

# Improving Employment Opportunities for Aboriginal Peoples in Cape Breton

## Creating a workforce for the construction sector

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### Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership

The Aboriginal Skills Partnership (ASEP) works with First Nation communities to improve employment opportunities for Aboriginal peoples by providing valuable skill development, on-the-job work experience and long-term employment opportunities in the construction sector in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

NSCC worked with ASEP to develop and deliver a training program to prepare unemployed and underemployed Aboriginal peoples with the skills needed to work in the local construction industry. In addition to developing essential skills in literacy and numeracy, participants learned how to perform technical tasks specific to the areas of transportation, civil engineering construction, building construction and environmental assessment.

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### Solution

NSCC developed a 30-week Construction Technical Support program that combined 21 weeks of theory and classroom instruction with a 9-week work placement with a local employer.

Participants gained a number of important skills: the ability to perform technical skills safely within quality assurance and control standards, report

on project implementation, employ basic surveying and drafting skills, interpret blueprints, recognize a variety of soils, apply testing procedures to concrete, soils and asphalt, and demonstrate an awareness of the environmental impact of civil and construction activity.

In addition to the construction training, NSCC also helped ASEP develop a learning support system for program participants that included: mentoring, tutoring and coaching during the training program and help with finding jobs that would offer advancement opportunities.

### Result

15 Aboriginal learners successfully completed the program and gained the qualifications needed to work with local employers in the construction industry.

### Key to Success

NSCC quickly responded to the needs of a local industry by identifying an eager workforce and providing them with the skills and knowledge required to build careers.

## Services

- Consultation and needs assessment
- Curriculum Development
- Training Delivery
- Student Services

## Quick Facts

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- NSCC helped ASEP develop a learning support system for participants, including mentoring, tutoring and coaching.

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## Customized Learning Solutions

NSCC offers organizations of all sizes, and operating in most sectors, customized learning solutions. If you're an employer, we can help train and develop the workforce you need to achieve your organizational goals. All of our services are designed in close collaboration with you and with your business and training objectives in mind.

## Program Expertise

- Business
- Geomatics and Geographical Information Systems
- Healthcare, Social Services and Education
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing and Engineering Technology
- Oil and Gas, Renewable Energy and Water Resources
- Safety
- Skilled Trades and Construction
- Tourism and Culinary

## About NSCC

Located on Canada's east coast, Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) is a vibrant post-secondary institution and a national leader in applied education. NSCC employs over 800 faculty and curriculum specialists who work at campuses located across Nova Scotia.

We offer over 130 certificate, diploma, and advanced diploma programs in a wide range of occupational areas. Each of our programs is developed with input from industry to ensure the training we offer prepares students with skills that are current and in-demand by employers.

## Contact Us

Business Development  
NSCC (Nova Scotia Community College)  
Phone: (902) 491-1611  
1-877-858-1611 (toll-free in North America)  
Fax: (902) 491-3577

[nsc.ca/customized](https://nsc.ca/customized)

The logo for Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) features the lowercase letters "nsc" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a solid dark blue rectangular background.