Indigenous Education

Indigenous Education acknowledges with respect the unceded territories of the Coast and Straits Salish Peoples

It has been a year since we have published our Indigenous Education Newsletter. This attests to how busy our unit has been over the last year.

There has been a many exciting changes and growth in Indigenous Education this year.

We are pleased to have Aliki Marinakis back from her maternity leave. She returned in the summer of 2011, and we are grateful for her return.

Our Indigenous Education team has grown, Lorelei McEvay and Kaitlyn Charlie have joined our team.

Our Director, Onowa McIvor is currently on educational leave this academic year, to finish of her Doctoral Studies. Best of luck to Onowa, and we are looking forward to your return.

Dr. Lorna Williams, Canada Research Chair Indigenous Knowledge and Learning is currently on Study Leave/Sabbatical (and missing from photo above), and will return in July 2012. We are looking forward to your return.

Once again last June, Indigenous Education ran the Indigenous Education Institute for Secondary PDPP students, and is currently planning for the June 2012 IED Institute.

Indigenous Education currently has two active partnerships with the communities of the WSÁNEĆ and the Kwakiutl Indian Band (representing 5 nations from the North Island), who are currently working towards their Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization.

We are very excited to launch our new Graduate Degree Program in Indigenous Language Revitalization this July 2012.

We are grateful for all of this exciting and valuable work, and for the support of our community partners, our colleagues in the Faculties of Education and Humanities. We are looking forward to another great winter, spring and summer.

HÍSWKE HÁLE (Thank you all)
Recent Indigenous Graduates in the Faculty

June 2011

Renee Sampson
WSÁNEĆ
Bachelor of Education

Jenn Harry
Klahoose First Nation
Bachelor of Education

Robyn Buchan
‘Namgis First Nation
Bachelor of Education

Christina Fahey
Métis
Bachelor of Education

Kody Matson
Penticton
Bachelor of Education

Michelle Brown
Métis
Bachelor of Education

Danielle Mayes
Métis
PDPP Secondary

Jesse Mansfield
Métis
PDPP Elementary

Elizabeth White
Laxwalaams
PDPP Middle Years

Delbert Mills
Blackfoot
Master of Education

Cammy Coughlin
Mohawk
Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies

Indigenous Education Welcomes...

Lorelei McEvay
Indigenous Education Administrative Assistant

Hello, my name is Lorelei McEvay I am WSÁNEĆ (Saanich/Straits Salish) from W̱JOȽEȽP (Tsartlip) First Nation, and come from the Elliott and Underwood families on the Saanich Peninsula. I am the new Administrative Assistant in Indigenous Education. I have been working within the department since the end of June, and have been enjoying my time getting to know the IED team and helping to tackle the department’s various endeavors.

I am also attending UVic as a student in the Bachelor of Education Indigenous Language Revitalization program that is run in part through our office. Over the past few years I have been working on learning my SENĆOŦEN language and recently achieved my Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization as the first step towards my degree in Education. I am looking forward to working in Indigenous Education and assisting our team and students in any way that I can.

HISWKE SIÁM (Thank you honoured one).
Indigenous Education Professional Development Workshop

Indigenous Education and Continuing Studies in Education partnered in the development and delivery of an professional development workshop for BC Teachers on October 21st 2011, the province wide Pro-D day. The workshop, called WICISTEL (a SENĆOŦEN word meaning Learning Together) was a full day professional development opportunity for in-service teachers.

This full-day professional development event was centered around Indigenous ways of knowing, learning and teaching. The workshop was facilitated by local Indigenous knowledge keepers, and introduced an Indigenous world of learning and teaching through hands-on practical and experiential learning to the participants. Eighteen practicing teachers from various school districts experienced principles of traditional Indigenous ways of learning and teaching such as: learning by observation, learning by doing, mentorship and apprenticeship. The day offered a window into the world of Indigenous education, and included:

- Cedar Ceremony
- Indigenous Speaker Series Event — Howie Edwards from Nanoose
- Catered Lunch featuring Northwest Coast Indigenous Fare
- Drum Making Workshop

Participants each made their own drums, under the guidance and direction of Elder and expert drum maker, Ron George. Participants were taught about the sacredness of the drum, and encouraged to gift their drums, as is the protocol of the Salish peoples.

This Indigenous Education Professional Development event for BC Teachers provided an opportunity for everyone to learn together and foster greater awareness for Indigenous knowledge, culture, beliefs, learning and teaching.

