



Environmental Scan of Existing Capacity Building Initiatives

Strategy and Action Plan for a First Nations
Shared Cultural, Land and Marine Resource
Information Service

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*Environmental Scan of Existing Capacity Building Opportunities
Strategy and Action Plan for a First Nations Shared Cultural, Land and Marine Resource Information Service*

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Background

This Environmental Scan of Existing Capacity Building Opportunities is a first step in a comprehensive capacity plan. This work identifies what information and technology management training, relevant to First Nations, is currently available. It begins to address the following two actions from the Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) for a First Nations Shared Cultural, Land and Marine Information Service:

6.1: Capacity and Training Needs Assessment

6.2: Cultural, Land and Marine Resource Information and Technology Capacity Plan

This scan provides an up-to-date inventory of existing resources that can support the implementation of the capacity component of the First Nations Shared Information Service (FNSIS).

The scope includes GIS, Data Custodianship, Records Management, Digital Literacy, etc. The Environmental Scan identifies training opportunities at post-secondary educational institutions; including universities, colleges and technical schools, as well as government organizations and other specialized courses (ESRI, MapInfo, etc). In general, the scan focuses on offerings by institutions located within British Columbia.

Introduction

The Environmental Scan involved a web- based search to identify institutions and their program and course offerings. The Scan was undertaken during February/March 2009, and should only be considered current as of that time.¹ In addition, web-sites offering tools to undertake your own searches for training needs have been identified.

Appendix 1 is a spreadsheet listing the program and/or course offerings of post secondary institutions, government agencies or companies. Two spreadsheets are provided: the first with listings by post secondary institution and the second with listings by role. The post secondary institutions scanned were those as defined by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market in their listing of such institutions found at: www.aved.gov.bc.ca/institutions/welcome.htm that includes 11 universities, 11 colleges and 3 institutes. In addition, both federal and provincial ministry web-sites were scanned for training opportunities. To complete the work, a cursory scan of companies providing natural resource information and technology training services was also undertaken.

The focus of the spreadsheet is extension programs to enhance existing skills and knowledge for people working in a community position. The focus is not on standard bachelor and masters program offerings (Appendix 2 provides links to many of these standard educational options). For each training opportunity the spreadsheet provides the following information:

¹ Note: Program and/or course offerings, content and costs are subject to change.



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- The name of the post secondary institution, government ministry or company providing the training;
- The program and course names;
- A snapshot or short description of the training;
- Course prerequisites, duration, delivery method (generally whether class-room or distance education) and cost;
- A web-site to where more information is provided; and,
- A community role to which the training applies.

The community roles for which training have been identified in this scan includes:

GIS and Natural Resources:

- GIS Technician/Analyst
 - Analyst (Law Enforcement)
- Natural Resource Technologist
 - Natural Resource Technologist (First Nations focus)
 - Natural Resource Technologist and GIS Technician
 - Minerals Technologist (First Nations Focus)
- Resource, land use or environmental planning
- Logging Technician

Information and Technology Management:

- Computer and Information Systems Technician/Administrator
 - Desktop Support
- Computer and Information Systems Manager
- Network/Telecommunications Technician
- Internet Web Technologist
- Database Developer



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- Library Technician

Computer Basics:

- Office Assistant/Administrator
 - Office Assistant/Administrator (Visually Impaired)
- Self Entrepreneur (Small Business - First Nations Focus)
- Computer Literacy (general fundamentals for all roles)

Appendix 2 provides a range of other capacity building resources and related information that will be of use in planning to meet both community and personal post secondary education and training needs. The information is organized by post secondary, company, government or non-government organization. The listing identifies First Nation targeted services within each organization, standard bachelors or masters programs in the cultural, land and marine resource information and technology fields, and a range of career and post-secondary planning tools, along with other information of relevant interest.

Discussion and Recommendations

This review presents the most current information available on post-secondary training as of February/March 2009. The review confirms there continues to be significant geographical barriers to reasonable access to post secondary training for Aboriginal people in remote communities. Although much progress has been made on the technology front in delivering on-line courses, many First Nations communities still lack the necessary bandwidth for effective access. In addition, even though BCcampus boasts some 2000 online courses, the number of diplomas and certificates available on-line are limited and the number of degrees that can be completed through distance learning are almost non-existent.

Recommendations:

1. **Capacity Building:** Ensure that instructors understand the First Nations environment and have a broad understanding of how the educational opportunities can be laddered to ultimately result in certification.
2. **Aggregate Demand:** FNTC should coordinate training opportunities so that smaller communities can access courses.
3. **Tailored Training:** Based on aggregate demand for capacity building not currently available FNTC should contract the design, develop and delivery of such courses.
4. **Build Partnerships in Education:** FNTC should work with the IAHLA (Indigenous Adult Higher Learning Associations) to develop relevant programs and courses.



