



NITEP

NITEP NEWS

UBC's Indigenous Teacher Education Program

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1985 West Mall, Vancouver, BC | 604.822.5240 | nitep.educ@ubc.ca | nitep.educ.ubc.ca | facebook.com/NITEP.UBC

Creating Pathways through Innovation

NITEP NEWS

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Issue 41



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Education



As Dean, I am very pleased to welcome you as your journey begins to become a professional educator and a UBC Faculty of Education alumnus. On behalf of the Faculty, I recognize and thank the Musqueam Nation, St'át'imc Nation, and Cowichan Tribes for hosting our education programs at the UBC Vancouver campus and the Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NITEP) field centres in their traditional and unceded lands.

Last year we were delighted to celebrate the 40th anniversary of NITEP. This year, as UBC celebrates its 100th birthday, the Faculty of Education recognized 100 of our outstanding alumni, including 23 Indigenous alum and 15 NITEP alum. Visit our website at: <http://educ.ubc.ca/alumni-supporters/year-of-alumni/>. In addition, the Faculty will host an Indigenous Speaker Series in March (date TBD). Dr. Jan Hare will offer the second MOOC: Reconciliation Through Indigenous



Dean Blye Frank
Faculty of Education

Education: Supporting Indigenous ways of knowing in classrooms, schools, and communities, which began in late September.

This Fall we are very pleased to have opened a new rotating field centre in Lillooet and we will be opening a rotating field centre in the Fraser Valley in 2016. Our rotating centre in Bella Bella and our longest running centre in Kamloops both closed at the end of June. I would like to thank both communities for acting as our hosts.

With 376 NITEP grads to date, as Dean I am extremely proud of the program and I want to recognize the outstanding work that Dr. Jo-ann Archibald, our Associate Dean of Indigenous Education, and her colleagues continue to do. Once again, a very warm welcome.



Greetings from NITEP. This year our theme is "NITEP: Creating Pathways Through Innovation." Over our 40+ years, NITEP has continued to create pathways to teacher education that are innovative. We have been fortunate to

have educational leaders and community partners who work cooperatively to ensure that our program is innovative by addressing Indigeneity in meaningful ways, being accessible to people of Indigenous ancestry, and preparing our teacher candidates to be effective educators. Of course, the Indigenous Raven adds another innovative or visioning dimension. The NITEP logo of the story of Raven and the Sun provides a framework for familial kinship, values that connect us, and Indigenous teachings that guide our learning.

The following seven principles are examples of programmatic pathways that have facilitated NITEP student success: (1) regional access through field centres; (2) cohort based/family

approach; (3) Indigenous education focus; (4) enhanced educational placements/practica; (5) community ties; (6) partnerships; and (7) holistic student support. Throughout the years, the UBC Faculty of Education has changed its Bachelor of Education degree requirements, which meant that NITEP had to adapt and change; however, these seven principles have served as the foundational guiding components of the program. Fiscal restraint and other challenges have recently necessitated some changes. We are entering a new programmatic delivery phase for our program, called NITEP 2.0, with online and face-to-face instruction, a new student mental health and holistic wellness project, and a master teacher mentoring initiative. This year, 2014-15, is the pilot year for these NITEP 2.0 components. The aforementioned seven principles were used to develop NITEP 2.0 and the selection of two new field centres. We are excited about the Lillooet NITEP Centre, which will run from 2015-2019, and the Fraser Valley NITEP Centre that will start in 2016 for a four-year period. I raise my hands in gratitude to Karen Blain and Lois-Anne Arnold for their contributions to NITEP as the Kamloops and Bella Bella Coordinators, respectively.

While writing this article, many good memories and stories of my 18-year experience working

in various capacities with NITEP filled my heart and mind. I began working with NITEP in 1981. At times, I left NITEP to work with other units at UBC; however, I have always returned to the NITEP family, which is one of its strong, consistent features. I also value that NITEP continues to shift and grow, to change as needs emerge. The innovative nature of NITEP has questioned what has not worked educationally for Indigenous learners, and more importantly, has sought solutions based on community need, Indigenous Knowledge, and the best that teacher education can offer.

At the end of June 2016, I will complete my term as Associate Dean for Indigenous Education and NITEP Director. I will leave NITEP knowing that its innovative, yet sturdy nature will continue to guide it in the future. In Coast Salish tradition, I raise my hands in thanks and respect to all who have helped guide NITEP and to the alumni and current students who have made NITEP an exemplary Indigenous teacher education program.

Jo-ann Archibald | Q'um Q'um Xi'em
NITEP Director & Associate Dean
for Indigenous Education

Ey Swayel,

How quickly another year has gone by! I am so excited by all the changes we have made this year. Jo-ann has highlighted them in her article above. We have opened a new centre, another will be opening next fall, and we have closed two centres. I would like to thank Karen, Lois-Anne, and the host communities for their support and dedication to NITEP! One of the other changes I am most excited about is the Mental Health and Wellness Program. My role has expanded and I am now a Wellness Liaison for NITEP (and the Faculty of Education, along with my colleague Bette Shippam). I have had the opportunity to receive training related to student wellbeing and look forward to more training throughout the year. I am also mentoring the NITEP Wellness Peers. We have appointed 2 students on the Vancouver campus and plan

to appoint one more at each of the field centres. Together we will work to provide our students with relevant information and resources related to holistic wellbeing, recognizing that being a successful student is about more than achieving good grades.

On top of this, I am currently pursuing a Master of Education Degree in Education Administration and Leadership with an emphasis on Leadership in Indigenous Education. Our cohort is the result of a partnership between the Squamish Nation and the Faculty of Education at UBC. The opportunity to pursue a Masters degree that is grounded in culture and Indigeneity is such a blessing! I had a wonderful discussion with my grandparents over the Thanksgiving long weekend about what it is like to be an Indigenous person learning in an Indigenous context rather than learning about my culture from

an outsider's perspective. It is an amazing program. We are almost finished our first course in the two-year program. I am looking forward to what comes next.

My graduate studies align so well with my role here in NITEP. There are even a few NITEPers in my cohort! It is strange but wonderful getting to know them as peers after I have gotten to know them as students. I feel so thankful to be part of programs that value students as whole people and work to ensure that students feel supported at all levels and are proud to be who they are.

Jo-ann has indicated that this will be her last year as Associate Dean for Indigenous Education. I am still having difficulty accepting this as she has contributed so much to NITEP, the Faculty, and the University. It is hard to fathom continuing without

her at the helm. I want to thank her for her guidance and leadership over the past years. I could not have asked for a more supportive, inspiring, and amazing mentor!

Please visit our website for more information about the initiatives Jo-ann and I have mentioned: nitep.educ.ubc.ca

Jessica La Rochelle | Lhkwemiya
NITEP Assistant Director



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Faculty of Education

NITEP: Traditional Values — Contemporary Program

UBC-Vancouver | Duncan | Lillooet

NITEP is the Indigenous teacher education program at the University of British Columbia. Founded in 1974, NITEP was developed in response to the need expressed by Aboriginal people throughout the province for a more relevant and effective teacher education program. Students earn a Bachelor of Education degree (Elementary or Secondary) that builds upon Aboriginal identity and culture, while preparing and challenging them to be effective educators for First Nations, independent and public schools.

As a contemporary program with traditional values, NITEP truly exemplifies how culture can be integrated within a mainstream post-secondary institution. The First Nations Education Council, which developed and advises the program, is made up of Aboriginal educators, UBC Faculty, NITEP Coordinator representatives, a British Columbia Teacher's Federation representative, a First Nations' Schools Association representative, representatives from the field centre communities, and NITEP student representatives. NITEP also works in partnership with Aboriginal communities, organizations, and various post-secondary institutions to ensure that the program is relevant and responsive to the needs of local and provincial communities.

In addition to the Urban Centre on the UBC Vancouver campus, NITEP is also offered at field centres in Duncan, and Lillooet. We will be opening another centre in the Fraser Valley in September 2016. These centres allow students to maintain their connection to home and community while pursuing their education. NITEP Coordinators teach in the program and assist students with course planning, advising, and arranging for tutors. The cohort structure of NITEP allows students to bond and become a family as they experience the program together. Students have likened their experience to a canoe journey; the more they pull together the easier it becomes.

