

OCTOBER 2021

NITEP NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of the Indigenous Teacher Education Program



NITEP Class of 1983', Williams Lake Field Center Cohort: Photo by Holli Garvin

WHAT'S NEW IN NITEP:

- Applications open!
- Message from Dr. Kovach
- NITEP Food Basket

APPLICATIONS OPEN!

NITEP Applications are open for 2022! Connect with us:

nitep.educ@ubc.ca for more information!

We are currently accepting applications for these locations:

- Gitwangak Field Center
- On campus - Vancouver



NITEP

MESSAGE FROM DR. MARGARET KOVACH

**Message from Dr. Margaret Kovach, Director
of NITEP and Associate Dean for Indigenous
Education:**

Tânisi and Greetings!

I acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam) people where the NITEP program is located. UBC has two campuses: one located in Vancouver and one located in the Okanagan. I acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation upon which UBC Okanagan operates. Each season offers us an opportunity to acknowledge the lands that sustain us and the communities that support us wherever we may be. With focused intention followed by committed action, acknowledging the land is the start of building a more socially just society for Indigenous peoples.

We now find ourselves in October. A beautiful month of autumn colors as seasons change. The autumn season brings renewed energy of reconnecting with students, peers, community, and friends. Fall brings the opportunity to meet new people and build supportive communities. NITEP students have returned to campus in 2021 after many difficult months of learning remotely. With acknowledgement of the challenges of the past year, we have started this academic year with a renewed forward momentum and hopeful energy.



Margaret Kovach



NITEP

MESSAGE FROM DR. MARGARET KOVACH (CONTINUED)

Each day this season, we call upon Indigenous values of caring for the collective community by enacting the responsibility to social distance and by wearing masks when in the company of others.

NITEP has selected a powerful theme for this year. The theme is *ćícəsəm* which means to grow and to raise up. It is this spirit that upholds relationality, reciprocity, and responsibility at the core of Indigenous values. Among these Indigenous values, our NITEP students know that the practice of respectful relations is central to the NITEP teacher education approach.

At NITEP we continue to provide a fulsome schedule of programs and events for the Indigenous students and communities we serve. Our Newsletter is one way we reach out to community. I know you will enjoy reading the October NITEP Newsletter!

At NITEP we are committed to finding ways to create rich educative experiences that uphold the Indigenous community each day. Each day we work toward creating a society responsive to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Our NITEP team is so delighted that you are a part of the NITEP community. We give gratitude that you are part of our circle!

**Hai Hai and Miigwech,
Margaret Kovach,
Associate Dean, Indigenous Education**



NEW! NITEP FOOD BASKET

NITEP FOOD BASKET 2021 – 2022

The NITEP Food Basket was Natalie's passion project for the NITEP program. Knowing that many post-secondary students experience food insecurity during their degree, NITEP sought to create a low-barrier resource. The Food Basket was made possible through donations from NITEP, the Deans Office in the Faculty of Education, and NITEP Staff. While items change monthly, you can always find dried pasta, pasta sauce, soup and even baking ingredients like flour, baking soda and chocolate chips.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who is it for?

The NITEP Food Basket is for all NITEP students. It's here for you whether you are sponsored or not sponsored, and regardless of your situation. No one will ever ask you about taking food from this shelf, and you are allowed to take as much as you need.

Do I need to register/sign up?

No, the Food Basket is anonymous and you don't need to speak to anyone about it if you don't want to.

What's the difference between this and the AMS Food Bank?

The AMS Food Bank provides pre-sorted bags with a myriad of different items, including fruit and vegetables! The NITEP Food Basket can supplement that bank by supplying pantry goods-shelf stable items that you can eat now, or keep for later.

[Item] is great, but I'd really like some [item].

Please make suggestions on the list next to the cart! We're working with campus partners to keep this stocked, and we're happy to bring your suggestions to them.



