

NITEP NEWS



NITEP

NITEP
Traditional Values
Contemporary Program
Since 1974

WINTER 2013
ISSUE THIRTY-SEVEN



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Inquire Imagine Inspire

2013-14 | The Year of Teacher Education



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Education

I am very pleased to welcome you as you begin your journey to become a professional educator and UBC Faculty of Education alumnus. On behalf of the Faculty, I recognize and thank the Musqueam Nation, Heiltsuk Nation, Secwepemc Nation, and Cowichan Tribes for allowing us to offer our education programs at the UBC Vancouver campus and the Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP) field centres in their traditional and unceded lands.



realities. Dr. Hare will be hosting two book club events that focus on prominent themes within the novel. Events take place at Britannia Secondary School on October 23, 2013, and Point Grey Secondary School on November 14, 2013. For those who are not able to attend the UBC book club events, or who study at one of our field centres, I encourage you to consider starting your own club with Sherman Alexie's book.

Created in 1974, almost 40 years ago, the NITEP program is well-equipped to provide you with an outstanding academic experience. Indigenous education is a strength of this Faculty, and special recognition goes to Dr. Jo-ann Archibald for her leadership in important initiatives such as the 2012-2013 *Year of Indigenous Education*, with more than 30 events and more than 3,000 attendees.

As a legacy of the *Year of Indigenous Education*, Dr. Jan Hare was appointed holder of the Faculty of Education's new Professorship in Indigenous Education for Teacher Education. Dr. Hare has launched a community book club initiative to engage the Faculty of Education with the broader community beyond UBC in discussion and reflection of educational topics relevant in our schools.

I invite you to participate in the Community Book Club by reading, *The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Author Sherman Alexie challenges readers to (re)define their understandings of Indigenous

The Community Book Club is one of many events that are a part of the 2013-2014 *Year of Teacher Education*, an initiative that will celebrate the invaluable contributions that teachers make to the lives of students, and highlight the Faculty of Education's role in preparing our educators for practice across British Columbia and beyond.

For more information about the *Year of Teacher Education*, please visit the website: www.yte.educ.ubc.ca.

Thank you, and best of luck in your studies this year.

Dean Blye Frank

*Dr. Jo-ann Archibald, Q'um Q'um Xi'em
NITEP Director/Associate Dean for Indigenous Education*



Greetings from NITEP. The 2013-14 theme of the NITEP News is Indigenous Education: Inquire, Imagine, and Inspire. Our Newsletter's theme portrays the Faculty of Education's 2013-14 initiative about The Year of Teacher Education (YTE, see - www.yte.educ.ubc.ca). Last year, we participated in the very successful Year of Indigenous Education by sponsoring a NITEP Alumni & Friends Speaker Series, a National Indigenous Teacher Education Symposium, and participating in the many events and projects (see - www.yie.educ.ubc.ca). We look

forward to hosting another speaker series and being involved in other exciting YTE events.

We are also very excited about entering our 40th year of NITEP. In the early Fall of 2014, a grand celebration will be held to mark our 40th anniversary. Watch for Save the Date announcements.

We are delighted to share each NITEP group's perspectives about the YTE theme of inquire, imagine, and inspire in this newsletter. In keeping with the YTE theme, I offer the following thoughts about ways that NITEP, our Indigenous teacher education program addresses ways to inquire, imagine, and inspire:

Inquire. Raven's inquisitive nature is a catalyst for developing an inquiring approach to learning and teaching. The following questions are examined in the NITEP courses and seminars and in the final 12 months of the teacher education program at the UBC Vancouver campus: What is effective education and Indigenous education? How can I develop teaching knowledge,

approaches, and skills in order to be an excellent teacher? How can Indigenous knowledge, culture, and values shape education? How can we increase the success of Indigenous learners? There are many more questions and methods of inquiry that guide the NITEP extended family of learners, their families, faculty/teachers, and community leaders.

Imagine. The NITEP founders, who were educators, chose the Raven as a symbol for NITEP. They also selected the story about Raven finding the Sun for the people living in darkness. NITEP graduates are like the Raven, bringing the light of education to all children. The NITEP founders, like Raven, were not afraid to imagine, to have a vision, and to create a teacher education program that fulfilled their dreams, which was to have many high quality Indigenous teachers throughout the province of British Columbia. Their dream also included increased success for Indigenous learners. Unfortunately, there is still much more 'imagining' to do to fulfill this part of their dream.