Over the past 41 years, 379 individuals have graduated and gone on to successful careers as teachers, administrators, provincial and federal government employees, and other highly valued positions in Aboriginal education. Many have continued their studies and have received Masters and Doctorate degrees. NITEP students and graduates are role models and agents of change and empowerment.



NITEP Team
Back Row, L-R: Jessica La Rochelle (Assistant Director), Natalie Simkin (Program Administrative Support), Clinton Charlie (Duncan Coordinator). Front Row, L-R: Lucetta George-Grant (On-Campus Coordinator & Program Advisor), Roxane Letterlough (Lillooet Coordinator), Marny Point (Urban Coordinator), Jo-ann Archibald (Director), Linda Williams (Financial Support)

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We raise our hands in thanks and respect to NITEP Field Centre Coordinators, Karen Blain (Kamloops) and Lois-Anne Arnold (Bella Bella) for their excellent dedication and work with Aboriginal communities to ensure that Aboriginal students have access to Indigenous teacher education, mentoring and teaching NITEP students, and developing partnerships with post-secondary institutions. The Kamloops and Bella Bella NITEP Field Centres closed on June 30, 2015.

Our 12-month Bachelor of Education program is well underway! Among over 600 teacher candidates enrolled in the program, we are delighted to welcome Flora Andy, Ayla Brown, Leandrea Carpenter, Dancing Water Lulua, Angie Peers-Wallace, Amanda Reid, Audrey Sargent, Tabitha Schooner, Claire Shannon-Akiwenzie, Kenthen Thomas and Dawn Wilson.



2015/16 promises to be an engaging year! With this in mind, the Teacher Education website (teach.educ.ubc.ca) has a special events and activities page to help keep everyone informed. One of the new initiatives this year is the Teacher Candidate Mini-Conference. On November 24th (secondary) and 26th (elementary/middle years) faculty, instructors and invited guests have volunteered to share their expertise in workshop sessions throughout the day. This will be an outstanding professional development opportunity for teacher candidates! At the start of the year, BEd students, faculty advisors and instructors took part in an inspiring dance flash mob in front of Martha Piper Plaza. If you want to see educators practising their bubble of awesomeness or rock star poses, please click on the link below! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4ba-4Lr1g>

In year four, NITEP teacher candidates elect a representative for the Education Students' Association executive council. This year, Ayla Brown was chosen. We wish her all the best in this important role.

To increase advising access to NITEP students and strengthen programmatic collaboration, Jessica La Rochelle and Lucetta George-Grant are available in the Teacher Education Office on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

The Teacher Education Office provides coordination and student services for the BEd and other undergraduate education programs, including NITEP. Bette Shippam is our liaison Program Coordinator to the NITEP program, and she works closely with all NITEP coordinators in an advising capacity as well as with regards to ensuring your credits completed at other universities are transferred to your UBC academic records. She can be reached at bette.shippam@ubc.ca

All of us in the Teacher Education Office are here to support you throughout this transformative year. We wish you the very best!

Dr. Wendy Carr
Associate Dean of Teacher Education



NITEP and TEO team ready for a great year together!!

The NITEP logo is based on a legend that comes from the Northwest Coast of BC and is found in one form or another in a number of Aboriginal cultures. The legend tells of the time when the earth was in complete darkness. Raven flew through a hole in the sky and took the sun in his beak. He then brought it back through the hole to give light to the earth.

The logo shows Raven with the sun in his beak superimposed over a circle that represents the hole in the sky. The NITEP Advisory Committee (renamed the First Nations Education Council in February 1995) thought that this would be a fitting symbol because NITEP hopes to bring the light of education to Aboriginal children in a much more effective way than has happened in the past. The logo was designed by Phillip (Oppie) Oppenheim, a Ntla'kapmx First Nations artist.



Duncan Field Centre



Well, the long summer drought is gone and now it is 232 straight days of rain. It is kind of surprising we get drought when it rains often in our beautiful province. This term has gone by too quickly - a big congratulations to the ones walking across the Chan Centre stage in November!

There are so many different views for this year's theme as it is parallel to transformation and change. Each generation will have a different view of this as we have entered the technology era versus our ancestors' traditional oral history and culture. We will adapt and keep finding the gifts in the students and make the change that is needed so much. "Be the change you want to see in this world" (Ghandi).

Prior to contact each individual had their gift and role within the community, whether it was culture, language, history, education, stories or dance. Each family respected each other's gift and they worked together as one proud nation, and that's how our ancestors survived for eons. It would be nice to get back to, or even close to, as our nations once worked together as a proud and confident nation, especially with what our students are learning about and are covering in the current NITEP classes; Residential schools, politics, language and culture loss, and so forth. It is a good glimpse of what our parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents have gone through.

By becoming a certified teacher through NITEP, UBC's Indigenous Teacher Education Program, you can "Create Pathways through Innovation". Not only can you do it for yourself, at the same time you can assist other community members to find their calling and move forward in the right direction, especially with the youth comprising as much as 70% of the population in most First Nation communities. Less fluent speakers within our communities need to adjust and adapt so students can record the stories, dances, songs and history with a variety of technologies now. This will ensure our history will not be lost forever. Youth today are more technologically advanced and inclined versus the older generation. We need to meet them half way.

Our wonderful program is now offering NITEP classes online for current students and we will be able to offer these classes to students in different communities in the near future. We need you in our program. Just imagine, in four short years you can become a certified teacher at the elementary, middle or high school levels! If you are creative and can think outside of the box, and you want positive change within your own community, we definitely need and want you to join NITEP!

Clinton Charlie
Duncan Coordinator

On Perseverance For Success

Who says that things cannot be done?
Nothing's impossible on earth;
Most things are possible under the sun;
But perseverance should be thine friend!

The one who gives up with ease is a fool!
The wise person labors with determination;
Yet, one must choose the things that one can do,
And go full steam ahead, till comes success.

Perseverance is the secret of success;
By continual toil, failures can be avoided;
Great things were done by burning mid-night's oil!
"The toiler harvests best of fruits in life."

by Dr. A.Celestine Raj Manohar M.D.,
Shared by Nona Marchand
Year 2

"The mind is everything. What you think you become" - Buddha

"Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students"
- Solomon Ortiz

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"
- Nelson Mandela

Hello, my name is Stephanie Harris. I am of Coast Salish ancestry from the Stz'uminus First Nation, Ladysmith, BC. My Parents are Diane Harris and Clifford Mitchell. My grandparents are the late Ernest and Laura Olsen of Tsartlip, Brentwood Bay and the late Peter Mitchell of Stz'uminus First Nation. I am a proud mother of 2 amazing boys, Isaiah (13) and Noah (5). My boys are my life, my inspiration and my motivation for making this positive choice of pursuing my goal of being an educator. I currently reside in Stz'uminus First Nation with my common-law spouse, Guipago George and our boys. I am a sister to 8 brothers in which 1 brother is cheering me on from heaven above.

I'm 44 years old and feel I'm finally starting my life in the career I felt I've always wanted! I've worked many years in Administration but I always knew deep down I wanted to be in a field where I worked closely with children. I look forward to obtaining the tools in making a positive difference in a young person's life.

I am in my first year of the Elementary Option at the Duncan Field Centre. I am so very thankful and grateful that I'm given this opportunity. I plan to successfully complete my 4 years of the NITEP Program and give back to Stz'uminus First Nation for giving me this opportunity. My hopes are to work in our Stz'uminus community school.

I have the privilege to follow in my younger brother Tim Harris' footsteps. My brother is a NITEP alumnus. He graduated from UBC in 2007. My brother is a huge inspiration and my role model. Knowing that I have him and other close family and friends supporting me gives me that confidence to know I can do this. I'm determined to obtain the skills, these stepping stones, in taking these necessary steps in giving me the tools I need to invest in my future with my boys, my spouse and our happiness together!

