

Community

Night school overcrowded? Come see the CLCS

It's not only children that are going back to school. In the spirit of lifelong learning, hundreds of people from Chilliwack have attended workplace-related courses this year.

The Chilliwack Learning Community Society (CLCS) is pleased to celebrate Learn@Work Week by announcing its next set of courses—all in Chilliwack and all for free.

The CLCS offers nine courses in total this quarter. Each of the courses applies to at least one essential skill.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) has identified nine essential skills for success in the workplace. They range from reading, numeracy and using documents, to using computers, thinking skills, oral communications, and working with others.

Michael Berger, workplace essential skills co-ordinator for the CLCS, said, "The courses we're offering continue to be well-received by the business community. There are a number that not only apply to a business setting, but also help improve one's personal life too. Courses such as budgeting and credit essentials or dealing with conflict are useful anytime and anywhere."

The CLCS is excited to be running another course on Microsoft Office 2007 as well.

"This is sure to be a popular course with a number of people already expressing interest in it," Berger said. "Listening For Success, Reading and Document Use, Service Plus, Writing for the Workplace and two WorldHost courses are also being offered. The great thing about these courses is that many of them are just one day or a couple of evenings in length. It makes it easier for employed people to attend."

The CLCS is pleased with the feedback they have received from participants of previous courses. When surveyed, 95 per cent of the students rated the courses as having met their needs; with 88 per cent saying the level of difficulty of the courses was 'just right.'

"Instructors have consistently been rated as knowledgeable, enthusiastic and approachable," Berger said. "Not only that, many instructors asked to teach courses again. They love the fact that everyone is motivated and interested in learning and improving."

To date, the courses have been offered at no cost to employers or employees.

"With the continued valued support of the local

business community, we have been able to secure many training spaces at no charge," Berger said. "This allowed us to stretch our budget dollars a little more

and continue to offer the courses for free—which is pretty valuable in this economic climate."

Berger is looking for employees (and employ-

ers) who wish to take part in the training. Fourth quarter classes are scheduled to begin as early as Sept. 27 and continue into mid-December.

► If you wish to take advantage of these free training courses, or would like more information, please contact Berger at 604-792-0025 x2434 or at michaelb@chill-

wacklearning.com. Registration forms are available on the Chilliwack Learning website and at the information desk of the Chilliwack Library.

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