a blessing and brought out much emotion as our communities have been really tested in recent days with tragedy.

The runners arrived at the youth center at noon to a crowd cheering their arrival and the sound of Dave Terry's drum and song. Jose Malvido comes from

Arizona and was the organizer for Peace an' Dignity Journey's 2008. Having them come through on this day was great timing as they like to reach, visit and meet as much First Nations people, organizations, and communities as possible. They have stopped into almost all of our First Nation communities: Daylu Dena Council, Fort Nelson, Prophet River, Doig River, Halfway River, West Moberly and Saulteau. Upon their arrival Chief Norman Davis and Gerry Attachie from the Doig River First Nation welcomed the runners to Fort St. John, and did an opening prayer for the event. Dave Terry welcomed the runners, thanking them and honoring them with the Woman's Warrior song. The run is a prayer run for our people so he also presented them with a staff.

RSAYC Open House story continued on page 8



Peace and Dignity Journey 2008 Runners Jose Malvido and Ymoat at RSAYC open house



Chief Liz Logan and daughter





*"The support, love and care that comes out of this centre is a force to be reckoned with! NO school in this town can come close to beating the AHS!"*

## ABORIGINAL HEAD START – Family Success Story

"I know this is supposed to be a success story about a child coming from the Head Start program, but its NOT only the children that are benefiting and growing from this program and I could not let it go unsaid on how much this program and these teachers have done for me and my daughter both.

Melaina has always been an extremely withdrawn, shy little girl that has grown and blossomed like a beautiful little flower. With 2 consistent years of hard work from the staff at AHS, my daughter is now talking with CONFIDENCE in front of an entire class of kids, making friends and actually danced in front of her first crowd all by herself –what an accomplishment!

I went from being able to burn Kraft dinner and starting my house on fire trying to cook French fries to being able to cook a FULL COURSE HEALTHY MEAL for my family – it's a very good feeling knowing I can cook for my family now!

Both my daughter and I went from knowing one language consisting of English only, to being able to speak basic Cree and I can now pick up on people talking Cree, as well as being able to speak some Beaver.

The AHS has given and taught amazing tools to give big head starts to learning what it's going to be like at school – the success with the children coming out of the program is an amazing

thing to be able to watch and be a part of. I love each and everyone of the teachers that are and have been a part of the AHS as each of them have given me and my daughter a part of who we are.

The support, love and care that comes out of this centre is a force to be reckoned with! NO school in this town can come close to beating the AHS!

Thank you to all of you at the AHS and everything you guys do for my family – it is greatly appreciated and an indescribable feeling to be able to put it into words!"

Love Melissa and Melaina!



Hummingbird mentors and trainees



AHS children, "Tiga" and partner

## HUMMINGBIRD PRODUCTIONS

On June 9, children in the AHS program watched wide-eyed as the trainees and their mentors of Hummingbird Productions set up equipment in preparation for filming the first of 6 episodes of "Tiga Talk" a new children's program on APTN that focuses on language and literacy. Hummingbird is a new production company that is filming all episodes at AHS programs – 3 episodes in the lower mainland, and 3 in

northeast BC (Saulteau, Blueberry and Fort St. John). Darlene Conley, Head Early Childhood Educator, said "the children couldn't get enough of Tiga (a wolf puppet) – they almost attacked the puppeteer! They keep asking 'where's Tiga?' and are showing more interest in doing their letter of the day." Trainees of this NENAS partnered program are each assigned a mentor in the chosen area of

training (camera, sound, set design, puppeteer). Hands on learning and technical aspects will develop trainee skills over a two month period. The company's long term goal is to produce more programming that will be filmed and produced in the northeast BC area utilizing trained local Aboriginal tradespeople.

Watch APTN for upcoming airings of "Tiga Talk".

## IN MEMORIAM – A Tribute to Rita Rohel

*September 19, 1952 – June 2, 2008*



Rita Rohel, long time NENAS Board member and Saulteau First Nation community member, passed away on June 2, 2008.

Rita's passion for education was evident as demonstrated by her both by her employment at the Muskoti Learning Centre, and by her representation on the NENAS Board. She was always there supporting participants in any NENAS training programs.

She truly believed that change would come through the youth. Rita championed the education of her community's youth, urging them to make a difference in their lives.

Rita was supportive of the Aboriginal Head Start initiative and encouraged young parents to take advantage of this opportunity that this program presents.

Rita was a role model. She valued Elders, their wisdom and input and was very excited about the prospect of becoming an Elder this year.

Rita was a strong force in helping NENAS make a difference in many of our people's lives. She will be greatly missed by all of us who knew and worked with her.



# RISING SPIRIT ABORIGINAL YOUTH CENTRE OPEN HOUSE

## North East Native Advancing Society

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.nenas.org](http://www.nenas.org)

(continued from page 5)... During the remainder of the day, youth from Fort St. John and Dawson came by to eat and try their luck in winning one of six prizes. There were draws for larger prizes, donated by Marc Joseph, NENAS and the Crayon Box as well as a game to win smaller prizes.

The barbeque was successful, and there was a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Several members of other community organizations attended, including NENAS Board members Chief Liz Logan and Gerry Attachie. There were also people in attendance from West Moberly First Nation, Saulneau First Nation, Blueberry River First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, the First Nations Education Center and the Treaty 8 Tribal Association. In the afternoon a group of youth from the Nawican Friendship Centre in Dawson Creek arrived to join the youth from Fort St. John.

In addition to this, people from around the community that heard about the open house on the radio came by to have a look at the youth center. Ted Sloan from the Moose FM was broadcasting live during the last hour of the open house.

Drop by the Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre and check out what we have to offer to all area youth! Contact us at 263-9919.



### Dawson Creek Satellite Office

#101, 1508 – 102 Avenue  
Dawson Creek, BC  
T: (250) 719-0705  
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### Fort St. John Main Administrative Office

10328 – 101 Avenue  
Fort St. John, BC  
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### Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre

10035 – 100 Avenue  
Fort St. John, BC  
T: (250) 263-9919  
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### Fort Nelson Satellite Office

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