Another inspiration that I have that will help me to successfully complete the NITEP Program is my mother, Diane Harris. She was a single mother when I was growing up and I remember her always being a very hard worker and provider. She's my best friend, she is my rock, my everything - without my mother I don't know where I would be in life! I will successfully compete the NITEP Program to make my mother and family proud. Their encouragement and support is what will help get me through the tough times!

I was honoured to be invited to the recent NITEP Gathering. I remember during lunch I reflected back to the last time I was in the Longhouse Great Hall. It was for my brother Tim's graduation dinner. It was an amazing feeling to be there, knowing that in 4 years I will be experiencing the same accomplishments my brother had completed! I attended Tim's graduation in 2007 and I'm excited to have him come to my graduation in 2019. It's exciting that he's looking forward to my grad as much as I am!

Good luck to fellow NITEP students, especially those in their final year...I'm not far behind!

Hych'qa (Thank-you),
Stephanie Harris
Year 1



Lillooet Field Centre



I am the newbie on staff but have been welcomed like I was a family member. I am the new part-time Coordinator for the Lillooet Field Centre. I am a mother of 3 and a member of the Tsal’alh Band of the St’at’imc Nation. I recently completed my Masters in Education from UBC in Indigenous Knowledges and Indigenous Pedagogies. I am also the Kamloops Thompson School District’s primary Aboriginal resource teacher.

Usually every September I am organizing and welcoming new students into my classroom. This year I am beginning a new learning journey mentoring student

teachers. The great thing about Indigenous Education is that it doesn’t matter the audience you teach, the same values and strategies are used.

It’s a great honour to be a part of NITEP. Our new field centre in Lillooet is starting out fantastic. Even though we had a short registration period we managed to start out with 5 dedicated teacher candidates, 3 of which travel from Mt. Currie (up to a 3 hour drive). In order to accommodate travel and work schedules we have classes every other weekend. I look forward to this learning path and welcome new NITEP students.

Roxane Letterlough
Lillooet Coordinator



Hello my name is Brett Wallace. My Ucwa’lmicwts name is a’n’wasulmecw, meaning I’m from two lands due to my ancestral background. My parents are Gwendolyn Mckeown (Keith Mckeown stepdad) and Mitchell Green. My mom is from Lil’wat Nation; her parents are Gloria Wallace and the late Vern Wallace, and stepfather is Dave Stennitt. Her mom Gloria’s parents were Catherine and Stephan Pascal. My mother’s parents’ names are Francis and Justine Wallace. All of my mother’s side of the family were from the Lil’wat Nation. My dad’s parents are Max and Anne Green. My grandpa Max is from Alert Bay on Vancouver Island and my gran was from up north from the Brown family from the Tahltan Nation, which I am still in the process of finding out more family history.

I have 4 children, Troy, Cassie, Abner and Tristan, and 1 grandchild (if you can believe it) Megan. And, of course, my wife Rosemary Stager, (if it wasn’t for her I wouldn’t be in the position I am in today). Her Parents are Chief Allen Stager (Lapelow) and Verna Stager. I also have 7 siblings, all sisters, Winnie, Keisha, Georgia, Natasha, Cassandra, Christina and Haley, and many nieces.

I left Mount Currie when I was 2 and moved to Vancouver with my mom so she could start a

career as a hair stylist/barber. I moved back to MC when I was 13 and where I attended Xet’olacw Community School. During my time in high school I played every sport that was offered; basketball, hockey, fastball and soccer, all which I loved to play very much. I was noticed playing soccer as a goalie and was picked up to play with Coast Salish United soccer club. We traveled all over BC participating in many tournaments. We also were able to participate in the 1995 and 1997 North American Indigenous Games in St. Paul, Minnesota and in Victoria, BC, where we competed and won gold medals in both years. It was a great time. In 1996 we flew overseas to Europe (Sweden and Denmark) to play in the Gothia and Dana Cup, where we played teams from all over the world. There are so many memories and I made friends for life with this club.

I graduated high school a term early and jumped right into the working world. Not thinking about my future, I just wanted to make some money. I did a lot of different kinds of construction as a labourer, moving up to carpenter’s helper and ending in becoming a CSO (Construction Safety Officer). I worked on the Sea to Sky upgrades and built homes in Whistler. I ended my career in construction after 13 years in the industry and moved into the Education Department.

I am now in my 4th year working at our local community school as an Educational Assistant. I started working as an EA back in 2012, working with a one-on-one student.

I was very scared but came to realize that working with kids can be very rewarding and fun, so I furthered myself and enrolled in the EA Diploma Program at Capilano University, where I hold a diploma as an Educational Assistant. In my spare time I’m also a high school basketball coach and co-ed soccer coach for all ages in the community. Coaching a team sport and watching kids flourish through team sport is a reward in itself, winning came as an extra.

I chose NITEP because I saw it as a path to success. Working with other people from other First Nation communities, hearing their stories of where they come from, what their goals are for their communities, were similar to what I want for a First Nations community - for students to come out of school with the best possible future for them and their families. This what I want for my students when they leave my classroom, success, success, success.

I know it’s the start of my schooling to become a teacher, but after this is all said and done, I would like to keep going in my education working towards a Masters Degree in Education. Who knows, maybe it could lead to something more for myself and the Lil’wat community. I am in the Lillooet cohort and look forward to the times ahead.

Thanks for reading my story.

Brett Wallace
Year 1

Hello! My name is Ina Williams. I am a first year student attending the NITEP field centre in Lillooet BC. I am grateful to have the opportunity to take the NITEP program within the St’at’imc Territory because my home community is Xwisten, one of the 11 communities within the St’at’imc Territory. I am the proud daughter of Xwisten Elder Cecelia Terry who is one of my major influences, and the late Albert Tom Jr. of Shalalth BC. My grandparents are the late David Terry and Irene Alexander of Xwisten, and Amelia and Albert Tom Sr. of Shalalth. I am one of six siblings, with numerous nieces and nephews. I am the wife of a very loving and supportive man and mother of three handsome boys; I have a beautiful daughter-in-law and a very precious grandbaby.

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree and a Certificate in First Nations Studies Research from Simon Fraser University, and acquired my Associate of Arts Degree from NVIT. I have completed an Instructional Skills Workshop through the St’at’imc Education Institute, and I recently received many certificates for workshop training focusing on Aboriginal families and communities and attended numerous events including Family Group Conference Coordinators Training, Aboriginal Family Group Conferencing learning event, Indigenous Community safety event, and, Ending Violence and Suicide Prevention training. I am a Council member in my community and hold the Child and

Family portfolio. I also work part time as a Family Development response Worker for my community and I am an Instructor with NVIT/St’at’imc Education Institute. I hope to be a strong and positive role model within my community.

Taking this program within my own territory gives me the opportunity to stay close to my family and community, as they are my main supporters when pursuing my goals and dreams. I believe culture is important when teaching and educating our children and our communities. Our history, who we are and where we come from, will only make our future generations stronger and more knowledgeable leaders for tomorrow. I enjoy learning from our Knowledge Keepers and will continue to practice and pass on what I have learned. I enjoy being outdoors hunting, fishing, picking berries and herbs and always practicing my culture. I also enjoy attending community events and spending time with my family.

Ina Williams
Year 1





Kalh wa7 acw N’sne’kwnukwa, (hello my relatives, friends). My name is Leroy Joe and I am from the Lil’wat Nation. I am in my first year at the NITEP field center in Lillooet BC. When I was notified about a meeting regarding NITEP starting in Lillooet

I got excited because I knew that this was a chance for me to finish what I started, and that was to get my degree in education. I have been many things and had many jobs over the course of my life and the one goal that I held onto was to become a certified teacher. I have been in and out of Aboriginal community schools for many years teaching language, culture, hand drumming, music and bus driving. I recently completed my Language Proficiency Certificate at SFU, and I also have a diploma in PC Tech support.

I am an accomplished musician and have won an award with my band Kalan Wi. I am a father and a grandfather; I have five beautiful daughters and one granddaughter. I have been married for 17 years and my wife is a principal at a First Nations school and has a B.Ed. I am surrounded by teachers in my family, as my Mother and my aunts teach at our school in Lilwat and they all hold degrees. My brother and his wife are grads from NITEP and they both hold Masters

degrees.