Another academic year has arrived and with it some wonderful new initiatives in teacher education. Following upon the spectacular success of *The Year of Indigenous Education* we are now in *The Year of Teacher Education*. Our focus is on: "inspiring educators, inquiring into teacher education, and imagining new possibilities". *The Year of Teacher Education* will feature interactive panels, the Inspiring Educators Series, a hashtag photo

contest (#YTEUBC), a lip dub competition, a student Walkabout (carrying forward last year's route through aboriginal communities), and much more. Watch for special events and activities taking place all across the year (see yte.educ.ubc.ca). Faculty members, teacher candidates, alumni, community members and stakeholders will find spaces within the year to celebrate and acknowledge our many accomplishments in Teacher Education. NITEP itself is one such remarkable achievement. From its early days as an alternative cohort, it soon became a program in its own right. We need to celebrate our successes, and NITEP is truly one accomplishment that stands out.

The Year of Teacher Education is also about recognizing the new initiatives we are taking on this year. Our Faculty is embarking upon offering an International Baccalaureate stream within our elementary and secondary programs. We are very excited about this new effort, especially given the popularity of IB programs locally and internationally. We have also created a Personalized Learning and Technology (PL-Tech) elementary cohort and have launched a new dual degree with the Faculty of Land and Food Systems with a focus on home economics. Both of these are very important innovations for our program. In the coming months we are creating Education Minors affiliated with the Faculty of Arts. As these are finalized we will be sharing more details with the broader community. We have also begun to explore other options for education within Baccalaureate undergraduate programs. Stay tuned! We will announce the new programs once they are finalized within the Faculty.

2013-2014 promises to be an extraordinary year. *The Year of Teacher Education* provides us with an opportunity to appreciate the many great initiatives our Faculty has created over the years and it also provides us with an opportunity to forge new pathways for learning in areas that need strengthening. NITEP is a very important program. It has led the way provincially for decades and I am sure it will continue to do so in the years ahead. So let's celebrate our accomplishments in teacher education and focus on "inspiring educators, inquiring into teacher education, and imagining new possibilities". After all, it is *The Year of Teacher Education*!

*Dr. Rita L. Irwin
Associate Dean, Teacher Education*

Inspire. I am continually inspired by the commitment, expertise, and impact of the NITEP alumni, many of whom are or have been in educational leadership positions, teaching, and making important contributions to education in general and Indigenous education specifically. The lived experience stories of the NITEP alumni and other Indigenous educators need to be told to exemplify the value of intergenerational learning. On December 13, 2013, we will celebrate the inspirational life story of NITEP's first Indigenous director, Verna J. Kirkness. Her new book, 'Creating Space: My Life and Work in Indigenous Education' will be launched on that date (see details in this newsletter).

We invite you to think about ways to inquire, imagine, and inspire possibilities for Indigenous education. Send us your ideas, stories, and photos that can be shared with others through the NITEP Facebook and other digital NITEP Newsletters.

Faculty of Education

NITEP: Traditional Values – Contemporary Program

UBC-Vancouver | Bella Bella | Duncan | Kamloops-Merritt

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 band-operated, 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, 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 Bella Bella, Duncan, and Kamloops. 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 39 years, more than 360 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.

In the fall of 2014, NITEP will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Please watch for information about the upcoming celebratory events.



NITEP Team

Back Row, L-R: Lois-Anne Hanson Arnold (Bella Bella Coordinator), Natalie Simkin (Program Administrative Support), Clinton Charlie (Duncan Coordinator), Jessica La Rochelle (Assistant Director), Karen Blain (Kamloops Coordinator)
Front Row, L-R: Marny Point (Urban Coordinator), Jo-ann Archibald (Director), Lucetta George-Grant (On-Campus Coordinator), Linda Williams (Financial Support)



It's hard to believe that another year has gone by and we are welcoming a new group of students to the program. As I reflect on the past 12 months, I recall the many wonderful events held in celebration of the Year of Indigenous Education and I look forward to the initiatives and programming that the Faculty of Education has planned for the Year of Teacher Education.

