

Accelerated CAPA program now in BC

"We can now deliver the first accelerated [Certified Aboriginal Professional Administrator](#) (CAPA) training in BC," says **Mike Mearns**, General Manager of [AFOA BC](#). "We're excited to offer the program locally and save members the expense of travelling to Ottawa or Edmonton."

Called "in-person cohorts," this CAPA training involves six intensive three-day sessions on 20 professional competencies for band administrators. There are three ways to achieve the CAPA designation:

"Anyone who wants to participate in the accelerated program in BC can contact me," adds Mike. "We'll arrange with [AFOA Canada](#) to deliver the training here to build capacity within our First Nation administrations and communities."

CAPA courses can also serve as transfer credits to university business administration programs.

First CAPA cohort graduates

The online CAPA program was launched in fall 2012, with the first cohort graduating in December 2014. **Eric Alex**, Project Manager with [Stó:lō Community Futures](#), is one of those grads.

"I began with a remarkable job offer to become Executive Director of the [Cheam First Nation](#)," says Eric, who brought a strong background in the information technology sector to this position. "Early in my tenure, I saw how critical the role of Aboriginal administrator was to advancing change initiatives underway in Cheam First Nation. And I have always strived to be a student of my responsibilities in any role I've taken on, so the CAPA certification was a natural next step."

"I also started volunteering with the community futures program* in 2012, because community development is a passion of mine. This January I had the opportunity to join this amazing organization."

"The CAPA competencies are very relevant to this work. **The training gives you a road map to be the kind of person you need to be to create the changes our communities deserve.** I hold the CAPA training among the most meaningful professional development undertakings I have ever invested in."

* Stó:lō Community Futures supports community economic development and business growth for Aboriginal people living in [Stó:lō Traditional Territory](#).