I am looking forward to developing progressive language and culture curriculum that will help teachers move forward in teaching our language/culture and other First Nation’s languages. I strongly believe that First Nations students have a better chance at being successful when they attend their own community schools. I graduated from my community school and have seen many successful grads from our nation, as well as other nations.

I know this will be a challenge to complete my schooling in the timeframe that I have set for myself, but I know that I can do this because I do have a support network that continues to push me and help me along the way. I say good luck to all you NITEP’ers - keep moving forward and setting new standards for Aboriginal education, Aho!!!!

Leroy Joe
Year 1

Hello, my name is Rena Patrick. I am a member of the N’Quatqua Band, which is in the heart of the St’at’imc Nation. Our Nation consists of eleven bands. The eleven bands are Xaxl’ip, Lil’wat, Skatin, Samahquam, Douglas, Lillooet, Bridge River, Cayoose Creek, Seton Lake, N’Quatqua, and Pavilion (Ts’kw’aylacw). Our Nation not only lives, but also swears by the Declaration of the Lillooet Tribe signed by the Chiefs on May 10, 1911. This declaration not only outlines the importance of where we came from, but what we will stand by for our future generations to come.

I can say now, I am once again a first year student at NITEP. I joined NITEP in 1982 at the North Vancouver Campus. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I withdrew from the program. I then started my family, moved back to my community and raised my children. I went into the world of finance and continued on for over 25 years working with different bands. There was always this thought in my mind as to when I would continue on with my own education. With soccer practices, karate classes, and fundraising events, and through all this my kids’ education came first. We all worked together to make sure there was some sort of balance. My children learned the importance of a good education at an early age, and carried on to continue with higher education and to pursue their own dreams of travelling and learning about other parts of the world.

I had dreams and hopes of returning to NITEP and finally a great

opportunity came along when UBC opened a new campus in Lillooet for part time studies. This enabled me to continue with my job in the finance department in my own community and to tie up any loose ends before I continue onto my studies full time.

I give thanks every day for the support and guidance from the Creator, the Ancestors, my Family, and my Mentors and Teachers, for helping me along this journey called life. This journey has become more balanced and precious as I continue to grow and learn of our seven sacred laws of life, and more importantly, how to implement them into the world of teaching. I have grown, educated myself, disciplined myself, supported myself, and most of all honored myself as a MOM and mentor. I give thanks for this opportunity to learn and I am now ready to take on this challenge that has been set before me.

Rena Patrick
Year 1



Urban Field Centre



O si?em tə si:yeyə, ʔəy tə nə ʃxʷqʷələwən tə na sweyəl!
My friends, I feel good today! or literally
“Good are my feelings, or thoughts, this day!”

My name is Marny Point from the Musqueam Band of the Coast Salish people. I am the Urban Program Coordinator, Instructor and a 2002 NITEP Alum! I feel honored to work at the NITEP office on the UBC campus, which is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

I love my job! I am happy to come to this place of learning, as coming to NITEP is new and inspiring everyday. We have a wonderful staff, and I raise my hands to them for their dedication to our students. Each one is committed to ensuring the quality of our program and students (Teacher candidates) and their learning! I am so blessed to be working in such a wonderful environment! Our mission is to nurture and cultivate the NITEP program’s values and philosophy; best of all – this entire staff understands that our student’s success is top priority. I am also an Adjunct Professor with the UBC/FNLG [First Nations Languages] teaching the second year Salish Intermediate/the traditional Musqueam language; hənqəminəm, teaching UBC students as well as some Musqueam community members.

On this sunny autumn afternoon we are happy and thankful, because we all just shared a meal at the First Nations House of Learning! We are blessed to be able to gather together weekly, with UBC’s larger

Indigenous community, and share knowledge and stories, as we ‘pass the salt’. I get inspired hearing the stories of how others followed their path to UBC.

Our NITEP students are learning what it means to become a teacher and how to meet the challenges of having a ‘future’ classroom – full of students with different learning styles and abilities and how they will teach to them – so learning will take place. Here at the Urban center we have been busy with studies, now preparing for mid-terms, having Seminar sessions with our Elders-in-Residence, as well as beginning a Mentorship initiative, Dogwood 2025.

The Urban ‘teacher candidates’ are learning how to be INSPIRING so they may see each of their future students reach their greatest potential, they are learning to INQUIRE; ask themselves, ‘How can we make a positive impact and change in Indigenous education?’ as we are committed to being the change in education! And they are IMAGINING that every Indigenous grade school student will receive and engage in a relevant, honorable education and at the highest quality.

IT IS A GOOD DAY TO BE AN INDIGENOUS EDUCATOR!

Marny Point
Urban Coordinator

Hello, Tansi, Ama snanatcw, Ciamar a tha sibh.

My name is Edith Ann Horse and my Native name is Kwala, which means Chestnut Coloured Horse. I am Plains Cree from Thunderchild First Nation in Saskatchewan and transferred to Douglas First Nation (Xa'xtsa), which is located at the tip of Little Harrison Lake, in 2013. In my greeting, I greeted you in four different languages; English, because that is my first language; Cree, because that is the language I grew up listening to; Ucwalmícwts, because I now live among the Interior Salish people; and Scottish Gaelic, because I am Scottish through my father.

I am a second year NITEP student in the elementary option. I am in this program because I love education, I love informing people about education, and I especially love working with children. I started my education journey in 2001 when I enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan. I completed two and a half years there but quit when my mother died unexpectedly. It took me nine years to build up the courage to go back and finish what I started, which seems like a million years ago. I am also a mother to a ten year old boy who is attending public (city) school for the first time. He has spent his entire life on the reserve, both in Saskatchewan and in BC.

After my mother died, I had to put myself on welfare to be able to

afford to feed my son and to pay my rent. Suddenly, I couldn't afford to do all the things I used to do like go to the movies with my friends and enjoy a meal at a restaurant. I realized then just how important an education is. Without a good education, many doors are not open to you in the work field, and so many of our people end up on welfare. It's never too late to go back to school. I don't dare quit this journey I am on now, there are too many young eyes on me, watching me. I am doing this for those little eyes, because one day, I will be in front of the classroom teaching them.

My love for education came from my mother. She was always teaching my brother, sister and I something new, filling our heads with wondrous secrets that most kids our age couldn't even comprehend. We couldn't even comprehend it at the time ourselves, but if we gave my mother the correct answer to her college level questions, we received ice cream, so it was all good.

I hope that my words have encouraged you to continue on your educational journey, or even gave you the strength to return and pick up where you left off.

Thank you, Hiy Hiy, Kúkwstumckacw, Tapadh leibh.

Anne Horse
Year 2



Hi, I'm Crystal Asham. I am in my 2nd and a half year here at NITEP and to be honest, I was really sketchy about writing this. I was thinking it would be embarrassing to say that... for real, there is no 2nd and a half year at university - but for me there is! And that, my friend, is because not everyone learns at the same pace and not everyone you start this program with will finish with you because we are all on our own journey! So with that being said, I am happy to announce that I AM STILL HERE and I am happy about it.

I am an Ojibway Cree from Peguis First Nation in Manitoba. I was raised here in Vancouver. I am a single mother. I have two teenagers, Dakota my son and Raven my daughter, and they keep me on my toes.

When thinking about the theme for this year I wasn't sure what "Creating Pathways Through Innovation" meant so I asked and honestly, I still do not understand (ha ha), but what I got from it is that there are many ways to get where you are going, so if you cannot find a path create one. I just want to thank everyone who continues to encourage and support me on this journey, all of my professors, the staff at NITEP, my family and friends - without you all, I would have a very difficult time achieving what I am doing today. Thank you very much for all of your support.

Crystal Asham
Year 2 (1/2)



Hello. My name is Britt Paley and I am from the Namgis First Nation in Alert Bay. I am a second year student pursuing the elementary option.

While growing up in Squamish, I was the oldest of four children - naturally, I was born a leader. From the age of four or five, I knew I wanted to be the teacher. Why? It was because I looked up to them. Most of the inspirational people I had in my life were teachers, including my mother, and I knew that I could be that inspirational spark of a person for others too. Teaching is not just a career for me; it's a passion.