**Thank you to NITEP's
Program Administrative
Support, Natalie Simkin
for bringing the food
basket to NITEP!**

NITEP GATHERING 2021

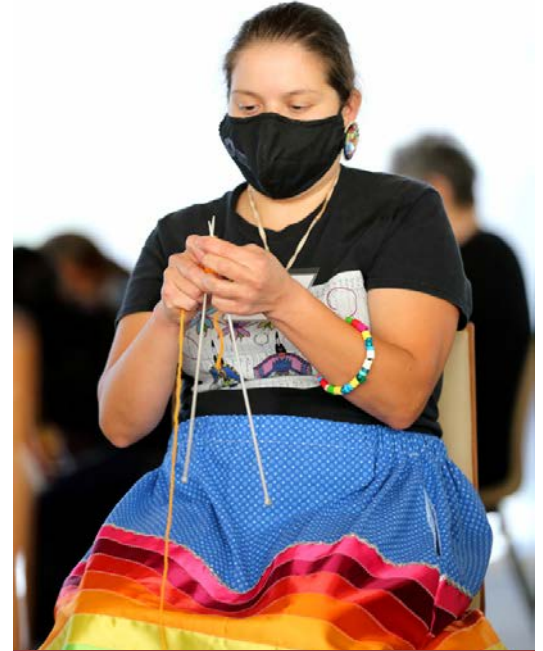
NITEP students returned to campus and online activities for classes this September with UBC's Imagine Day, and the NITEP Gathering.

For the 2021 NITEP Gathering, students met online or in-person at the Robert H. Lee Alumni Center in the Jack Poole Hall to learn and reflect together, and begin a new year with the theme "*čičəsəm'* - *to grow, raise up*"!

We thank Dr. Lee Brown for providing us with a keynote presentation, and Elder (and NITEP Alumni) Mary Jane Joe for providing us with reflections and thoughts on this years' theme, "*čičəsəm'* - *to grow, raise up*" at the Gathering!

Special thanks to our host and NITEP Alumni and Lecturer, Marny Point!

Students took part in a Orange Shirt workshop with Dr. Shannon Leddy, Dr. Lorrie Miller, and Dr. Kerry Renwick.

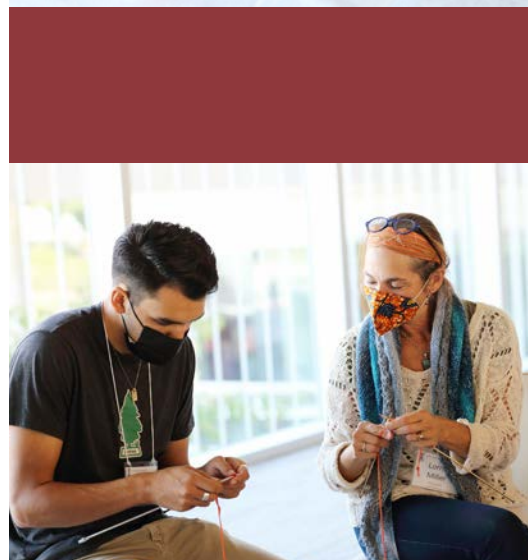
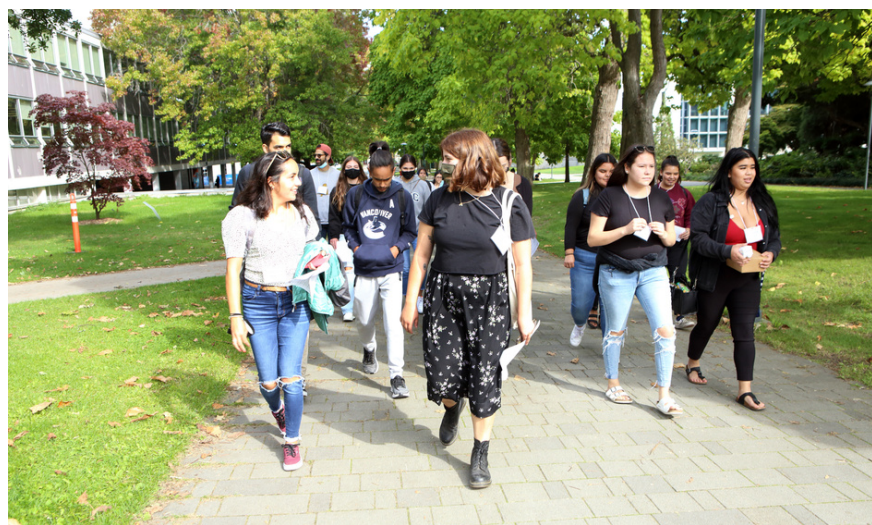