In celebration of the Year of Teacher Education, NITEP's theme for 2013-2014 is "Inquire, Imagine, Inspire". When I reflect on this theme I think of the importance of education and the impact it has had on my life. To say I was an inquisitive child is putting it mildly. I was affectionately known as "Little Miss Chatterbox" because I didn't stop talking or asking questions until my curiosity was satisfied. And boy, was I curious! I also read a lot, especially if my questions were unanswered or led to further questions. I think reading and imagination go hand in hand. Growing up with my cousins, we were constantly using our imaginations to make up games and songs and were always looking for our next great adventure. Spending our summers in a small town, we felt safe enough to hop on our bikes and see how many parks we could find and play in until we had to be back at our grandparents' house for supper. We didn't need mobile phones, iPads, video games or social media; we had our imaginations to keep us entertained for hours on end. Looking back, I feel blessed to have a family who taught me how to be inquisitive, imaginative, and self-sufficient.

Reading through the student submissions, I am inspired by the individuals in our program. They are an impressive group and I cannot wait to see the positive impact they will have, wherever their inquisitiveness, imagination, and inspiration lead them. I am honoured to be a part of their journey.

Jessica La Rochelle | Lhkwemíya
NITEP Assistant Director

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.



NITEP NEWS - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thank you to everyone who contributed articles and photographs

News from Xwi7xwa Library

Xwi7xwa Library wishes to thank NITEP's students, faculty, and staff for the relationships we have developed over the last 20 years! We appreciate all we have learned from NITEP students, faculty and alumni over the years. Did you know that Xwi7xwa was built as part of the First Nations Longhouse in 1993? NITEP donated its resource centre's collection to the library and that formed the core of the Xwi7xwa collection.



This semester, Kim Lawson and Sarah Dupont will be visiting the field centres with Jessica to show teacher candidates how to access our materials from Bella Bella, Kamloops, or Duncan. We have many new curriculum resources that we are excited about: Kim Soo Goodtrack's TV series Wakanheja and Art Zone being our most recent media acquisitions. We've also developed a Community Research Guide for community and alumni: <http://guides.library.ubc.ca/content.php?pid=490778&sid=4027205>



We want to hear from you! We're always looking for videos, reports or books from the perspective of Indigenous educators, such as Voices of Native American educators: integrating history, culture, and language to improve learning outcomes for Native American students. Do you have a title that you want us to consider for the collection? Let us know at sarah.dupont@ubc.ca and kim.lawson@ubc.ca.

From Ann (on study leave until Aug 31, 2014), Kim, Sarah, Eleanore, and Jennifer

Photo: The NITEP resource centre was located in this building before its collection was donated to the Xwi7xwa Library.

News from the First Nations House of Learning

On April 19, the First Nations House of Learning celebrated the 20th anniversary of the building of the Longhouse as well as its own the 25th anniversary. It was wonderful to see all the past and present directors, artists, students, and community members together. It was also a reminder of how insightful the initial vision for the Longhouse was, as it continues to inform us, as we meet the needs of a growing and changing Aboriginal student community.

We have maintained our partnership with the Writing Center and continue to have writing tutoring available in the Longhouse. We also have biology, chemistry and math tutors available. The student lunch program has grown, with 120 + students attending each week. Lunch hosts are very impressed with the fantastic group of Aboriginal students we have at the Longhouse. In addition to the academic and social activities, the Longhouse sports teams have grown and consistently bring pride to our community.



Photo Ryanne James
FNHL Fusion Basketball Fall long faces as the championship title slipped away before the final game



Photo Ryanne James
Emerging Aboriginal Scholars partnership between PIMS and the FNHL

clear pathway from college to university including admission and scholarship guarantees. Successful summer programs for youth also continue including CEDAR, Bridge Through Sport, and Emerging Aboriginal Scholars.

We have also advanced our work on making changes to how we help new students. This year UBC will provide more than \$100,000 in entrance scholarships. In September we launched the Langara College/ UBC Transfer Program, which will provide students with a



Photo Don Erhardt
Graduates at the 2013 Longhouse Graduation Celebration

The 2013 Longhouse Graduation Celebration was the largest in our history. Forty eight grads attended with their families. This year UBC had Aboriginal graduates in 13 of 14

faculties and in the coming years we will see grads in all faculties across campus. Overall, our graduation numbers continue to grow with more than 120 graduating students this year.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final west coast event on September 18th was a major project that the First Nations House of Learning team undertook this year. The university's decision to suspend class highlighted the importance of this event and day. Over the summer the campus community was engaged to find ways to support this event and provide learning opportunities for student, staff and faculty.