Indigenous Speaker Series

On September 22, Hul'qumi'num Elder Tse-e-llat (Sarah Modeste) spoke to an audience of more than 100 students, faculty, and staff about Snuw’uyulh, her traditional teachings on healing or how to be a good person. Elder Modeste shared stories about her upbringing, her family, the teachings from her Grandmother, and the challenges she faced when she began her business selling the world famous Cowichan sweaters. In her soft voice and with humour, Elder Modeste talked about how she moved her husband out of his own wood shed more than twice in order to have enough space to work with the wool to knit her sweaters.

The audience was captivated by her serenity and humbleness when Sarah said she was not educated. At the end of the presentation, Joyce Underwood one of the Elders in Residence at the First Peoples House, told Sarah that the school of Life has been where she has earned her education.

The presentation, organized by Indigenous Education and the Equity, Diversity, and Belonging Committee of the Faculty of Education, ended with the offering of gifts and songs as a way to thank Elder Modeste for a morning full of teachings upon which to reflect and learn about some of the traditions of the Cowichan peoples.

* We gratefully acknowledge the support from the Provost’s Diversity, and Equity Advisory Committee.

Indigenous Education and Community Collaborations Institute

Summer 2012

The Indigenous Education and Community Collaborations Institute is offered to Secondary Post-Degree students in the Faculty of Education. This institute is a cluster of four IED courses offered during the month of June, with a focus on Indigenous knowledge, epistemology, pedagogy and education.

Courses will be held on campus and in local Indigenous communities. This institute is designed to give pre-service teachers an opportunity to learn from and about Indigenous knowledge and to make valuable connections to the local Indigenous communities.

Indigenous Education would like to thank the Vancouver Airport Authority for their generous contribution to this year’s IED 473 Experiential Learning Class and Indigenous Education Institute. JAN HISWKE (Many Thanks)
Indigenous Language Revitalization Programs

Two announcements came from the Ministry of Advanced Education in the past few months, to our humble Indigenous Education unit, which may forever change the landscape of education, and language revitalization in the province of BC. Both our undergraduate programs and our graduate programs in Indigenous Language Revitalization, have now been approved at the provincial level.

New Graduate Program will start July 2012

High-fives were heard in the McLaurin hallways as the announcement was relayed through the IED staff that the Masters in Indigenous Language Revitalization had been approved at the Ministry of Education level this Fall. The new cutting edge graduate program, which potential students will enter as a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization, ladders into either a Masters of Arts or Masters of Education. It is a partnership between the Department of Linguistics and Indigenous Education, and draws upon the expertise in both academic areas. Dr Lorna Williams and Onowa McIvor are two of the current faculty members slated to teach in the first year. Two new faculty members will also be hired over the next year and a half to contribute to the teaching and supervision of students in the program.

This program seeks to honour and support the language revitalization goals and work being undertaken across BC and Canada by providing a higher level of certification, new opportunities for networking, ideas sharing, and skills building. This is the first graduate program of its kind in BC, and is unique as well in the exceptional entry component, which invites applicants with experience in language teaching and recovery work to apply, even if those applicants may not have an undergraduate degree. Students applying to the program are encouraged to contact Nick Claxton, IED Student Advisor for advice with their application package. Applications were collected in January, and the first cohort of students will begin classes in July, 2012.

Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization

Also recently approved is the new Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization, which is a laddered degree program. This degree builds on the traditions of language revitalization here at UVIC and partnering Indigenous communities, but takes certification and training to a whole new level and direction -- the direction of K-12 teacher certification. This program was developed in response to communities all over the province and country requesting community-based programming that will train people in to revitalize, maintain and teach their languages. It also responds to a need for trained teachers to teach in immersion language schools, which many communities are aspiring to develop.

The first full-time year of the new BED consists of the Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization (CALR) developed by UVIC Continuing Studies in partnership with the UVIC Department of Linguistics and the En’owkin Centre, focusing on what is necessary for language revitalization. The second full-time year is the Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization which focuses on increasing language proficiency and introducing the concepts of teaching. The final two to three years focus on completing the coursework towards the Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization and professional BC K-12 teaching certification. Depending on funding and student numbers, at least the first two years of course work follow a cohort model that is culturally and physically situated in individual language communities.

