

Skeetchestn Students Pioneer Home Inspection Training



Pictured from left: Tara Gonzales-Nicholas, Charles Gairdner, Patti Linton, Carey Lamb, Calvin Draney, Dawn McGrath, Doug Seymour, Ken Mayo, Mike Battistel, Wayne Hand. (Missing from photo: Students Louis Gregg and Jenna Apsassin)

Students at the Skeetchestn Indian Reserve, near Savona, BC received completion certificates following an historic twelve-week BCIT House Inspection program. The course is the first of its kind in Canada and follows intensive negotiations with CMHC and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. The program is being closely watched by other First Nations in the province as a model for future training opportunities on other reserves.

The intensive training was specially designed to be delivered on the reserve as a full time program, which is usually delivered at the Burnaby campus as a series of twelve-week units in the Part-time Studies Department.

The ceremony was attended by Skeetchestn band council members, Dawn McGrath, Senior Construction Manager of the Skeetchestn Band, Wayne Hand, BCIT Associate Dean and instructors Mike Battistel, AScT and Ken Mayo, CHI, RRFA(L).

Students expressed thanks to the band council and BCIT for their commitment to providing this much-needed training on the reserve. With their newly acquired knowledge, the students will soon provide more accurate assessments of the condition of homes in the community, making them safer places to live.

ASTTBC welcomes the opportunity to work with the students as they are now eligible to apply for certification, which leads to home inspector licensing from Consumer Protection BC.