

CULTURAL EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

SEPTEMBER 2017

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CES PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The specific objective of this project is to develop a inventory of T8TA community members' cultural knowledge and skills and to create long term sustainable employment by matching peoples' existing skills and interests with existing and potential employment opportunities within the local economy.

To achieve this we will:

- Create an inventory of cultural knowledge and skills within T8TA member communities;
- Engage community members in identifying employment aspirations and barriers;
- Work with industry, government, and community partners to understand local employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and challenges; and
- Develop a long-term strategy and short -term action plan for creating meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for Aboriginal peoples drawing on their existing cultural knowledge and skills.

OUR STRATEGY WILL INCLUDE

- Identifying emerging employment issues, challenges and opportunities at the community level;
- Examine ways of resolving conflicts related to the use of land for traditional harvesting versus industrial development;
- Build consensus to accept and adopt innovative concepts and approaches for continual improvements in developing cultural arts economy and entrepreneurial activities.
- Provide industry related land use environmental services by adding value to land use survey mapping and cultural heritage cross-cultural leadership training; and
- Create effective partnerships with multiple stakeholders and foster a collaborative approach to strategic engagement on development initiatives.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Create an inventory of cultural knowledge and skills within T8TA communities
- Develop a long-term strategy and a short term action plan to create meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities
- Create effective Partnerships

The CES Project has provided support to a Trading Post venue in Fort Nelson and one in Fort St John to provide a place for artisans and crafters to market their products.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

We have supported the North East Business Center with their Youth Entrepreneurial Training that was held in August 2016 as well as Cultural Employment project that was held at Doig River via the Business Center.

CES held 3 Camps that provided training and employment opportunities for members over the past 2 years. Some of the jobs filled by our members were in areas such

as; cutting tipi poles, medicinal plant gathering, berry harvesting, traditional boreal feast, traditional teachings, ie: ceremonial and seasonal rounds to name a few.

Elders are one of our key focus groups in the planning of Cultural Employment. Creating opportunities for them to share their skills and knowledge with others is important and it allows them to earn a wage. During our

Fish camp Elder taught about fish species found in the Peace River and different fishing methods of fishing.

In January / August of 2017 we offered Facilitator Training which was well attended. Approximately 15 students were taught how to conduct a bush camp, they experienced a hands approach to facilitate a bush camp from beginning to end.



Traditional Food Gathering was part of the bush camp facilitator training.



TRAINING MANUAL WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS TO HELP GUIDE FACILITATION

Watch for the CES Toolkit it will be available for members to use as a guide for cultural awareness training. The T8TA Website will host information on Cultural Employment as well as the Cultural Employment Strategy which will guide us beyond this funding program. The toolkit and strategy can be used to deliver step by step facilitation of Cultural Awareness Camps to industry, government, schools or other interested parties. The curriculum can be modified to fit each communities specific culture and traditions as required.

MEET MOLLY" ANTI-BULLYING DOLL ON SALE SOON

We will be establishing an Elders Group to sell these dolls. In the spring we will be setting up a sewing club to begin production of clothing and accessories for Molly.

She will be available to purchase for the Christmas gift giving season.

Proceeds will go to continue Elders & Youth Programs.

If you're interested please give us a call.

Next project-

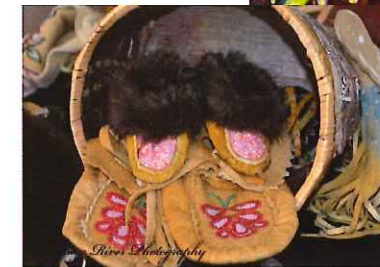
Male version "Tommy" :)

Meet "Molly" an anti-bullying doll created for our program. Her virtue is Strength and will proudly wear this tag which features Dana -za/Cree word for Strength.

BUILDING BRIDGES & PARTNERSHIPS



CES was happy to support the good work of the Northeast Aboriginal Business Center in establishing the Aboriginal Artist Market in Fort St John. This venue provides our members a place to market their product.



As part of the deliverables we need to develop partnerships with industry and community that will further the development of Cultural Employment for our Members.

We have been in discussion with partners such as TransCanada, NENAS, NEABC, Banff Center, First Peoples World Wide, First Pac West to name a few. We hope to have several Partnership Agreements in place by the summer of 2017.



It is important to develop a basic understanding of Indigenous protocols and principles in order to build stronger trusting relationships

TOOLS AND GEAR TO SUPPORT CAMPS

Training camps take a lot of preparation and planning so to help facilitate the process we purchased camping supplies, tipi's, tarps, camp cookware and miscellaneous supplies.

A trailer unit was also purchased to store equipment and to use the trailer for camping as well as providing

the ability to travel to different community events and to have room to haul the supplies as well as provide accommodations.

The Tse'kwa Heritage site will provide the venue for on-going cultural camp space and training, this will be available to members to utilize and will provide employment

opportunities as well. We would like to offer on-going training at Tse'k'wa based on the interest and the need.

The T8 CES Program information will be available on our website at www.treaty8.bc.ca or feel free to contact the Treaty 8 office at 250-785-0612.