NITEP GATHERING 2021

NITEP students went out and about on a wayfinding walk around campus as part of the NITEP Gathering as well:



Students took part in a Orange Shirt workshop with Dr. Shannon Leddy, Dr. Lorrie Miller, and Dr. Kerry Renwick.



LEGACY OF HOPE EXHIBITS AT THE IRVING K. BARBER LEARNING CENTRE

The Faculty of Education and Office of Indigenous Education have brought the *Generations Lost: Healing the Legacy of Residential School* and *Bi-Giwen: Coming Home, Truth Telling from the Sixties Scoop* exhibits to UBC from the Legacy of Hope!

The exhibits can be found at the Irving K. Barber Learning Center (IKBLC). The exhibits will remain at the IKBLC until October 27th, and are open to all. Link to exhibit information page, [HERE!](#)

On October 19th, the Faculty of Education and Office of Indigenous Education hosted a virtual reception featuring Dr. J. Wilton (Willie) Littlechild, as honoured guest and keynote, joined by other Indigenous speakers including Elder Mary Jane Joe for these exhibits.

This reception has been recorded and will be available to watch and for learning and educational purposes!

Here are some photos of NITEP Students at the exhibits:

Thank you to all who assisted with the coordination and set up of these exhibits!



NITEP FEATURES:

- Congratulations to Cariboo Cohort!
- NITEP Fall Features!
- NITEP Fall Visiting Elder Series
- NITEP Wellness Tuesdays
- NITEP Alumni Corner

NITEP CARIBOO FIELD CENTER GRADUATE FEATURE:



ALYSSA MORTENSEN

CARIBOO COHORT

Congratulations, NITEP Cariboo Field Center!!! Students from our Cariboo cohort recently completed the program and we wish them a warm congratulations! We are thrilled that these NITEP graduates will be starting their teaching careers.

Dr. Johanna Sam (previous Cariboo cohort Coordinator): "I am so happy to share in the excitement of your graduation, and so very proud of you, too! Congratulations! Best wishes for your next teaching adventure!"

Students in this cohort have created student profiles for viewing, see these profiles [here!](#)

ALYSSA MORTENSEN

Hello, my name is Alyssa Mortensen. I am a proud member of the Wet'suwet'en Nation, more specifically Hagwilget Village in Hazelton, BC but I currently reside in Quesnel, BC.

Why is Indigenous Education important to you?

Indigenous education is important to me because of the lack of resources available for students and teachers within the school system. Indigenous ways of knowing hold great knowledge and power in cross curricular subjects which should be recognized within the classroom. In acknowledging Indigenous knowledge in education, we are acknowledging: our ancestors, ourselves and our future generations by giving them space to share story. Incorporating Indigenous knowledge into the curriculum is honouring the past while supporting the future, giving all students a safe place for their education.

NITEP FALL FEATURES!

"Moon Time Sisters B.C. is a non-profit organization started in October 2020 under the charity True North Aid. Moon Time Sisters is a project specific to the donation and shipment of menstrual products to remote and isolated Northern Canadian communities as the products are often unaffordable and inaccessible.

We are always collecting products and donations to support communities and send out shipments. We are extremely grateful for donations of products, as well as financial contributions towards the expensive transportation fees.

Products you can donate (starting with highest priority): - Pads, tampons, reusable pads, reusable cups.

