



BC Aboriginal Mine Training Assn. event helps local women build confidence and style for new careers.

Wednesday, December 7th

For the last ten months a small group of Aboriginal women in the Thompson-Okanagan have worked hard to complete the requirements for a specialized management certificate in Human Resources through the BC Aboriginal Mine Training Association (BC AMTA).

The Students are highly motivated individuals who are striving for independence and economic wealth for themselves and their families. This journey has been about bringing positive change for themselves through education and preparing themselves to meet the needs of the opportunities in today's mining industry.

On Wednesday these hard-working and determined women are being given an extra confidence booster by BC AMTA. They will spend time with a fashion advisor, a makeup artist, and a hairdresser to help them build personal style and poise as they step into a new career.

The Hair Specialists, Sears and The Bay in Kamloops have each contributed to the students' makeover through donated space, accessories and skincare products along with valuable staff time.

"It's so important for strong women to step forward and help other women launch successful careers," says Laurie Sterritt, Executive Director of BCAMTA. "Some of the more privileged have had the benefit of education and mentorship. That has not been the case for many Aboriginal women in Canada."

Dress for Success, a longstanding Vancouver organization dedicated to promoting the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

Helen Baker is the Owner of Stylefinder, a Vancouver company that counsels clients on their wardrobes and personal style. She will lead Wednesday's session and will also bring generous donations from a group of private clients she calls "closet angels".

"The First Nations women we are working with in Kamloops have done an incredible amount of work to prepare themselves for new careers. We want to help them take that next step forward with genuine self-assurance," says Baker.