ACR Aboriginal Programs Project
Program Template

Program Area:	2.0	Workforce Development
Sub Program:	2.4	Programs Sponsored by Government and Non-Profit Agencies
Template:	**2.4.1**	**Aboriginal Addictions Services Program**
Sponsor(s):	*Keyano College, Nechi Institute*	

1. Objective

To prepare addictions practitioners to work with Aboriginal clients in a culturally sensitive manner by blending academic knowledge and Aboriginal values and beliefs as an alternative to mainstream addictions services programs.

2. Description

The Aboriginal Addictions Services (AAS) Program provides quality enhanced educational opportunities to graduates of the Nechi Institute Advanced Counsellor Training Series. The blending of academic knowledge and Aboriginal values and beliefs adds to the uniqueness of this addictions services program. The Aboriginal Addictions Services Program addresses concerns of First Nations, Métis and urban Natives. The curriculum is culturally relevant with practical solutions for meeting the need for qualified addictions services workers. Graduates are prepared with the skills that are necessary in order to address current trends in the field of addictions counselling.

The AAS certificate program is equivalent to two college semesters. Students receive advanced standing from Keyano College for the Nechi Institute Basic and Advanced Counsellor Training Series, equivalent to the first semester of the program. Students must complete a one-year certificate in AAS before entering into the second year of a diploma program. The diploma program provides graduates of the AAS certificate program, the Community Wellness certificate program and other human development certificate programs with the enhanced skills to meet increasing demands placed on employees working in the addictions and wellness field.

The program provides education that is holistic in nature. It incorporates addictions counselling practices as well as Aboriginal methods of helping. The blending of the two provides the student with a rich base from which to practice.

Course descriptions

Current Issues: The emphasis of this course is on researching various topics of substance and process addictions. Students gather information on various issues, use and misuse of prescription drugs, gambling, illicit drug use and tobacco addiction.

Communication II: The student will develop writing, speaking and listening skills necessary for

positive communication when dealing with community and non-community members. Reflective writing, necessary for the practicum, will be introduced.

Impacts of Residential Schools: The emphasis of this course is on the long-term impact of the residential school experience on Aboriginal society. The residential school experience is also the basis for the study of coping with loss, anger management, and interpersonal and family violence.

Program Management: The focus of this course is the relationship between strategic planning and program development. The facilitation and implementation of community strategic planning activities will be stressed.

Evaluation of Community-Based Programs: The study of a model of community development will precede the introduction of skills necessary to understand the principles of program evaluation.

Health Promotions: This course will emphasize knowledge, skills, and attitudes conducive to increasing potential for wellness and health. Activities directed towards increasing the overall level of well being, and actualizing the health potential of individuals, families, groups, and communities in general will be stressed.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: The emphasis of this course will be the counselling of adult FASD clients. Prevention, diagnosis, and care giving related to individuals and families affected by this major cause of mental retardation will be stressed.

Social Marketing: Students will focus on how the process of social marketing can be used to develop, promote and implement effective community-based programs.

Effective Supervision: Personal management styles and the practicing of personal and professional ethics as related to the employment situation will be stressed. Emphasis will also be on the relationship of traditional values and culture to the contemporary workplace. Current leadership practices will be an important component of this course.

Practicum: Students will demonstrate competency of the acquired theory in the workplace. This competency, as well as a demonstrated understanding of the link between all courses and the link between the courses and the self, will be articulated in a reflective journal kept during the practicum as well as throughout the program.

3. Implementation

Minimum entrance requirements for the Aboriginal Addictions Services diploma program include:

- A certificate from either the Aboriginal Addictions Services Program or the Community Wellness Program. Applicants not possessing either certificate but having a certificate in another human development program from an accredited post-secondary institution will be reviewed on an individual basis for program suitability.
- Program admission interview. This includes a personal statement, employment/work history, and volunteer experience.
- Abstention from the use of alcohol and illicit drugs for the duration of the program. Failure to maintain abstinence may result in suspension or termination from the course or program.

4. Timeframe for Results

The AAS diploma program is designed as a one-year program (10 months). Graduates will be able to fill employment opportunities with First Nations agencies and provincially and federally funded agencies.

5. Measurable Criteria

Success factors are:

- Provides an education that is holistic in nature
- Incorporates addictions counselling methods of practice as well as Aboriginal methods of helping
- Provides a culturally sensitive education to future helpers

6. Budget

Diploma program:

- Tuition $4,989
- Books $335
- Total $5,324

Nechi Institute charges a facility fee directly to the students that Keyano College does not oversee. The facility fee is $240 per week for nine weeks, for a total of $2160.

7. Partners and Sponsors

The AAS program has a partnership agreement with the Nechi Institute in St. Albert, Alberta.

The AAS program is currently being offered in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology through a brokering initiative. This program is currently in its second year and successfully graduated 15 students in the last academic year.

The AAS program planned to offer several courses starting in January 2006 to Government of the Northwest Territories employees as a supplement to groups that are taking the Community Wellness certificate program.

8. Experience with the Project

The AAS program has been offered in St. Albert since 1996. The majority of students are gainfully employed in the field as a result of their educational achievements within the program. The campus is a smaller setting and, as a result, past students remain in contact with Keyano College to provide updates of their successes in the field. Graduates are able to fill employment opportunities with First Nations agencies and provincially and federally funded agencies. Some students have continued with their education into other related and transferable degree areas.

9. General Applicability

This program's Aboriginal Addictions practitioners will be of interest to companies/organizations wanting to provide human resource support to employees, their families, and the community. This program will improve retention of employees.

10. Additional Information or Support

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