Photo Rachel Prince
Reconciliation Canada
All Nations Canoe Gathering

Now that we are in the post event phase, we are transitioning to find ways to increase awareness and learning opportunities across campus. A significant development has come with the proposed west coast TRC Research Center on Indian Residential Schools, which would be affiliated with the national center in Winnipeg. UBC is in the fundraising stage of this proposal and, if successful, it would become the hub of developing learning and training opportunities for the UBC community. It will also function as a centre where survivors and their descendants can engage with records and work with us to address this history in a respectful way. We hope you are able to join us as these initiatives proceed.

BELLA BELLA FIELD CENTRE



Today I am wearing an orange shirt in support of Residential School survivors and Orange Shirt Day. I am reminded intellectually of that shameful era in Canadian history, and on a heart level of the very real human suffering that resulted and is still ongoing for many Aboriginals in Canada. In this context, the success of NITEP seems a not so small miracle and beacon of light shining in all of the dark places.

We are now into our second year of operation at the Bella Bella NITEP Field Centre! We had eight students complete Year 1. Of those students, one decided to change majors and is now studying at VIU, and another is continuing her NITEP program through the Duncan NITEP Field Centre. With our five new first year students, we have eleven NITEP students at the Bella Bella Centre.

Our NITEP classroom also serves as a study/computer room as well as a “hang-out” space for our NITEP students. It has been a challenge to fit both first and second year classes into the one classroom and also allow blocks of class-free time for students to study, work on papers and just be together. However, I think we have managed to accomplish this.

Nine students travelled to Vancouver to participate in the NITEP Student Gathering. A highlight for me was the alumni panel. The three alumni spoke powerfully and from the heart about their experiences as NITEP students and their work as educators. It is so positive for the students to know that they are part of something far bigger than their Centre!

We are fortunate to have eleven NITEP alumni here in Bella Bella working in various capacities in the community, including of course, the Bella Bella Community School. We are looking forward to luncheons and other events with the NITEP alumni. In addition our students are excited about getting started on their Education 143 practicum requirement.

Lois-Anne Hanson Arnold
Bella Bella NITEP Coordinator



Our Field Centre is made up of 11 students - 6 second year students and 5 first year students. We met most of the other students at the NITEP Student Gathering earlier this year. We are based out of a portable belonging to our Heiltsuk College. I must say if any millionaires are reading this article, PLEASE we are in desperate need of a new college building (big smiles!). The main office of Heiltsuk College is located in the United Church basement and there are two additional modular units belonging to the college, one of which is presently our NITEP Field Centre.

Although the facilities are make-shift, we are dry and comfortable and we have the best staff. There is our Coordinator Lois-Anne Hanson Arnold, and our instructors (most of whom have other jobs and take time out of their busy schedules so that we may have instruction in our homeland). Thank you to: Keith Marshall, Brenda Humchitt, Dr. David Arnold, Dr. Ron Roumanis, Eden Foremen as well as Lois-Anne, who also teaches an elective course and sometimes fills in when the others cannot make it.

We are all very happy and very blessed to have a Field Centre here in Bella Bella. A lot of us cannot just up and leave home to attend university, and this program provides a great stepping

stone for when we do plan to venture off to UBC for our final year.

When deciding to write this article, I thought of all the NITEP alumni in Bella Bella who have done this before us. I know they are all very busy and probably don't have time to sit down and write an article. As my cousin (Sharon Ann) said, “Tell them I'm too busy to write an article and send my regards” (She was half joking). I would like to acknowledge the Heiltsuk NITEP alumni as we are rich in NITEP graduates in our community!



