



**ACCESS Trades
104 100 Park Royal Ave
West Vancouver BC
V7T 1A2**

October 15 2009

Attention: Association Members and Employers in the Automotive Repair Industries

Re: ACCESS apprentice trainees looking for apprenticeship opportunities!

Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS) has Level I apprentices who have completed the Automotive Refinishing Technician Program, and other trainees about to graduate from the Automotive Collision Technician program at BCIT. By introducing our organization to you we hope to help connect our students to local employers.

Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society, better know as ACCESS, is the current urban AHRDA agreement holder for Metro Vancouver. With origins dating back to 1999, ACCESS has 10 years of history, experience, expertise, and success in delivering employment and training programs to the entire urban Aboriginal population of Metro Vancouver, which includes communities ranging from West Vancouver to Maple Ridge. ACCESS is firmly established with an excellent reputation as a leader in Aboriginal employment and training programs in the Vancouver metropolitan area with a high degree of success. Future plans include expanding and building upon our current model for successful programming.

The urban Aboriginal population of Metro Vancouver is a large and growing population and with the right training and support represents a valuable resource and a viable solution to labour market shortages. Through employment and training programs and its vast network of industry and employer partners, ACCESS is well positioned to bridge the gap between urban Aboriginals in Metro Vancouver and employers desperate for qualified workers.

One of ACCESS' key strengths is its foundation of existing and successful labour market programs. ACCESS programs such as Employment Assistance Services, ACCESS Trades, Project Based Training, BladeRunners, and Essential Skills For Aboriginal Futures will continue to play a role in ACCESS' plan for a post 2009 Aboriginal employment strategy. In addition, ACCESS will expand and build upon its current programming to include more employer partnerships, training programs for non-construction related trades, programs for emerging industries such as Health Care and Information Technology, and enhanced Essential Skills programming.

The ITA has designated ACCESS as a sponsor for Aboriginal apprenticeship. We mentor over two hundred Aboriginal apprentices in over twenty different trades. ACCESS Trades staff monitor and support our apprentices for the full term of their apprenticeship.

Our website is www.accessfutures.com. There is a tab which links to Trades. Some of the other work ACCESS is doing in the urban Aboriginal community may also be of interest.

I am available to speak to employers individually and/or present about our services at an association event. I am also available to answer your questions by telephone.

Respectfully

**Helen Boyce
Director, ACCESS Trades
604-551-1639**