



Nisga'a Lisims Government

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NEWS RELEASE

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Nisga'a Employment Skills Training program hosts 14 British Columbia Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance Members from across province at three-day conference in Terrace and Gitlaxtaamiks Sept. 13-15

TERRACE – Skills training and new employment opportunities will be high on the agenda as the Nisga'a Employment Skills Training (NEST) program hosts 14 British Columbia Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance Members (BCATEAM) from across the province in Terrace and Gitlaxtaamiks from September 13-15.

“The Nisga'a Lisims Government and NEST are honoured to have representatives from aboriginal skills training and employment programs throughout BC come to our home to participate in this important meeting,” says Mitchell Stevens, President of the Nisga'a Nation.

Adds Gary Patsey, Manager of the Nisga'a Employment, Skills & Training program:

“The BCATEAM and its members are key and significant stakeholders for union, industry and government to coordinate employment, skills and training initiatives for all Indigenous people across BC. The BCATEAM cooperates amongst each other and as a group collaborates with other leadership groups in BC and on a national level.”

Patsey says the issue of aboriginal employment skills training and job placement are critical at a time when BC has the lowest unemployment rate in Canada.

“There is a significant skilled worker shortage across BC in growing industries and each BCATEAM member is dedicated to helping First Nations workers receive the training needed to fill job vacancies now and into the future,” Patsey said.

Mitchell Stevens adds: “The Nisga'a Nation, through the Nisga'a Lisims Government, has always maintained that Nisga'a efforts on employment skills training will be for the good of the communities and the region, as well as our BC economy.”

Patsey said that media are welcome to speak to himself and other BCATEAM leaders



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and guests but that the meeting sessions themselves are limited to participants only.

Patsey said guest speakers include on Tuesday Sept. 13 James Sutherland, Director General, Aboriginal Affairs Directorate of the federal Employment and Social Development Canada and on Wednesday Sept 14 Gary Herman, Chief Executive Officer of BC's Industry Training Authority. There will also be representatives from the federal government's Service Canada and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada; and from the BC government's Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, among others.

The first day of the conference on Tuesday September 13 takes place in Terrace at the Best Western Terrace Inn, at 4553 Greig Avenue, in Skeena Room 2, while the second and third day will be held at the Nisga'a Lisims Government Chambers at 2000 Lisims Drive in Gitlaxtaamiks (formerly New Aiyansh), about 100 kilometers drive from Terrace.

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