Bella Bella Community School NITEP alumni include: Sharon Ann Wilson, Doreena Mason, Anita Grimm, Joe Starr (from Kitimat), Veronica Wilson (just retired),

Michael Carpenter (on leave). Joann Green is Executive Director of Heiltsuk College. Other NITEP alumni in the community include: Elizabeth Brown, Kelly Brown, Wilma Housty (Victoria), and Pauline Waterfall (retired). Pauline Waterfall (pictured above) taught us one of our Education courses (EDUC 141) last year. I apologize if I have forgotten anyone. They are all our role models and we definitely look up to them for moral support and encouragement.

Walas Giaxsixa (Thank you)

Dawn Wilson
Year 2



Hello, my name is Lily (Mercedes) Innes. I am 20 years old and from the Heiltsuk Nation. I am in my 2nd year of NITEP and attending the Bella Bella NITEP Field Centre.

Attending the Bella Bella Field Centre is great. I get to live in my hometown, where I have grown up. Bella Bella is where the majority of my family live. So living here... having all my family's love and support makes everything much easier. The Field Centre in Bella Bella has 11 NITEP students, 6 - 2nd year students and 5 - 1st year students. I'm excited (after just coming home after the UBC NITEP Gathering) to attend the Urban Field Centre-hopefully next year!

This year is different for us as 2nd year students because we have to adjust to sharing our classroom with the new first year students. Having new people in the classroom is awesome! The time in school is just flying by. We are already going into October. Before we know it, it will be mid-terms and then finals.

Good luck to everyone in their courses! Congratulations to those finishing NITEP this year. Work hard in everything, because the students we will teach need amazing teachers!

Lily (Mercedes) Innes, 2nd year NITEP Student
Bella Bella Field Centre



Hello. My name is Allison Reid. I come from "The Rock", also known as Bella Bella, which is located 100 miles north of Vancouver Island. The only way in or out is by ferry or plane. I am in my first year of NITEP. We're only four weeks in, but the experience has been amazing. I am very thankful to be given the opportunity to take the NITEP program in my home community. You are welcome to come and see us during 2014. Qutuwas.

Allison Reid
Year 1

Ryan Gonzales here. First I would like to start off by saying congratulations on a new year whether it is your first or fourth it will fly by, enjoy it when you can! Just budget your time, remember having fun is still an important part of going to school but you have to stay on top of your goals, nothing comes easy but the end reward is going to be worth it. That should be enough inspiration, but know this; NITEP is behind you 100 percent of the way.



Ryan Gonzales
Year 2

DUNCAN FIELD CENTRE



lich 'o'uy ul'. Hello, my name is Qum' qem'uluk and according to a little square piece of paper it also notes that I am Clinton Charlie. My parents are Lexi and James Charlie and I am a proud member of the Penelakut tribe. I'm very fortunate and honoured to say that this is my third year as the Duncan Centre Coordinator, so enough about me lets go into this article!!!!!! This year's NITEP theme is "Inspire, Imagination, Inquire."

Can you imagine a place where all of our First Nations people speak and understand their language fluently? Where there are abundant amounts of food, plants, animals and traditional medicines. That each individual within their community had a special gift and they had a role in their community. Nut'su'maat sqwaluwun (working together as one) since time immemorial we have worked together and it has just been in the last 150 years that our First Nations people have endured some obstacles and challenges. Our NITEP Elder Larry Grant stated "it is just recently that we have been introduced to poverty, alcohol, drugs, suicide and division amongst our people" It was when the Canadian governments and the churches first opened up Residential schools all across our nation.

This is where and when most communities started to lose good portions

of their language, culture, traditional teachings and the connectedness to the land. I cannot imagine going to school on a daily basis and experiencing the physical, mental and emotional abuse that our family members went through. To this exact date many of our First Nation communities are feeling the negative impacts on an everyday basis. We will not forget our history, some good and some bad, nor can we change it. But one thing we can do is make it better for the future, by taking it one day at a time.

This is where we need you!!!!!! Can you imagine yourself in a classroom teaching 30+ students who look up to you, and the parents trust you and you are a positive role model in and outside of the classroom? Yes, I can picture it; if you want constructive change within your own community, give us a call or let's go for some tea. Teachers have a huge impact on our students and communities and in four short years you can be a certified teacher. In the last couple of years our wonderful program expanded to offer middle school and secondary programs now as well. We are in need of more positive role models in each of our communities and the thing is you do not have to teach once you have completed this program. Several of our grads have gone in different avenues, such as social work, curriculum development, taught overseas, child and family services to name a few. Again, drop us an e-mail, give us a call or if you would like a presentation about our program in some way we will make it happen.

