



Okanagan Indian Band

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MEMBER BULLETIN

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Exciting news about the OKIB Community Pop-up Garden

By Glenda Louis, Community Engagement Lead

The Okanagan College *Indigenous Landscape Gardener Certificate Program* has completed the first phase of the Green House project. This seven-week trades skills component provided the students with practical and theoretical experience in a variety of building trades and related skills.

The curriculum of this one-of-a-kind unique program provides instruction in landscape, horticulture with a garden focus. One key project in the program is a construction of a Green House.

The Green House has been built by local indigenous students' onsite at Okanagan College Trades Facility (Kalamalka Campus). The modular design constructed in 4 four foot sections for the roof and walls; the multiwall polycarbonate panels allows for a seamless dismantle for relocation if needed. The base will sit on custom design concrete support pads also to include an irrigation system, feature electric and solar lighting system.

The second phase of this project is where the students will assemble the Green House under the supervision of an Okanagan College Red Seal Carpentry instructor in its new location in the early spring.

On January 28, 2021, Rob Kjarsgaard, Program Administrator, Trades & Apprenticeship and Shepherds Hardware delivered the backbones of the Green House to its new home at OKIB! The Green House assembly will begin in early spring at Komasket Park in perfect timing of Pop-Up Garden readiness.

Wai lem lemp to Okanagan College, Continuing Studies & Trades Department and the program Students!

The Green House is very welcomed and much appreciated to OKIB's Community Pop-Up Garden will further support the food security initiative move toward food resiliency. The Green House will provide an optimum start for a longer growing season which will further increase access to fresh foods and social connectedness, reinforcing positive health effects, enhanced nutrition intake and many opportunities' from seed to jar education and awareness for all ages.

The Community Pop-Up Garden will be share more information in the spring as the assembly of the Green House will take place complete with photos! Thank you again to Okanagan College, Continuing Studies & Trades Department and the program Students.

The Indigenous Landscape Gardener Certificate Program is sponsored in partnership with Okanagan College, The Government of Canada through the Canada-British Columbia Workforce Development Agreement and Okanagan Training & Development Council (OTDC) in working partnership with Okanagan Indian Band Employment & Training Coordinator.