



ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND HOUSING RESILIENCY: JOBS AND HOUSING

Addressing the Barriers

To effectively build a meaningful relationship and support Indigenous communities in decolonization and reconciliation, efforts must go beyond the current work being done and towards actively promoting sustainable procurement opportunities; along with addressing the ongoing systemic barriers in access to adequate employment, housing, and healthcare.

Inequitable Living Opportunities:

Barriers in Affordability: More than one-third (41, 385) of Indigenous households across Canada living off reserve reported issues to affordability, adequacy, and sustainability (Source: Statistics Canada, Census, 2016).

Housing Need and Homelessness: Indigenous peoples are 13.2 times more likely to experience homelessness (2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver).

Disproportionate Income Spending: 53% of Indigenous peoples spend over 30% of their income on rent and utilities compared to non-Indigenous peoples in Vancouver (Canadian Rental Housing Index - https://rentalhousingindex.ca/en/#indigenous_csd).

“With programs like BladeRunners, you are not getting just a job. You are getting a career.” – Garry Jobin, BladeRunners Embers



Community Examples

Bladerunners



Moving beyond job creation into a sustainable career path, BladeRunners Program works to provide life skills, employment training, job experience, and a variety of resources and supports for unemployed or precariously employed at-risk young adults between 15 and 30 years old.



This program addresses systemic barriers and challenges that marginalized communities may face, while providing resources especially for Indigenous employees who may need additional supports.



Supporting Indigenous employment and housing through various pathways such as procurement agreements with the City of Vancouver, partnering with non-Indigenous companies for training and job experience, and certification course support.



For more information, please visit <https://emberscanada.org/embers-training/> and/or <https://www.workbc.ca/explore-training-and-education/skills-training-and-supports/bladerunners-program-risk-young-adults>

What Does Indigenous Inclusion Look Like



Shifting procurement and employment towards Indigenous inclusion at all levels and positions, including leadership roles. Having an Indigenous lens throughout the organizational structure and to inform and support future procurement and employment.



Having an Indigenous Community Liaison to work with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, building and maintaining community relationships and partnerships.



Implementing requirements within policies and procedures to prioritize a number of Indigenous vendors, businesses, groups, organizations, and individuals throughout all levels of employment and procurement.



For more information, please visit our Resource Hub at <https://britishcolumbia.uli.org/programs/partnerships-for-health-equity-program/resource-hub-phep/>

Sources:

- Senakw Development
- Boardwalk – Tsawwassen FN and Acquillini
- BC Housing - Indigenous Cultural Supports and Safety
- BC Housing - Indigenous Directory
- Embersstaffing.com
- Bladerunner Program – WorkBC
- Community Impact Real Estate
- Indigenous Economic Development
- Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
- M'akola Development - Ho'-Kee-melh Kloshe