For the people,

Fergie (aka) Clinton Charlie
Duncan Coordinator

Imagine you are a grade 8 student who has a passion for learning. You love your classes and your teachers. You dream of attending college and becoming a nurse. At the end of grade 8 you're shocked to hear your education is over and you are to return to your village.

This is my grandmother Elsie Robinson's story. She attended Indian Residential School until she finished grade 8, after which she was forbidden to continue. This obstacle was nothing in the face of my grandmother's passion for learning. She was a ferocious reader throughout her life. She conquered books on subjects from physics to religion and would gladly discuss anything with anyone. If she wanted to learn about something she did. Her sense of inquiry lead to a vast



knowledge base. She was always looking for the lesson in everything.

Always one to pass on the lesson, she would always talk to her grandchildren about how much she wanted to go on studying and how she dreamed of becoming a nurse. This story became a lesson on the importance of staying in school and not taking our education for granted. Her passion for learning, and determination inspires me everyday. Her willingness to share her knowledge with every one who crossed her path led me to education and NITEP. I know she's in the universe somewhere still learning and teaching, always with her huge smile.

Ayfa Brown
Year 2

My name is Tania Thomas, and I am from Penelakut Island. I lived at Penelakut Island all my life.

I went to school to get my Early Childhood Certificate in 2005. I worked with children at Smun'eem Head Start Daycare/ Penelakut Preschool for 8 years, and I've decided to go back to school for NITEP.

I love teaching children, because they are our future. To make a difference and promote learning. Education is the key to success. I never thought I would expand on my learning, but here I am. A friend once told me, "Pick your life, before your life picks you." People can choose any career they want, and accomplish their dreams.

Tania Thomas
Year 1



Hello Everyone! My name is Erica Hamilton. I come from the Dzawada'enuxw First Nation Band, which is located in Kingcome Inlet, B.C. I also grew up in Alert Bay, B.C. Both places I call home and I am missing them both dearly. I have recently moved to the Cowichan Valley, to pursue my career through NITEP.

I am very humbled to gain the acceptance from my communities, where I have found my passion for working with children. I cannot wait to succeed in my program and one day become a teacher, where I can put my best interest into my field of work.

This is my first year at NITEP and I am at one of the four field centers. Duncan is now my new found home and I am loving the environment that school has been giving me. I have already met many people and I am very happy to know that I am going to be building good relationships with my classmates and teachers.

I look forward for my years to come through NITEP and I cannot wait to be together with the other field centers for year three at UBC. I recently attended the UBC NITEP Gathering, it was filled with lots of love, compassion and laughter, which made my experience at UBC that much more interesting.

Gilakas'la (Thank You)
Erica Hamilton, Year 1

KAMLOOPS–MERRITT FIELD CENTRE



My name is Karen Blain and I am Sto:lo and a member of the Sts'ailes Band. My parents are Stan & Bessie (Josephine) Blain

(nee Leon). This year our theme is, "Inquire, Imagine, Inspire." Kamloops NITEP students become a family and help inspire each other throughout their academic studies. It always amazes me what awesome students we have going through the program. It is exciting to see them go through their journey of education until their final year to see them graduate and have their own classroom full of eager students. It's very fulfilling to see the transformation.

Aboriginal leaders, Elders, parents, and students knew that there was an urgent need to have Aboriginal teachers within our school systems throughout BC in the early 70's. The thought of having Aboriginal teachers teaching our children is important for our leadership and identity, role models. NITEP was imagined to help fill that gap and inspire those who strived to become educators, leaders of our communities.

Exciting! Kamloops NITEP is heading into its fortieth year. I have been fortunate to coordinate the Centre for ten years. We have had many great coordinators during these forty years. During these ten years I have seen many changes with NITEP: including centre relocation, addition of secondary option, reducing the Professional Years to 12-months.

The Kamloops Centre has a number of activities planned for students. We enjoyed the yearly trip to Vancouver for the Student Gathering at the main UBC campus. We appreciated getting to know everyone on campus, other Centre's students, TEO and NITEP staff. All three panel speakers were dynamic. We will be hosting two speaker series this academic year with the theme "Inquire, Imagine, Inspire". We are also planning to get together each month to have a luncheon as a group.