These can be open boxes, as long as the products are individually wrapped.

Donations can be made online on our website for a tax receipt. To donate cash or physical products can get in touch with me at: **selenasummer16@gmail.com!"**



Check out their website, linked [here!](#)

Selena Smith, 3rd year NITEP Student

NITEP FALL FEATURES!



**COLIN ORCHYK, 4TH YEAR NITEP
NEW EP!**

C.ORCHYK@GMAIL.COM

[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/COLLINORCHYKMUSIC](https://linktr.ee/collinorchykmusic)



"My big news for this October is that I am releasing an EP on the 4th!

The EP is called "Drive Down South" and will be available on Bandcamp, Spotify, and Apple Music." Check out the QR code above or click [HERE](#) for Colin's new music!!

NITEP FALL FEATURES!

CHECK OUT BAILEY'S BLOG POST!

A Guide on How to Teach Truth: Bailey Johnson

"How many times have you been sitting in class and felt excluded within the narrative the class itself presents?

You don't have to be a teacher to realize that the current educational school system is depriving learners of essential information that is relevant to their identity. In fact, if you were ever a student once in your life... ask yourself these questions:

- Was my identity recognized within the lessons taught in class?
- Did I learn about my history, my family, my culture in class?
- Was I taught school in a way that honours my learning needs? Was the class content curated to enable me to understand, digest, and demonstrate my knowledge in a way that felt right for my abilities?
- Was I able to contribute to the class conversation in any given subject based on how I identify and what I can relate to?
- With the information acquired from school, did I feel as if I could return to my family or community and contribute in a way that holds meaning and also stays true to who I am and where I come from?

If you answered no to any of these questions, you may have been subject to a major flaw in the school system that has been prevalent within the school experiences of many: lack of relevance, accuracy, and authenticity."



NITEP FALL FEATURES!

BAILEY'S BLOG POST CONTINUED:

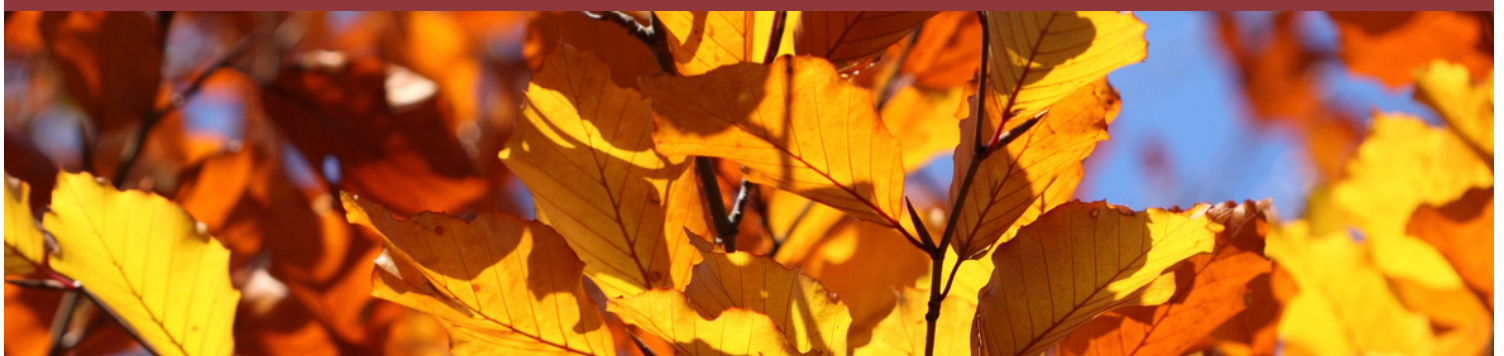
"To understand why this holds true, one must understand the foundation upon which the school system itself was built. The framework of the educational system we utilize today was curated during the Industrial Revolution to adhere to a progressing industrial, Eurocentric, and Western world. During this time, the idea surrounding grades and age groups came about. Learners moved through grades with the expectation that they adhere to specific modes of learning, obtain specific educational requirements, and be able to present their knowledge in a specific way solely based on the year they were born, leaving little room for personalization within the education system.

