



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – September 14, 2005

SCHOOL DISTRICT 48 ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM TO SERVE ADULT LEARNERS IN OLYMPIC CORRIDOR

The Howe Sound Board of School Trustees announced today the establishment of a Community Education Program to provide educational opportunities for students of all ages in the Olympic Corridor.

Chair Doug Hackett said the Board is strongly committed to the concept of life-long learning and believes the School District has the vision, resources, expertise and partnerships necessary to translate that concept into reality.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rick Erickson said the primary function of Community Education will be to offer continuing education courses and classes designed for adult learners. “Accessibility and flexibility are to be the pillars of the new program,” he said, adding: “There will not only be an emphasis on academic courses, but also on courses that will provide job entry skills and direct entry to the workplace.”

The Community Education Program will include tuition-free academic upgrading and high school completion courses as well as career-vocational courses, some in conjunction with post-secondary partners such as Capilano College, Vancouver Community College and Kwantlen University College. In addition, Community Education will be working closely with local business and industry organizations to ensure that our career-vocational courses are directly related to employment needs in the Olympic Corridor.

As the program develops, regular or traditional courses will be supplemented by self-paced and distant learning options wherever possible. There will also be a full range of non-credit general interest and leisure courses for personal interest and enjoyment.

Beginning this fall the following courses will be offered: Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) Level 1, Computing Guide for Beginners, Food Safe Basic, Super Host Fundamentals, Emergency Child Care, First Aid for Coaches, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), and Housekeeping Essentials. Starting this January, four other program areas will be added: The Adult High School Completion (HSC) program leading to regular high school graduation (Dogwood Diploma), Academic Upgrading for Adults (for grades 8 to 10), General Education Diploma (GED), and Fundamental Literacy.

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The Board has appointed Barbara Wepruk to serve as the Community Education Coordinator. Ms. Wepruk has many years of experience with adult educational programming at Simon Fraser University. She is a 12-year resident of Squamish and has served in a number of volunteer

capacities, most recently as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Squamish Official Community Plan.

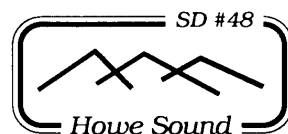
“I am very excited about this opportunity to help build a Community Education Program from the ground up,” she said. “There is strong demand for the courses and classes we will be offering this fall and winter, and I anticipate adding many more in the years to come as we seek to serve the life-long learning needs of residents in Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton. We welcome course suggestions and invite people with expertise in a particular area to submit a proposal for a course they would like to develop and teach. Qualified adult education instructors seeking employment should call me directly (604-892-5228, ext. 126) or email me at bwepruk@sd48.bc.ca.”

Registration for fall courses is now open. Students may register any time by contacting the School Board Office or at registration/information sessions at the Howe Sound Secondary Tuesday, September 20 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday, October 1 from 10:00 am to noon. The first course, Computing Guide for Beginners, starts September 20.

The fall course list and registration details will be advertised shortly in the local newspapers. This information will also be posted on the School District’s website (www.sd48.bc.ca).

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For further information contact Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rick Erickson (604-892-5228).



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