

# Working to Solve Homelessness:

## BladeRunners: A Partnership of Community and Youth



Since 1994, BladeRunners has helped construction businesses meet their labour needs in a shrinking labour force. Drawn from a group of at-risk disadvantaged young men and women, employers have discovered these youth are motivated and ready to work hard.

BLADERUNNERS is an internationally recognized, award winning employment program assisting multi-barrier and disadvantaged youth in gaining on-the-job construction training. Participants are referred by pre-employment programs, past or present Bladerunners and community organizations. Most participants are aboriginal, many are homeless. Almost 30% are female.

BladeRunners began as a pilot project in Vancouver in 1994. The first participants worked on the construction of GM Place, the Ford Theatre and the Collingwood Village project. Today, BladeRunners operates in Vancouver, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo and Victoria. More than 1,000 youth have participated in the program and many have successfully gone on to apprenticeships resulting in trades certification. Province wide, the program has an 80% success rate of participants remaining self-sufficient in the construction trades after two years.

Bladerunners works in partnership with ACCESS, Employers, Trades Organizations, Unions, Community Organizations, Government and the Aboriginal Community to increase opportunities for youth in British Columbia. Most current funding is provided by the Province of BC, but support also comes from many other groups and organizations.

Crucial to the success of the program is the on-going support provided by the BladeRunners Job Coach. The coach provides on-site job monitoring for up to 18 months as well as after hours support for personal problems and crisis so they don't interfere with the job.

For more information go to: [www.buildingfuturestoday.com](http://www.buildingfuturestoday.com)

Homelessness, together we can solve it.

Visit: [stophomelessness.ca](http://stophomelessness.ca)

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