When grade 12 came around I was very intimidated by the whole idea of "University" and I wasn't sure if I was "UBC Quality". I took a leap of faith and decided to explore options and found NITEP. I discovered

I had close family who also pursued this option and was reassured it would be an amazing program with plenty of opportunity. The next thing I knew, it was September of 2014 and I was moving into my first year dorm.

So far, I've learned a lot about myself, relationships, education, and some real life "raw" facts about Indigenous culture in Canada that I was never taught. I think I have learned more in the past year than I have in within the past seven, and the hardest thing to learn out of it all was how to not give up.

I thank myself everyday for taking that leap of faith and believing in myself. I am truly inspired by this process of becoming a teacher and I thank NITEP for helping us be that change that our world needs today.

Britt Paley
Year 2

Hello, my name is Katrina Agecoutay. I was born and raised in Vancouver BC, and am of mixed background. My mother's side of the family is from the Cowessess Cree Nation in Saskatchewan and my father's side is from Manzanillo, Mexico. I have one older sister and four half siblings. I grew up with my mother always supporting and encouraging me to follow my dreams and aspirations, which is a big reason why I decided to apply for the NITEP Program. She is also the reason for my love of English.

I have been, for the past few years, very indecisive about what I wanted to do for my future. I guess you could say that I took so long to make my mind up in fear that I would

miss out on experiencing every great thing I possibly could. I began researching potential career fields, deciding what I could possibly do with my love of writing, words and essays. I mulled over the idea of pursuing a writing career, so I applied to a nearby college and got accepted into an Associate of Arts Degree in English.

Due to life's inevitable changes, I had to forgo college for a year and focus on myself. I spent time traveling and getting to know who I really was. Seeing the world from different cities gave me a better perspective of life and just exactly what I wanted out of mine. I returned home at the beginning of July and decided that being an educator would fulfill all of my interests. Also

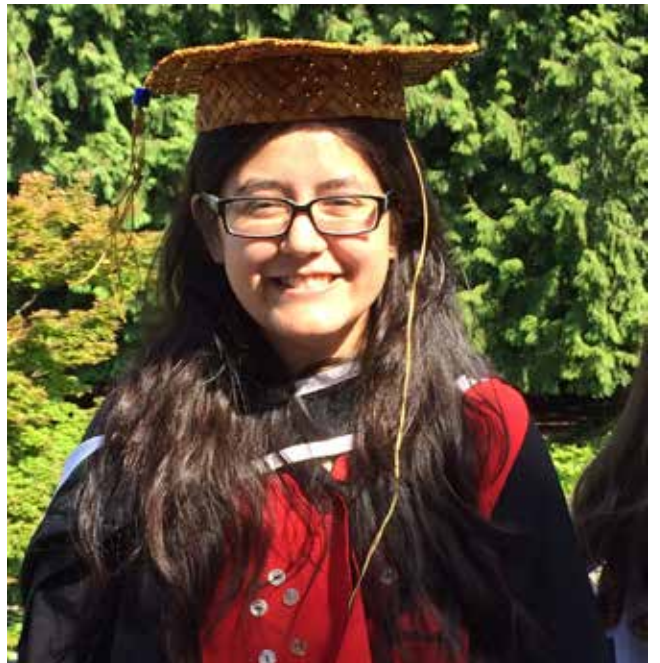
the idea of being someone who young minds could turn to for support or reinforcement in their own dreams was a very pleasant thought. So now I am here, enrolled in my first year at the University of British Columbia, studying for my NITEP Bachelor of Education. I am excited by the next few years and am hopeful that this will be a very rewarding and wonderful experience.

Katrina Agecoutay
Year 1





Memories





Hello, my name is Shaniah Hillis and I am from the Sliammon First Nation located in Powell River, BC. I am both Sliammon and Gitxsan; Sliammon on my mother’s side and Gitxsan on my father’s side from Kispiox, BC.

I am in my second year of NITEP. I have decided to go with the elementary option. I chose elementary because I enjoy working with younger children and getting to know the ways that they are thinking and it is just a lot of fun. During my first year of NITEP I was placed in an alternative program called 8J9J for my very first practicum and I thought “Great, high school kids” but it was an amazing experience and it helped me to explore a different age group. Being placed in an alternative classroom made me think more about teaching and how much impact being a teacher has on children and youth in the school system. Also, during my summer break I had made the decision to work at a Salvation Army summer camp called Camp Mountainview and it really opened my eyes not only to God but also to working in northern BC. The children there are amazing and

working at Camp Mountainview made me think about why I want to become a teacher. I love working with children and I want to one day be that teacher that has created an impact on someone’s life. I want children to want to go to school. I want them to want to learn and be excited. I want them to be able to use their imaginations and never forget to have fun.

I love the NITEP program and would definitely recommend it to people. Here you learn about culture and education and get to meet people who share the same passions as you. I would like to thank all of those teachers that I had growing up for always pushing me and never giving up on me, and for being my role models and showing me how fun teaching can be. My greatest role models would have to be my grandparents on both sides; these are the people whom I look up to for so much. They always have those encouraging words and are always teaching me life lessons and passing down traditions. My grandparents are the hardest working people I know and always tell me to follow my dreams. My dream is to be a teacher and to inspire children to follow their dreams.

Shaniah Hillis
Year 2

Yo! Wiksas! Nugwaum Sydney.

Hi! How are you? My name is Sydney. I grew up on the Campbell River Indian reserve located on the summer lands of my traditional people. Both my maternal and paternal heritage are of the Kwakwaka’wakw people, which means Kwakwala speaking people. My maternal side is WeiWaiKum, a sister group in the subsection of Laich-kwil-tach. My paternal side is Kwagu’tl with ties to ‘Namgis and Tlingit. I’m well versed in my culture, spiritually and artistically, and I feel that it plays an important role in learning. To be balanced is to be knowledgeable.

I’m in second year NITEP at the Urban Centre at UBC. My classes at UBC are interesting. I have never been so excited to learn, and my Profs want to get to know me; a combination of these two things made me fall in love with UBC. I’m studying secondary education with a major in social sciences. I’m hoping with my degree in specialized Indigenous education, I can, in short, change the world.

It’s interesting to ponder the thought of a colonized school system

placed on Aboriginal children, with an already huge problem of a westernized school system in the Aboriginal community, granted of course. I’m attempting to look into how Aboriginal children might learn and the capitalize on that, combined with an intensive high school diploma to raise the next generation of Aboriginal learners turned world leaders — an Aboriginal school taught by Aboriginal teachers.

I came to NITEP because I feel like it has given me the opportunity to study my interests and help me achieve my goals with a degree from one of the best schools in the world, not to mention the unwavering support I have received from NITEP. I highly encourage anyone interested in education to apply. NITEP opens doors.

Sydney Roberts
Year 2



Diana Cahoose is from the Ulkatcho Band in Anahim Lake, BC. She is in her second year of NITEP in the Urban cohort, and in the Elementary option.

Diana had a very successful school placement last year with a NITEP alum school teacher and she enjoyed that experience immensely. The Urban cohort will take part in the Dogwood 2025 Mentorship initiative and Diana will be participating in that, mentoring and working with grade seven students transitioning to high school.

Diana Cahoose
Year 2

My name is Frank Joseph, I was born and raised in East Vancouver. The First Nations side of my family is from Alert Bay and a small reserve near Port Hardy called Gwa’Sala-Nakwaxda’xw. The other side of my family is from Europe and have been in Canada for a couple of generations. In high school I was highly recommended to attend alternative school, which is an alternative to mainstream education. Their goal is to help students that are “troubled” or cannot cope with the urban traditional ways of education. Regardless of being shipped to alternative school, in grade 10 I decided that I wanted more for my future children than what I have experienced as a “youth at risk.” I made the decision to go back to mainstream education and graduate high school on time. During this transition the Dogwood diploma was a massive achievement, because less than half of my siblings graduated high school.