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Appendix 1: List of Post Secondary Programs and Courses



Program and Course
List by Institute



Program and Course
List by Role



Appendix 2: Additional Capacity Resources

Relevant Web-Sites:

Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development:

- Post-secondary Institutions Overview - The overview provides a listing of website links for all the public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia
<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/institutions/welcome.htm>
- Aboriginal Post-secondary Contact List: <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal/ab-list-colleges.htm>

UNIVERSITIES

- A listing of all available on-line courses can be found at: <http://www.tru.ca/distance/>

Capilano University:

- Has campuses at: North Vancouver, Squamish and Sechelt
- Has a First Nations Tourism program developed in partnership with the Squamish, Lil'wat and Musqueam First Nations, Capilano College, and the Ministry of Advanced Education. Its objective is to provide a First Nations focus for the delivery of training and education programs across all tourism sectors at the supervisory, managerial and entrepreneurial levels.
- Has a First Nations College Preparation Program operated in conjunction with the Sechelt Indian Band, the objective of this program is to improve the participation and success rates of First Nations students who are making the transition to post-secondary institutions
- Indigenous Independent Digital Filmmaking program: For more information Call: 604.990.7904; E-mail: dmanuel@capilanou.ca
Website: <http://www.capilanou.ca/programs/indigenous-digital-film.html>

Emily Carr University of Art and Design:

- Campus in Vancouver on Granville Island.
- Have Computer Skills courses, but limited to Photoshop and Adobe, with a range of Aboriginal digital media and art courses.

Kwantlen Polytechnic University:

- Campuses in Surrey, Richmond, Cloverdale, Newton and Langley
- Provides a Bachelor of Technology in Information Technology (BTECH), see:
 - <http://www.kwantlen.ca/calendar/programs/tech-bc.html>

Royal Roads University:

- Campus in Victoria
- Provides an MBA in Digital Technologies Management, see:
 - <http://www.royalroads.ca/programs/faculties-schools-centres/faculty-management/master-business-administration/digtech-mba/>

Simon Fraser University:

- Campuses in Burnaby, Surrey and Vancouver



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- Offers a number of Computing Science Programs with most relevant being: Computing Science Major or Honours; Geographic Information Science Major, and a Certificate Program Plan.
- Faculty of Business Administration offers a Management and Technology Program with IM/IT courses focus.
- Continuing Studies (Surrey Campus) offers an Aboriginal University Prep Program that offers as part of the curriculum a look at the use of computers in university.
- The Centre for Online and Distance Education offers a limited number of courses in a range of programs, limited IM/IT offerings, see:
<http://www.sfu.ca/cde/index.html?http://www.sfu.ca/cde/cp/courses.html>

Thompson Rivers University:

- Main campus in Kamloops, satellite campuses in Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, Ashcroft/Cache Creek, Barrier, Clearwater, Lillooet
- IM/IT related Bachelor program: Bachelor of Business Administration-Information Technology Management Major

University of British Columbia

- Campuses in Vancouver and Kelowna
- Offers the following IM/IT undergraduate programs: Business and Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Integrated Computer Science, Management Information Systems; Graduate programs: Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering
- UBC Continuing Studies offers a number of IT courses, including Certification courses including: Microsoft MCTS, Cisco, Network+, Security+, Wireless; programming and software engineering' see:
 - <http://www.tech.ubc.ca/it/index.html>
- UBC Continuing Studies offers a number of IT Certificate Programs, including: Network Administration and Security Professional (in partnership with BCIT), Technical Support Professional (in partnership with BCIT), Software Engineering, see:
 - <http://www.tech.ubc.ca/certificate/index.html>

University of Fraser Valley:

- Campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission
- Has Aboriginal Access Services available via the S'olh Shxwlèlì Aboriginal Resource Centre at both Chilliwack and Abbotsford. Provides programs and courses of particular interest to First Nations, see: <http://www.ufv.ca/arc.htm>
- IM/IT related programs include: BSc. in Computer Information Systems

University of Northern British Columbia:

- Campuses in Prince George, Quesnel, Terrace and Fort St. John
- Has an Aboriginal Students Education Options page, with a number of First Nations diploma and certificate offerings, see: <http://www.unbc.ca/whyunbc/aboriginal/index.html>
- IM/IT related programs include: BSc. and MSc. in Computer Science
- Have a GIS and Remote Sensing Lab, see <http://www.gis.unbc.ca/>

