

GED program is now offered at Scotchfort

by Stella Shepard

Adult Education

In the fall of 2008, **Workplace Learning PEI Inc.** completed a community needs assessment at Abegweit First Nation as part of a larger research project. "The participants stated they wanted access to an upgrading program close to home," says **Barbara Macnutt**, Manager of Literacy Initiatives with the **Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning**.

"For most of those in need of upgrading, the major barrier is transportation to off reserve programs. To respond to their learning needs, a pilot program was developed to offer GED preparation classes in Scotchfort."

The classes

Classes were held twice a week this winter. "The interest has been such that we are exploring the possibility of adding a third day for the next session," says Barbara. "We hope to offer the program again late next fall once the fishing season comes to an end."

The learner

Michael Bernard of Scotchfort is getting a second chance to earn a high school education. He's studying to write the GED tests later this month. Michael enjoyed learning while in high school. However, the educational system didn't work for him and he quit school. For years he dreamed of getting a high school diploma but did not have the opportunity until now.



Adult learner Michael Bernard and instructor Linda Campbell work together at GED preparation classes in Scotchfort. "I would encourage anyone thinking of signing up for this program to go for it," says Michael. "You have nothing to lose and a lot to gain."

When Michael learned that the GED program would be offered in his own community, he eagerly enrolled. "I want to better my education," says Michael. "This is a very positive learning environment, unlike my high school years. I hope to pass all the GED tests. If I don't, I plan to keep trying until I do."

"Since leaving high school, I've worked seasonally in the fishing industry. I want more than seasonal employment. But I need my grade 12 and post-secondary education before finding full-time employment in a career that I will enjoy. My goal is to enroll in a trades school and study carpentry, welding or marine maintenance."

The instructor

"There are 10 learners in the program," says **Linda Campbell**, instructor of the Scotchfort GED program. "They are eager to learn and to work towards their employment goals. A few of the learners are enrolled purely for the personal satisfaction of earning their PEI Grade 12 Equivalency Certificate."

"It's been a rewarding experience for myself and for the learners. Seven of the 10 learners will write their GED test this spring. Two have already passed the GED tests. They are making plans for career goals that will lead to meaningful full-time employment in their chosen careers."

The funding

The funding and delivery partners are:

- Service Canada
- Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning
- Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI
- Abegweit First Nation
- Workplace Learning PEI Inc.
- Industry Canada
- PEI Provincial Treasury

G For more information about the **Abegweit First Nation GED program**, contact **Faye MacLean**, Employment Services, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, at **676-2353 ex. 102**.

Summer School Classes 2009

Holland College Adult and Community Education are offering summer courses for learners needing specific requirements for further training:

✓ **Math 421, 521, 621**

✓ **Chemistry 521, 621**

✓ **Physics 621**

✓ **Biology 621**



Please note that Math and Chemistry 621 level courses require the corresponding 521 level course as a prerequisite.

Start Date: Monday, June 1, 2009

End Date: Saturday, August 22, 2009

Schedule: Monday & Wednesday, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Saturday, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Cost: \$350

Locations:

Charlottetown Montgomery Hall,
305 Kent Street,
East Wing

Tignish Dalton Centre

To register, contact Admissions Office,
Montgomery Hall, **629-4214** or **1-800-446-5265**