I had no plans on going to University because I never thought I was good enough, so I decided to take a couple of years to go into Missionary work helping around the world any way that I could. After going to India, Mexico and parts of the United States I felt a strong urge to come back home and help locally, starting with my family. Being back in East Vancouver I was invited to an alumni celebration at my old alternative school. During the celebration a man by the name of Don Fiddler spoke a few words of encouragement. Don Fiddler is the Principal of Aboriginal



Education for the Vancouver School Board. I felt encouraged and empowered to do more. The one thing that stuck with me out of all of the incredible things that he said was the fact that less than 50% of Native youth in the lower mainland graduate high school. Astonished at the staggering statistics I knew that I couldn’t sit around and watch this happen in my own back yard. That’s when I knew that I had a calling to help First Nation students understand and see the amazing potential that they have inside of them to go above and beyond.

Someone invested in me, so why not invest in others and empower them to rise above the statistics. I learned that I am not a statistic and neither are the generations after me. Highly motivated at the thought of being an alternative school teacher, I decided to seek advice from my grade 9 & 10 alternative school teacher Trevor Stokes and ask him “what does it take to be in your spot?” He said “it takes a Bachelors of Education.” I was intimidated at the thought of going to post-secondary, due to the fact that no one in my family has gone that far. Besides the doubt, I didn’t want my fear to get in the way of the next generation’s future. He believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself, so he gave me the contact information for NITEP and the rest of the story is yet to be discovered.

Frank Joseph
Year 1

On-Campus



Another exciting year for NITEP! I want to welcome our year one students and our newest field centre, Lillooet. I also want to say welcome back to all the year 2-4 students.

It is also with much sadness that we said good-bye to Lois-Anne Hanson Arnold at the Bella Bella Field Centre, and to Karen Blain at the Kamloops Centre. Thank you for all your hard work over the years. I am going to miss you both very much.

This year has been all about reflections for me. I see students everyday, and everyday I am reminded of the things that I take for granted. I discuss with them their happy achievements, but also the obstacles that they face. I admire the strength, determination, and bravery that each student brings with them. I admire that they see better futures for not just themselves, but for all those around them. I am excited about how much I learn from each one of the students who walks through my door. I love seeing the growth that happens with each one of them from the time that they come through the doors until graduation. I am excited after graduation because I know that we can honestly say we are sending some of the best teachers out into our communities to work with our children.

I have always said that I have the best job ever. Everyday is different. Everyday is exciting. The students are the best part of my job, but working with people who have the same passion as I do helps to make each day easier. I'm looking forward to another great academic year.

Lucetta George Grant
On-Campus Coordinator
Program Advisor



Year 3 Students. L-R: Marissa Squakin, Sara Louie, Jennifer Squash, Allison Reid, Erica Hamilton, Sheila Reid, Tania Thomas, Coordinator: Lucetta George-Grant.
Not pictured: Maria Martin



My name is Tania Thomas and I am from Penelakut Tribe. This is my 3rd of NITEP in the elementary option. This year is my first year at UBC, and the experience is definitely a change, but it does help to be prepared for the transition. I moved to a great place near the school, and that makes it easier. Next was to know exactly where my classes are at UBC, and to organize my schedule.

My son is now living with his father, which we discussed was best for him. He wanted to stay with his friends and at his school. It still hard today, but I am glad my son is happy and safe. It's important to treasure family and friends. School is important to me, and I am also glad my son knows and understands the commitment it takes to succeed at NITEP-UBC.

My goal is to be a great teacher, and I am happy that I am a little more than half way there.

Tania Thomas
Year 3

Yau. My name is Allison Reid. I come from Heiltsuk Nation. I recently moved here from Bella Bella with my family of five. The transition for my family and I has been a daily struggle, however, making a new family with my NITEP cohort has made this transition much easier. I found that going to the Longhouse and finding little places, like the beach or walking through the forest, has made me feel like I was home.

To future NITEP students who will be moving to campus, I highly recommend going to the Longhouse. The staff are welcoming and the people you meet there are friendly and always there to help us!

Allison Reid
Year 3



Maria Martin
Year 3

This fall marks my third year as a NITEP student! This opportunity has equipped me with so much. It has enhanced my communication style, my ability to be straightforward and direct, and my love for children, reading, writing, and psychology have also blossomed.

My life has been impacted by an un-imaginable tragedy at the beginning of September but I have not allowed this to hinder my desire to remain in the NITEP Program. This year I am doing online studies that began a little later than others, however; I have put in the effort thus far to continue to strive for my goals. I am enthusiastic with what the future holds as I begin preparing to relocate for my final year.

I certainly miss my classmates and the Instructors whom we all got to know and learn and grow from. Without both, this journey would not be as intriguing as it has been. While I am alone in this year`s efforts, I remain gratefully appreciative to the Heiltsuk College Administration and NITEP for opening these doors of opportunity to me and my fellow classmates, all of whom are on campus now.

Wishing you all the best of luck in this year`s endeavors.



HEY EVERYONE!!!

My name is Erica Hamilton. I come from Alert Bay, BC. My native ancestry comes from my mother's side - the Kwakwaka'wakw Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Tribe and my European decent comes from my father's side.

I am in my third year of NITEP Elementary Option and I wanted to talk about my transition from the island to the mainland. I was enrolled through NITEP and I attended my first two years in Duncan, BC. Moving from the island to the mainland seemed very easy - until it all hit me. The rush of the city and the chaos it brought was not a great experience. I was not fully prepared for my transition, thinking I was in all the right courses - which was totally not the case. I ended up having all these negative thoughts about school. Everything kept piling up and I felt that I was unable to handle the stress of my transition, but I knew what I

wanted and that I was going to climb to the top without giving up.

Transition brings new openings and challenges. My advice to future students who are transitioning from field centers is that you make sure you are prepared - with your courses and finding ways to help deal with your stress. I lived in Vancouver before and thought it was going to be an easy transition - but it was more difficult than easy. Reach out to people you know, make new friends, talk to your education coordinator and know that you are capable of achieving greatness - SO DON'T GIVE UP!!! It took a good month and a half, but I can say I love UBC and I am learning to love the city.

Good luck everyone!

Gilakasla

Erica Hamilton
Year 3

When I first started my journey within NITEP in 2013, I never thought I'd make it to my 3rd year, never thought I'd make it to UBC campus because it seemed so intimidating coming from my small hometown of Bella Bella. Now I'm halfway through my first term of my 3rd year, and it's going by unbelievably fast and I am enjoying it much more than I thought.

I put all the fear I had past me and now I'm loving it down here at UBC campus. The transition of moving from a small reserve to a big city has been nonetheless great. It wasn't easy leaving the comforts of my hometown, but it's been worth it, it will always be worth it. Don't let fear get in the way of reaching your dreams, take that leap and believe in yourself in whatever it is that you dream of!

Jennifer Squash
Year 3



My name is Sheila Reid. I come from Bella Bella (Heiltsuk Nation).

My transition to Vancouver has been quite the experience with plenty of deep, questionable, and overwhelming thoughts with myself. We are all going through different experiences and overcoming different obstacles in our educational journey.

The one thing I believe is important to practice everyday (that I still need to constantly remind myself) is to practice "SELF CARE!". And it's okay to take that time to do so! I have had that feeling of being 'lost' just recently, and I am in the process of trying to feel "grounded" again. I have already learned so much about myself throughout my years taking NITEP. I look forward to the two more years ahead, on a new campus, different city and with new classmates.

Sheila Reid
Year 3



My name is Marissa Squakin. I am a 3rd year student in the Secondary option, majoring in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Kinesiology. I've been a NITEP student for more than a few years and my journey to get to where I am now has been a lot harder and longer than I ever expected.

When I started NITEP at Thompson Rivers University, I was a young, carefree, and inspired student searching for a career that would invoke my passion; one that would make life more rewarding rather than results driven. Since my commencement in this program, I have had many complications in my life, education, and career goals. As a student I have run into setbacks, "differences in opinions" and challenges to my capability to succeed. These trials have not only inspired me to continue to overcome life's challenges, but also served to remind me why I am pursuing a career in Education.