University of Victoria:



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- IM/IT related degree programs include: Computer Science, with a combined program in Geomatics: Computer Science / Geography (Geomatics) which is aimed at students whose interests span the fields of cartography, Computer Science, Geographic Information Systems, remote sensing, spatial analysis and surveying
- Has a Centre for Applied Remote Sensing, Modelling and Simulation that includes expertise in LiDAR and hyperspectral Remote Sensing. Focus is on related graduate student research, see: <http://carms.geog.uvic.ca/>

Vancouver Island University:

- Main campus in Nanaimo and regional campuses in Duncan, Powell River and Parksville/Qualicum.
- IM/IT related degree programs available in: Computing Science

COLLEGES

Camosun College:

- Two campuses in Greater Victoria (Lansdowne and Interurban)
- IM/IT related programs include: Associate of Science Degree in Geographic Information Science; Associate of Science Degree in Computer Science; joint Computer Systems Technician with Diploma in Computer Systems Technology;
- A listing of all Computer Training courses can be found at: <http://camosun.ca/ce/computer-training.html#file> including Microsoft Office Certificate in MS-Office (part-time)

College of New Caledonia:

- Main campus in Prince George and six regional campuses in Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Fraser Lake, Mackenzie, Quesnel and Vanderhoof, plus one learning centre in Valemount
- Offers some university level computer courses, see: http://www.cnc.bc.ca/CNC_Programs/computerscience.htm?PageMode=HTML

College of the Rockies:

- Main campus in Cranbrook and five regional campuses in Creston, Fernie, Invermere, Golden and Kimberley
- Has two university transfer computing courses: Introduction to Programming in C, Programming in C++
- List of all on-line programs/courses available at: <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/cotrOnline/distance-programs.asp>

Langara College:

- Campus in Vancouver – strong focus on IT programs
- Langara College's Department of Computing Science & Information Systems is the largest college level Computer Science Department in British Columbia, It has a variety of career, or university entrance programs, see: <http://www.langara.bc.ca/departments/computing/index.html> . In summary:
 - Applied Computer Science & Technology



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- Computer Science
- Computer Studies
- Computing Science & Information Systems
- Internet/Web Computing & Software Development
- Management Information Systems
- Professional Computer Science & Technology
- Listing of courses available on-line: <http://www.langara.bc.ca/online-studies/index.html>

Okanagan College:

- Have campuses in Kelowna, Salmon Arm, Vernon and Penticton, and educational centres throughout the region.
- IM/IT university entrance programs include: A 2 year Computer Information Systems Diploma and a 4 year Bachelor of Computer Information Systems.
- For Continuing Studies Computer and Technology courses, see: <http://webapps-1.okanagan.bc.ca/ok/CSReg/default.aspx>
- For available distance education courses, see: <http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/departments/cs/distance-education.html>

North Island College:

- Has campuses in Courtenay, Campbell River, Port Hardy and Port Alberni, plus centres in other communities throughout the college region.
- University Transfer or Associate Degree programs are available for Mathematics and Science with courses in Computer Science (Associate of Science – Computer Science).
- For available distance education courses, see: http://www.nic.bc.ca/programs/about_distance.asp

Selkirk College:

- Have campuses in Castlegar, Trail, Nelson and Grand Forks, as well as adult learning centres in Kaslo and Nakusp.
- IM/IT related University Transfer or Associate Degree programs are available for: Geographic Information Systems Bachelor, Science Diploma with Computer Science courses
- Partnered with BC Campus for on-line learning

INSTITUTES

British Columbia Institute of Technology:

- Have campuses in Burnaby, North Vancouver, Richmond and Vancouver.
- Has a comprehensive range of IM/IT programs and courses available, see: <http://www.bcit.ca/path/computing/programs/>

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology:

- Have campuses in Merritt and Burnaby.
- It is an Aboriginal-governed public post-secondary institution.
- Its programs emphasize Aboriginal communities' social, economic, land and governance development.