Currently IED is in partnership with two language communities to deliver the second year coursework for the program, with plans to complete both cohorts in their communities: Saanich and Port Hardy, respectively. The WSÁNEĆ cohort, which focuses on the SENĆOŦEN language, and the North Island cohort, which focuses on Kwak’wala/Bakwamk’ala, both completed their first year of coursework, and are now pioneering the new Diploma program with goal of completing the newly approved Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization in 2014.
Interest gathering for a Nuu-chah-nulth language program

Over the past year, there has been discussion garnering information and interest around establishing a Nuu-chah-nulth language program in Port Alberni. June, 2011, a memorandum of agreement was signed between the Huu-ay-aht Nation, UVIC, and the North Island College, which may lead to another language revitalization program within the next year or two. Currently IED is offering a Nuu-chah-nulth language course on the North Island College campus in Port Alberni in collaboration with the Huu-ay-aht Nation. Over 25 students took the first section of the course, and over 20 are continuing this term, in the second section. Indigenous Education looks forward to working with the Huu-ay-aht and North Island College, as well as Continuing Studies in planning to offer more courses towards the Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization over the next year.

Victoria Native Friendship partnership

Despite a strong initial response and request for establishing an urban cohort of Indigenous Language Revitalization students, dually focusing on bringing urban language speakers and learners together, and supporting local Kwak’wala learners in Victoria, there were not enough registrants come the December deadline to offer more than one course this January. The initiative, which started with a memorandum of understanding between UVIC and Victoria Native Friendship Centre in July 2011, sees the first course in the Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization offered at the VNFC, this January. Further course offerings will depend on interest. IED would like to extend a huge thank-you to Cultural Management programs, and Brenda Weatherston in particular, who, on taking on the coordination of this potential cohort, put an enormous amount of work into ensuring at least one course would be able to run this term. Thank-you Brenda!
During the final few days in August of 2011, just before classes began, the students from both the WSÁNEĆ and North Island partnerships came to UVIC for a student orientation. Students were brought together, to learn about the program, UVIC and to meet the Faculty and Staff of Indigenous Education and to meet one another. At this orientation, students were given a campus tour, and participated in various workshops and seminars. Here are some pictures taken during the orientation.

**Recent Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization Graduates**

November 2011

- HÍELWET Shelly Therese Black, Victoria
- Violet Rose Bracic, Port Hardy
- Wade Victor Charlie, Port Hardy
- Verna Edwina Chartrand, Port Hardy
- Anitsatha Colette Child, T'saixs Port Hardy
- Sara Th’ininukw Child, T’saixs Port Hardy
- Yakawilas Coreen G Child, Kwakiutl Nation
- Patricia Doreen Dawson Hunt, Port Hardy
- STIWET James Elliott, Victoria
- XEDXELMEȽOT Janice Elliott, Victoria
- MENETIYE Elisha Elliott, Saanich
- PENÁWEN Elliott, Victoria
- Richard ThiLaLaWik George, ‘Nakwaxda’xw
- Ye’kukwaga Jean George, Port Hardy
- Davina May Hunt, Port Hardy
- Jacqueline Jean Hunt, Port Hardy
- Rita Hazel Hunt, Port Rupert
- Teniel Gabrielle Royal Hunt, Port Hardy
- Sherry Edwina Hunt-Humchitt, Port Hardy
- Valerie Elizabeth Joseph, Port Hardy
- Lorelei McEvay, Saanichton
- WEM,LES William Morris, Victoria
- Dorothy Nelson, Port Hardy
- Harold Maurice Nelson, Port Hardy
- KÁNTENOT Helena Edith Marie Norris, Victoria
- Emma Louisa Olsen, Port Hardy
- WIOMELWET Edith Pelkey, Victoria
- WEĆKINEM Eric Pelkey, Victoria
- XELELTENO Anne Sam, Victoria
- Ema Ugene Sheena, Port Hardy
- Elisha Thałiłágʷílkʷíwíl Taylor-Child, Dzawada’enuxw
- Chuletsa Romaine Underwood, Victoria
- Ix’tsam’ga Joye Eliza Walkus, Gwa’sala - ‘Nak’waxda’xw
- Mildred Nancy Wamiss, Port Hardy
- SI,OLTENOT Madeline Elizabeth Bartleman, Victoria
- Margaret Dawn Willie, Port Hardy
- Mikael Willie “Thalis”, Dzawada’enuxw
- MEMNOTE LETHOT Leah Wilson, Victoria

- Violet Bracic, Janice Elliott and Jim Elliott absorb some self-care advice from workshop led by Trisha Best.

- Eric Pelkey and classmates look through their new IED Student Handbook in the First Peoples House Ceremonial Hall.
Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization Graduation 2011

IED and the Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization shook up the stately convocation ceremony November 10, when 36 graduates dressed in traditional regalia, from WSÁNEĆ and the Port Hardy area graduated with their CALR. Later that day they were awarded their very own evening of celebration in the First Peoples Ceremonial Hall, where they attended the student recognition ceremony as classmates.

Congratulations to all our students – we are so proud of you!!
NÁNU ÍY SĆÁ/ Gilakas’la