Now that the foundation is set, we can perceive how this has made the school system problematic to this day. With the foundations of a problematic school system stemming back to the Industrial Revolution, how can we create an environment built on relevant and current information for our students today?

Well... we must deconstruct our entire perception of what a school system is and what it should look like, and reconstruct our classroom and lesson plans based on the identities present in our classroom. We must also cater the execution of these lessons based on the specific needs of those identities.

Here are two tips to guide you to begin your journey of dismantling Eurocentric modes of understanding, and creating an inclusive learning environment:

- Being in a position of power, a teacher should not create lessons based on individual bias. One individual frame of reference can be used to contextualize information, but the teacher should make room for learners to contribute their own perspectives based on their own identities. This means modes of evaluation should move away from "one right answer", to "what you know is your truth". This requires open dialogue between student and teacher, but also the duality of passing of knowledge between student and student as well. With this, students will be able to validate themselves in the classroom, as well as learn a multitude of frames of references rather than the singular perspective of the teacher in the class."



NITEP FALL FEATURES!

BAILEY'S BLOG POST CONTINUED:

- Teachers must make lesson plans relevant to where they are located. This includes land acknowledgements and the introduction of Indigenous knowledge systems. Teachers must ask themselves:
- What land am I on?
- What is the history of this land?
- Who used to occupy this land?
- Where are they now?
- Why did they leave?
- How do I benefit from this?

"In order to learn in a way that is accurate, we must understand the history of the land that is giving us the space to learn from in the first place.

Now these are foundational concepts, and the premise is simple yet generally disregarded. The acknowledgement of the land, and opening the dialogue within your classroom are the first steps you can take to make your classroom more inclusive and relevant to the learners within it.



From here, you can unlearn and relearn how Eurocentric systems have deprived you and your students of authentic education and create an educational space that respects and encourages individuality among students, learns from the land, and makes school an inclusive space for all individuals regardless of who or what they are."

Teaching resource:

Native Governance Center- A guide to Indigenous land acknowledgement:

<https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

"Bailey Johnson is Metis from Region 3 in the Okanagan Valley. Currently, Bailey is in 4th year NITEP with a special interest in social and emotional learning along with holistic teaching methods."

- Bailey Johnson, 4th year NITEP



NITEP PROGRAM SUPPORTS

NITEP Visiting Elder Series

We look forward to our upcoming conversations with Elders and connecting with Elders after a challenging summer for all Indigenous peoples. The connection to visiting Indigenous Elders has brought great conversation, guidance, and healing for our Indigenous students. We look forward to connecting with Elders: Siyamtelot (Shirley Leon), Gerry Oleman, Chris Marchand and Eric Mitchell in joining us once again this fall!



Gerry Oleman has returned this fall with a new season of his podcast, 'Teachings in the Air'! Check out the NITEP team's conversation with Gerry Oleman on his podcast 'Teachings in the Air' on Season 4, Episode 7, 'Cradle to Grave' [here!](#)

Learn more with Siyamtelot's most recent publication, 'Courage to Speak: Honouring Ancestors Voices' focusing on Halq'eméylem language revitalization and the importance of Elders. Check out this [news article](#) and the publication [here!](#)



Elders Eric Mitchell and Chris Marchand keep busy and are honorary [Doctorate of Laws recipients!](#) "Marchand and Mitchell are members of the Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB), and have been working at UBCO and teaching the Cultural Safety Program since 2008. They not only created the program, but, as adjunct professors, have been teaching the course, which focuses on the history of Canada's Indigenous Peoples."

Meet the NITEP Wellness Peers of 2021/2022!