GOVERNMENTS: FEDERAL

- Federal government education and training programs with post-secondary financial assistance programs just for First Nations can be found at:
<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/audiences/aboriginal/education.shtml>
- The Aboriginal Canada Portal (ACP) is a single window to First Nations, Inuit and Métis on-line resources, contacts, information, and government programs and services in Canada. The Education page provides access to range of information including a section containing a list of the university and college programs, courses and services intended for an Aboriginal clientele.
<http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/en/ao27032.html>
- Indian Studies Support Program (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada): Provides funding for the development and implementation of special Indian education programs and learning services that are culturally relevant and readily available to First Nation students. <http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/aaps-aapd/program.aspx?Language=EN&program=4101&parentTheme=15>
- The Geological Survey of Canada has a comprehensive site with numerous useful links to various educational materials and sites: http://gsc.nrcan.gc.ca/education_e.php

GOVERNMENTS: PROVINCIAL

- Aboriginal Best – Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training offers a training series that focuses on helping participants identify viable business ideas and determine their feasibility and includes a session Technology.
- A comprehensive list of Distance Education Resources is available at:
http://www.gov.bc.ca/themes/education_literacy/distance_education.html
- The following site is described as follows: “Do you find the prospect of attending college or university daunting? When you consider the range of programs, the number of institutions to choose from and the cost of attending, the transition is no easy matter. This section is intended to help make your planning for post secondary education easier.
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/planning/educate/>
- ***Education Planner - <http://www.educationplanner.bc.ca/> - is able to search nearly 1700 undergraduate programs offered at BC universities, colleges, and institutes at one time. This enables users to find programs by field of study, specific subject area, program length, credential granted or institution. Users can compare program details, such as admission requirements, tuition fees, start dates and application deadlines.
- ***The BC Transfer Guide - <http://bctransferguide.ca/> - facilitation of admission, articulation and transfer arrangements among the colleges, institutes, and universities in BC – tells you everything you need to know if moving from one institution to another.
- ***Career Developer - <http://educationplanner.ca/careerdeveloper/> - is a product that was born out of analyzing over 2000 websites and selecting roughly the top 10% that are most relevant for helping learners gain self awareness, choose post-secondary programs, understand the world of work and grow into their careers



OTHER SOURCES - GENERAL:

- ACCESS –Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society:
<http://www.accessfutures.com/> , serving urban Aboriginal clients throughout Metro Vancouver. Mandate is to enhance human resource development and the sustainable capacity of the urban Aboriginal population in Metro Vancouver through the provision of employment and training services. Provides access to Workplace Essential Skills training, including Computer Use.
- The Aboriginal Mapping Network http://www.nativemaps.org/?q=top_menu/1/85/21 has a Training page which contains information relating to skills development and instruction (mostly post-secondary sources) at http://www.nativemaps.org/?q=top_menu/1/72/60
- The Indian Studies Support Program <http://www.fnesc.ca/issp/> provides funding to promote access to quality First Nations Post-Secondary learning programs for First Nations learners.
- The Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) provides a wealth of information for both students and educators seeking to learn more about indigenous adult higher learning institutions in BC. <http://www.fnesc.ca/iahla/> .
- The First Nations Education Steering Committee (<http://www.fnesc.ca/index.php>) has a First Nations Post-Secondary Education and Training in British Columbia site which offers links to organizations and information which support Indigenous Higher Learning institutions, Indigenous programming, Post-Secondary Guidelines and policy which affects Aboriginal post-secondary learners: <http://www.fnesc.ca/programs/PSE%20and%20Training.php>
- Canadian Virtual University (CVU): <http://www.cvu-uvc.ca/english.html> is an association of Canadian universities specializing in online and distance education. They offer over hundreds of degrees, diplomas and certificates, and 2,500 courses—all online or through distance education. Mix and match courses from multiple universities to suit your needs. Some example IM/IT programs include: **Information Systems:** Bachelor of Commerce (Information Systems Management) Thompson, Certificate in Computers and Management Information Systems Athabasca, Master of Science-Information Systems Athabasca **Information Technology:** Bachelor of Commerce (Financial Services) Nipissing, Certificat en informatique appliquée à l'organisation TÉLUQ ; Certificate in Information Technology Thompson ; Diploma in Information Technology and Management Thompson ; Doctorat en informatique cognitive TÉLUQ ; Fluency in Information Technology - Internet and Computing Core Certification (nondegree credit) N. Brunswick ; Graduate Diploma in Management Athabasca; Master of Education (Information Technology) Cape Breton
- Equi-pass - <http://www.equi-pass.com/index.html> - For the opportunity to become an Equi-Centre: - a not-for-profit, charitable and community based learning centre engaged in delivering the Equi-Pass Program. Each Equi-Centre has access to the latest e-Learning tools for a wide variety of 21st Century Internet, business and essential soft skills training, including:
 - Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC3)
 - Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)
 - Certification preparation for MCSE and A+
 - Business and Soft Skills
 - Digital Literacy and Internet Skills
- BCcampus (<http://www.bccampus.ca/Home.htm> provides services and leadership to support the online learning goals of British Columbia's public post-secondary institutions by:



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- Creating a connected network of BC's public post-secondary institutions to allow real-time student information data transfers.
- Providing a unified online information gateway for student services, and links to online learning resources and information provided by post-secondary system partners.
- Included are a range of post-secondary student services available at: <http://www.bccampus.ca/Students/student-services.htm>, including a finder to on-line programs and courses
- Exploring and implementing shared instructional services and tools to leverage knowledge and costs between post-secondary partners.
- Providing educator support through online communities of practice, reusable tools and resources, professional development, technology training, and online program development and applied research funding.
 - Included are a range of Educator Services (<http://www.bccampus.ca/Educators/educator-services.htm>), including services to build an education community (<http://www.bccampus.ca/Educators/educator-services/build-a-community.htm>)
- **BEAHR** (Building Aboriginal Environmental Human Resources - <http://www.beahr.com/>) is working on national occupational standards for Aboriginal land use planning (and for several other fields such as waste management), as well as on related certification and professional development training programs.
- There are sources of free GPS, GIS and RS training materials available on the web. As example see: (<http://spatialnews.geocomm.com/education/tutorials/>)
- The **Coastal Guardians Watchmen Network** (<http://www.coastalguardianwatchmen.ca/>) is working with **Northwest Community College** to develop a certificate program to be delivered in a series of modules covering core skills over the course of one year. In addition, a **diploma program** specializing in forestry, fisheries or parks/tourism is being developed, which will form the second year of the program (http://www.coastalguardianwatchmen.ca/files/Office_Documents/CGW_FlatsheetJuly31.doc?campaignID=150). Training modules will be delivered locally in rural First Nations communities (<http://www.coastalguardianwatchmen.ca/training/>). A highly condensed pilot project training session was held on Haida Gwaii last Spring (<http://www.nwcc.bc.ca/Programs/CoastGuardian/WatchmanTraining.cfm>).

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- **Fact Sheet - Support for Aboriginal People** (From: <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/corporate/budget/2009/sap.shtml>)

The Government of Canada is committed to supporting Aboriginal people (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) in tough economic times through targeted investments to improve their skills development and employability, and to help them secure long-term jobs.

These investments are part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government's plan to stimulate the economy, protect Canadians during the global recession and invest in long-term growth.

- **New in Canada's Economic Action Plan**



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- Proposed additional funding to enhance the existing Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program to address opportunities for training linked to employment opportunities in Aboriginal communities and the private sector;
 - Planned funding for a new Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund to strengthen employer partnerships to develop and implement training-to-employment plans; and
 - Additional funding for 2009-2010 until the successor of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy is put in place in April 2010.
- **Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership**
As announced in Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government will invest an additional \$100 million over three years in ASEP to help Aboriginal people (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) participate in the work force and get the training they need to make the most of employment opportunities.
ASEP funds partnerships between Aboriginal organizations and major employers to provide on-the-job training and solid work opportunities in a range of sectors such as mining, oil and gas, forestry and fishing, construction and tourism. This new investment could support up to 25 new projects, resulting up to 6,000 Aboriginal people being employed in long-term skilled jobs.
 - **Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund**
As proposed in Canada's Economic Action Plan, \$75 million over two years will be used to establish an Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund. The Fund will lay the groundwork for a partnership and results based successor to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS).
The Fund will strengthen partnerships between Aboriginal employment service organizations and employers through training-to-employment programs related to concrete job opportunities, and will support deeper investments in training for individuals facing barriers to employment such as low literacy and essential skills. There will also be opportunities to support training initiatives associated with other elements of the economic action plan, such as infrastructure and community investment. Canada's Economic Action Plan includes \$25 million for 2009-2010 to maintain current AHRDS funding until the new overall strategy is put in place in April 2010.
 - **Credential Definitions** are available at:
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/planning/educate/credntl.htm#certificate>
 - Associate Degree (A): There are two types of Associate degrees: the Associate of Arts degree and the Associate of Science. To earn an Associate degree, a student must complete 60 semester credits in a clearly defined program of first and second year university transfer courses. These are awarded by colleges, university colleges and institutes.
 - Apprenticeship (AP): This refers to mandatory technical training which an apprentice must take in order to achieve British Columbia Trade Qualification status. This training is offered by colleges, university colleges and institutes. Students must be registered in a trade by the Industry Training Authority.
 - Bachelor's Degree (B): Bachelor's degree programs normally take four years of full-time study to complete. Many offer options in particular disciplines as well as a more specialized honours option. These are awarded by university colleges, institutes and universities.
 - Certificate (C): Certificate programs usually involve one year or less of study. These are awarded by colleges, university colleges, institutes and universities.



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- Diploma (D): The diploma normally involves two years of study in a career, technical, or academic program. These are awarded at colleges, university colleges, institutes and universities.