There will always be people in this life that will tell others, either explicitly or implicitly, that they will not be good enough to succeed—I know this because I have been one of those who was told not only as a child but also as a young adult that my success would require greater efforts. Well, I not only proved them wrong but I have also acquired a philosophy that I feel many students could benefit from: "A true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination" (Albert Einstein). In other words, do not hold your value based solely on knowledge simply because society construes this as "success," because knowledge without imagination is only an achievement of knowing. Imagination is a beautiful thing that is in everyone and it is only the limits of your own imagination that will confine you to the success that you let others define you by. No grade or note from a teacher can determine your success if you have the innovation to use your knowledge to create pathways to success!

Best wishes in your educational and career goals.

Marissa Squakin
Year 3

Alumni Corner

Weytk! It has been an extremely exciting time for the NITEP since celebrating the 40th Anniversary in 2014! Now, for example, thanks to the hard work of the team at UBC, NITEP 2.0 has been launched. I would like to thank Jessica and the hard working staff at UBC under the leadership and guidance from Jo-Ann, for taking the initiative, after seeking guidance and input for the First Nations Education Council, to “create pathways through innovation.” As it has been doing since the beginning, the NITEP will continue to pave the way.

Also, I would like to acknowledge those who were honored for their contributions to the community by being selected as members of Education’s 100 at the Faculty of Education’s kickoff event for UBC’s 100th Anniversary. 25 of the 100 honorees recognized were Aboriginal! To top the amazing event off, many of us were extremely surprised and happy to see the former Director of the First Nations House of Learning, Dr. Verna Kirkness, in attendance. The best news of all, for those of us who consider ourselves Verna’s “kids”, was to find out that she has relocated back to the west coast.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish NITEP students well in their studies. Please know that your success is the priority of the First Nations Education Council.

Kukstememc,
DeDe DeRose
Co-Chair, First Nations Education Council



Gilakas’la, nugwa’am Musgamdzi, Gayutlan lax Tsaxis. My name is Kaleb Child and I am from the Kwakiutl village of Tsaxis located on northern Vancouver Island. I completed the NITEP program in 2001 and I am tremendously grateful for all of the support and care that I received through the years at the Duncan Field Centre and at UBC. As a very young student fresh out of high school I relied heavily on the ‘family culture’ of the program and I am forever indebted to the staff, students and faculty that cultivated a successful path for all of us.

I am working in my 15th year in service to learners and it has been an immensely rewarding journey in teaching and leadership. Currently, I am in the role of Director of Instruction, First Nations Programs for School District #85. My partner, Yakawilas, Coreen Child, completed a teaching degree last year with a Kwak’wala Language specialization and is completing her third term as an elected leader for our nation. We have three daughters, Kiara, Natalya (twins), and Mariah who remain our gwigwala’yu, ‘our reason for living’, and the inspiration behind all that we do.

It is such an exciting time to be working in education as we strive to transform systems and pedagogical practices to serve the needs of all learners. We as educators have never been more equipped than we are now to provide learning experiences inclusive of Aboriginal worldviews and perspectives for all learners. As cultural people, we have to continue to walk in two worlds, to tell our stories, and to model the teachings of our knowledge keepers.

Congratulations to all current and past students on your lifelong NITEP journey. For it inspires us to dream big, to carry a collective mindset and to focus a First Nations vision for education for all learners.

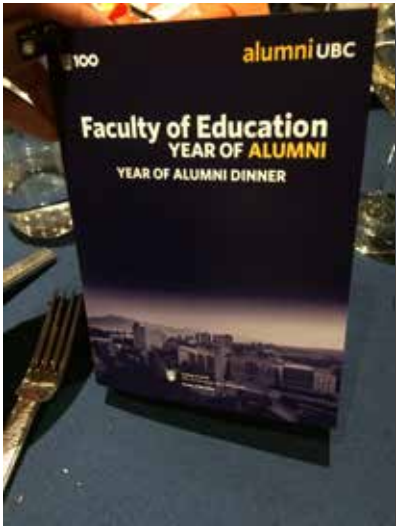
Gilaskas’la,
Kaleb Child, Musgamdzi



On September 23, 2015, the Faculty of Education launched the *Year of Alumni* and celebrated Education’s 100.

As part of the Faculty’s The Year of... initiative and in conjunction with the University of British Columbia’s Centennial, the Faculty of Education will recognize the achievements of 100 outstanding and diverse alumni throughout the year.

You can find out more about the *Year of Alumni* and Education’s 100 here: <http://educ.ubc.ca/alumni-supporters/year-of-alumni/>



Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre
by Linc Kesler

UBC is currently working towards the development of a Centre in the heart of the Vancouver campus that will address the history and legacy of the Indian residential school system that existed in Canada for more than a century. It will provide information for students and the public and a place for community members and scholars to gather for conversations on the cultural memory, the use of history, and for collaborative work towards the sustainability of Indigenous communities and more effective communications between diverse communities.

As Aboriginal Canadians know, the Indian residential school system had devastating effects on individuals, families, and communities, and many of those effects persist through this day. Yet, in spite of an apology by the Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered in Parliament in 2008, most other Canadians know little or nothing about this history. Our experience, however, is that when presented with good information on this history, many people move very quickly to an interest in understanding a whole range of issues that provide a more informed basis for thinking about the present and the future.

The Centre at UBC will be affiliated with the National Research Centre established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in Winnipeg, and will provide a place for former students, their families and communities, researchers and others to access the records gathered by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and others held locally at UBC. It will support community access, public programming, curriculum development, advanced research, and intensive and regular discussion on issues of common concern. The Centre will address the past and how we think about it, and thinking about the future we will share.

The plans for the Centre hold a great deal of potential, but realizing that potential requires funding. In June 2014, UBC committed \$5.5M of development funds to cover the capital costs of building the Centre, and on 9 June 2015, the UBC Board of Governors gave



this project its first level of approval to proceed. We continue to seek funds to support sustainable ongoing operations.

Please take time to visit the information page on this subject hosted on the UBC Aboriginal Portal: <http://aboriginal.ubc.ca/indian-residential-school-centre/>. There you will find a short one-page overview, the proposal, and a short brief for funders, as well as a video of UBC President Stephen Toope's address to the Truth and Reconciliation National Event in Vancouver in September 2013.

If you'd like to see all that happened on campus during the TRC event in September 2013, please visit our Indian Residential School Initiatives site: <http://irsi.aboriginal.ubc.ca/>.

If you would like to know more about the history of the schools, please visit the UBC Indigenous Foundations website: <http://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/>.

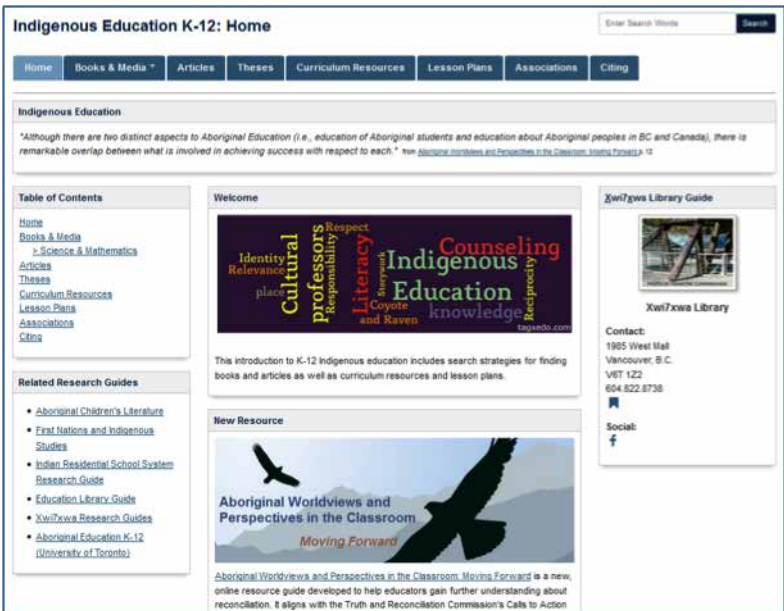
For more detailed information about the Centre proposal, please contact Dr. Linc Kesler, Director of the First Nations House of Learning and Senior Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs at linc.kesler@ubc.ca or 604.822.3071.