Tia DeGroot,
Brokenhead Ojibway,
1st Year NITEP



Deaunte Nelson,
Quatsino Nation,
2nd Year NITEP

NITEP PROGRAM SUPPORTS

NITEP Health and Wellness

Our Mental Health and Wellness program is back to in-person again! We meet every Tuesday at 12:30PM, and our fantastic Wellness Peers Deaunte and Tia have planned some great events. So far, we have drawn, done mindfulness colouring, made beaded lanyards (**pictured below**) and eaten some good food. We plan on making friendship bracelets, having a Knowledge Keeper teach us dream catchers, and to have a NITEP Alumni host a beading workshop. This Halloween, we're doing pumpkin carving!

We're so grateful to see each other in person again and to get to focus on building connections outside of the classroom through the Wellness program. We have some big plans for our year back in person!



***Keep up with NITEP on Facebook,
instagram @ubcnitep, and our
homepage!***

NITEP ALUMNI CORNER!

Holli Garvin: NITEP Alumni



1983 Field Centre - St. Josephs Residential School Williams Lake (Pictured on the left!) (One year here - 3 years on campus)

What was your favourite memory/memorable experience?

Photographing families' kids down on the beach... Salmon BBQ for Education Faculty hosted by NITEP, NITEP'ers performing "We Are The World" all together, and Friendships that still exist today!

What was your program path (Elementary or secondary, major)? Program? Education Major?

Primary grades and Canadian studies.

Where are you now or what has your career path looked like?

- Public School
- 17 Years in Primary here in my hometown, Quesnel on the traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene (Southern Carrier)
- 8 years now as the Culture Resource Teacher k-12 supporting relevant, Indigenous curriculum goals with classroom teachers - Truth and Reconciliation - Residential School curriculum
- BCTF local Aboriginal representative for District
- Retirement (61 now and #7 on the seniority list)

Fun Fact to share with NITEP!

"Little girl in my GR 2/3 classroom - NOW WITH HER DOCTORATE DEGREE IN THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION WORKING WITH NITEP - so proud!"

UBC - NITEP

1983



NITEP ALUMNI CORNER!

Vincent Goag: NITEP Alumni

Vincent Goag:

My name is G_awagani (AKA Vincent Gogag) from Gitanyow. I attended NITEP from 1975 - 1979, got my B.Ed in '79. I attended a 12 month Counselling Psych program for a diploma in '80 . I taught at various secondary schools in Vancouver for 24 years. Now retired, I still reside in South False Creek. I now work with UBC linguists part time as their consultant in the Gitksan language program. My favourite memory is traipsing across the stage to get my certifiicate and be encouraged by the Chancellor with the words: Tu'um est.

Vincent has assisted UBC with the preservation of language as a consultant for the Gitksan language program. Read about Vincent's work in the article, "Helping to preserve a language 1,200 kilometres from home", [HERE!](#)



L to R: Vincent Gogag; Henry Davis; Lisa Matthewson; and Gitksan Research Lab Coordinator Michael Schwan.

NITEP ALUMNI CORNER!



Meet Carlene Quock!

Carlene Quock: NITEP Alumni

When did you attend NITEP?

I attended NITEP from 2014-2017.

What was your favourite memory/memorable experience?

My favourite memorable experience was meeting lifelong friends and gathering at the UBC Longhouse for study seasons or if you just wanted to feel at home.

What was your program path (Elementary or secondary, major)?

I was in the Elementary option. I belonged to the ABC cohort.

Where are you now or what has your career path looked like?

I taught for a total of 4 years before I decided to take a chance at something a little different. Now, I build curriculum and Indigenize them. I am currently working as a director for a non-profit organization in partnership with Skills Canada that helps the Urban Indigenous community upskill their employability and career skills and get them on the path to a satisfying career. I now work in adult education and am looking forward to beginning my Masters of Education in the near future.

Fun Fact to share with NITEP!

I come from a family of NITEP Alumni! My aunt and three cousins successfully completed NITEP and are all leading fulfilling careers in education or administration.

Connect with us:

nitep.educ@ubc.ca

Tel: 604 822 5240

@ubcnitep

*Stay tuned for the
Winter Newsletter!*