

AHRDA Essential Skills Guiding Team
Terms of Reference
Vision, Mandate and Values
June 2007 (Revised April 2008)

Purpose: Never has there been a better time to change the way we approach learning and work. In today's fast paced life, information comes to us at lightning speed and from various sources. The AHRDA Essential Skills Guiding Team was formed in order to be able to better understand the concept of Essential Skills to determine how it can be integrated into the current Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy (AHRDS) as well as post 2009.

Definition: Essential Skills are the skills people need for work, learning and life. They provide the foundation for learning all other skills and are the cornerstone of lifelong learning.

Who We Are: We are a group of individuals who work within the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy in partnership with Service Canada and are passionate about literacy and learning. We represent the BC/Yukon AHRDAs and are interested in:

- Continuing to build our own internal capacity on Essential Skills
- Continuing to share ideas and program models, materials and resources
- widely sharing successes and best practices for the good of our communities
- understanding the various assessment tools that support essential skills building
- looking at ways to integrate Essential Skills into current AHRDS programming
- building a case for ES integration into the AHRDS post 2009
- Working with HRSDC National Office to ensure that an ES folder is created on the HRSDC AHRDA website and assisting National Headquarters to ensure that a wide variety of relevant information and products are available in the folder

We Report to: our Managers, fellow co-workers, communities and clients

Priorities:

- Establishing a website (folder on the HRSDC website) to post valuable resources
- Continue to develop and distribute the ES DVD series
- Continue to meet on a regular basis as a group
- Create more awareness tools
- Continue to study various change theorists (i.e. Margaret Wheatley) to explore how we can continue to be a solid and healthy network
- Continue to network and share existing and emerging practices related to essential skills building

- Curriculum/program design: ensure that they are tailored to community needs; that we collaborate with education institutions regarding Essential Skills and that we share curriculum and program materials within our network
- Advocate for designated Essential Skills budget post 2009
- Build a case for support and sponsorship so that we may continue to meet
- Research

Principles:

To work together to increase our capacity to deliver quality essential skills programming within our service areas, and to freely share any models, materials and resources that result from our efforts.

Mandate: To increase over all awareness around the concept of Essential Skills.

Vision: To work with all like-minded individuals and organizations that seeks to support essential skills building for all.

Our Values: Collaboration, sharing, honest conversation, willingness to support each other, participation, communication to the wider circle, openness.