Dear NITEP community,

We have something new to share with you! Xwi7xwa is pleased to announce the new Research Guide for Indigenous Education K-12. This Guide is open to everyone (current students, Alumni, and your non-NITEP colleagues), though some of the physical materials we point to are at Xwi7xwa. What can the guide do for you? It can teach you how to search not just in our library, but also give you search tips and sample keywords that can be used for searching in your School District resource centre or your local public library catalogues. If you are looking for Aboriginal curriculum materials, we have an entire section devoted to connecting you with free, online resources. Our team has taken the time to group these resources by topic: for example, Introductory Resources; Treaties; Natural Resource Use, Protection, and Ecology; and the Indian Residential School System. In addition to this, the Research Guide for Indigenous Education K-12 has lesson plans, a section devoted to Finding Science and Mathematics Material, and a useful video on how to evaluate sources for the classroom. As you explore the Research Guide, you'll note that there are links to other Guides that might catch your eye. These include Xwi7xwa's Aboriginal Children's Literature guide (includes a section on resources for evaluating Aboriginal Children's literature), the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Guide, the Indian Residential School System Guide, and the newly updated Indigenous Research Methodology Guide. Finally, we want to let you know that we have started a new Guide just for NITEP! We are still building it, but right now you can find information about how to use the UBC Library from the Field Centres with our step-by-step registration information. Need help getting materials at a distance? Send Tamis

an email at tamis.cochrane@ubc.ca or call her at (604) 827-5013. Have questions about how to find resources? Email us at xwi7xwa.library@ubc.ca or phone (604) 822-8738.

Select Research Guide URLs:



Indigenous Education K-12: <http://guides.library.ubc.ca/IndigEdK12>
Indigenous Education NITEP: <http://guides.library.ubc.ca/NITEP>
Indigenous Research Methodology: <http://guides.library.ubc.ca/IndigResearch>

- Xwi7xwa Library

A Conversation with Beau Dick



plans to carve a Thunderbird pole as a way to honour and pay homage to his mentors and other First Nations individuals who have attended UBC.

As the Artist in Residence, a position Beau has held for the past three years, he has had the opportunity to interact with students from a variety of departments, and discuss topics ranging from the impacts of colonialism, the struggle to maintain a connection to Mother Earth in the technological age, to the exploitation of culture, and the effects of population decline on social structure. This term Beau will be examining a number of these issues in FNIS 4010, Raven’s Teachings: An Insight into the Potlatch, a course that explores the roots of the Pacific Northwest Potlatch, its suppression and resurgence, as well as the copper complex of ceremony, governance, spirituality and justice.



Beau is thankful for the wonderful opportunities provided to him by the University, the First Nations House of Learning, and the Art History Department. He shared that seeing young Aboriginal people on paths of discovery in academia, and witnessing this healing amongst First Nations peoples, gives him great hope for the future.



UBC is the host university for Indspire’s Soaring Indigenous Youth Conference

On February 11 and 12, 2016, Indspire will host the Soaring Indigenous Youth Conference in Vancouver, BC for Aboriginal students in grades 9 to 12. UBC is the official university sponsor of this exciting event! On Friday, February 12, students and chaperones will have the opportunity to visit UBC and learn about university life and programs at both the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses. All Aboriginal high school students are encouraged to attend this event. Please see indspire.ca/soaring for information. Registration is free and a limited number of complimentary hotel rooms are available.

Applications to UBC

If you are working with an Aboriginal student who is considering applying to UBC, we encourage you to contact us. Our Admissions Office can offer assistance to you, including if your students have concerns about readiness, support, or finances. Please connect with us anytime! jessica.laroche@ubc.ca for NITEP applications, and celia.reimer@ubc.ca for general UBC applications.

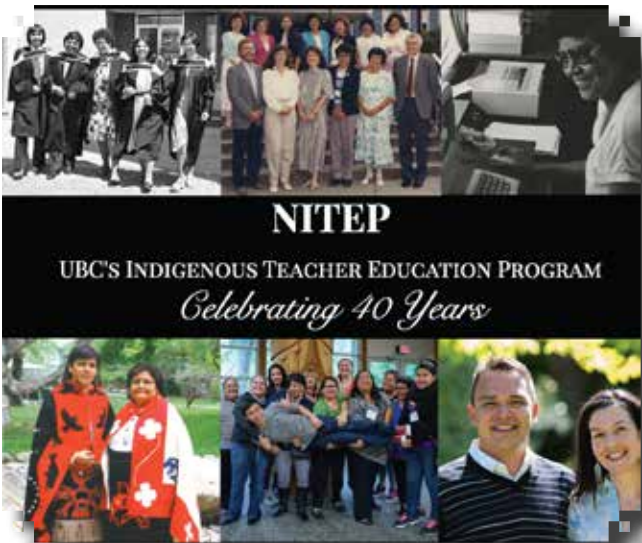
New Awards

UBC launched the Centennial Scholars Entrance Award, designed to support academically qualified students who have significant financial need. Students applying to UBC directly from high school or transferring from post-secondary institutions are eligible for the award, including a minimum of \$50,000 available for Canadian Aboriginal students in the 2016 Winter Session. Applications are due by January 31, 2016. For more information: you.ubc.ca/tuition-scholarships/entrance-award.

- UBC Enrolment Services



NITEP Commemorative Book On Sale Now!



NITEP – UBC’s Indigenous Teacher Education Program was established in 1974. Forty years later we celebrate NITEP’s success in preparing Indigenous people to be effective educators and much more. This 40th Anniversary book highlights NITEP’s history, extended family, and legacy.

The NITEP 40th Anniversary commemorative book is on sale now. Can’t visit the NITEP Office to get your book? Have it mailed to you for an additional \$5.

Contact us at nitep.educ@ubc.ca for more information.

Order your copy today!
payment-educ.sites.olt.ubc.ca/nitep-book-order/



How do I apply to NITEP?



Applicants submit the NITEP application package.

- NITEP Application Form
- Faculty of Education Application Form and fee*
- All official transcripts (high school and post-secondary)
- Two Confidential Reports

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Submit to:
NITEP
Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia
1985 West Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

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Email: nitep.educ@ubc.ca Fax: 604.822.8944
or to the NITEP Field Centre Coordinator in your area.

NITEP NEWS

When all documents have been received, NITEP faculty screen the candidates. Qualified candidates are presented to the Faculty of Education. Successful candidates are notified by letter and are asked to contact the appropriate centre Coordinator. Candidates who do not meet the admission requirements at the time of their application will be encouraged to upgrade their academics.

Note:

Applicants to NITEP do not have to provide a certificate of Indian Status, Inuit or Metis Card. We require only self-identification.

*Applicants who submit all required documents by March 15 will have the Faculty of Education fee paid by NITEP. Applicants who do not meet the March 15 deadline must provide all documentation by June 30 and will be responsible for paying the Faculty of Education Application Fee.



How do I get re-admitted to NITEP?



Sometimes interruptions to programs are necessary. If you would like to re-return to NITEP, you need to:

- Write a letter addressed to the NITEP Director, stating the following:
 - why you left NITEP
 - why you want to return to NITEP
 - what you have been doing since you left the program

Submit to:

NITEP
Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia
1985 West Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

Email: nitep.educ@ubc.ca Fax: 604.822.8944

- Submit any official transcripts of college or university transfer work completed since leaving the program.
- Complete a Faculty of Education Application for Re-admission Form and submit the re-application fee.
- Submit two Confidential Reports.

If you are offered re-admission to the NITEP program, you will be asked to submit documentation and payment for a new criminal record check. Information regarding this check will be sent with offers of re-admission.

Your program will be assessed and reviewed once all official transcripts are received and all of the above re-admission steps are fulfilled. If you have any questions, please call 604.822.5240.

Connect with us on social media!



facebook.com/NITEP.UBC



twitter.com/UBCNITEP



[#ubcnitep](https://twitter.com/UBCNITEP)

Use the hashtag #nitep2016 to have your tweets and photos appear in our storify!

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 30