Kamloops NITEP students enjoyed a welcome back luncheon during our second week of classes. This year our class representatives are Dancing Water Lulua and Michelle Jeff who will be attending meetings with First Nation Education Council in Vancouver. We would also like to welcome Misty Antoine as our administrative support. Misty will be a great asset to our Centre and help it run smoothly.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the recent 2013 graduates.

*Karen Blain
Kamloops Coordinator*

Hello!!! My name is Misty Antoine from the Bonaparte First Nation. My mother is from Bonaparte and my father is from Tskwaylaxw First Nation. I am currently the Divisional Secretary with the Aboriginal Education Centre at TRU which is also shared with NITEP Kamloops Centre.

I have an amazing son, 7, and beautiful daughter, 5, and a loving, supportive partner in my life. This position with NITEP/TRU has given me a great opportunity to further my experiences.

I have completed my Medical Office Assistant and Administrative Assistant with Accelerated Law, and have taken online courses through UBC in Aboriginal Health. I have worked in the office administration field for over 10 years. It is great to see how many students that are completing their education and furthering themselves in their field of study. I am currently looking into continuing my education at TRU, so with listening and observing the experiences of the students I know this is a great place to further my education.

I am located in the Brown House of Learning....so feel free to stop by and say "HELLO!"

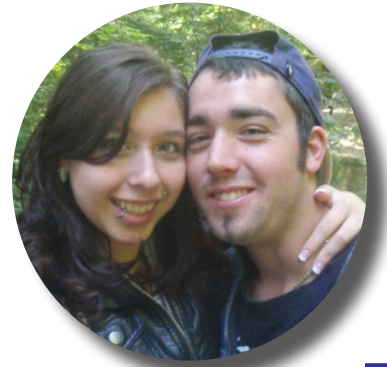
Thank you,
Misty Antoine

Imagine a world where our ancestors had banded together. Where they felt they should inquire about the future they were helping to create.

Why was there so much passivity in so many of our people? Didn't they look at the small children with bright eyes and want to preserve that?

What's done is done,
And it makes my soul hurt.
I hope to bring some old into the new.

To inspire the young to crave the ways of our past.



*Sasha Matheson
Year 2*



I started my educational journey September 2011 when I started my Early Childhood Education program. In grade 12 I did my work experience in a kindergarten class at the 150 Mile Elementary. Ever since then I've always known I wanted to be a teacher. I graduated from the Early Childhood Education Program April 2013. I knew I didn't want to stop there and I knew my journey wasn't over yet.

I am a single mom of a beautiful, unique 5 year old little girl who is the light of my life. Everything I do is for her. She has told me a few times that she wants to be a teacher just like me. I want to inspire children that no matter what life throws at you, there's always light at the

end of the tunnel.

I graduated from the Early Childhood Education Program April 2013, and started the NITEP program September 2013. I want to teach children who have a hard time in school, or mentor children who don't have a mentor.

*Michelle Jeff, Tsi DelDel (Alexis Creek Indian Band)
Year 1*

I believe I decided to become a teacher last fall (2012). I was pregnant with my son Edward. I wanted to become his teacher. My favorite elementary teacher was Mrs. Paul because she is a calm, caring, patient mentor for our primary students. She inspired me.



*J. Francine Billy
Seton Lake Band
Year 1*



Inquire: I had come across this program by being informed by my mother who had taken the (NITEP) Native Indian Teacher Education program in past years, furthermore, she had inspired me to take on a great opportunity in this program for First Nations and I also liked the support the program provides. The positive feedback I received from my experience working with children and youth got me interested in taking NITEP and also working with children I believe it is something I would enjoy.

Imagine: I envision completing the (NITEP) Native Indian Teacher Education Program, which will strengthen my knowledge in many areas such as: my academics, personal growth and cultural knowledge. I will be obtaining my Bachelor of Education where I visualize myself not only becoming a teacher but, contributing to my community by guiding and empowering students in believing in themselves. Students are essentially our future generation and leaders of our people and society as a whole.

Inspire: To stimulate and encourage students about education would be worthwhile as a teacher. I see for example: my instructors that have taught me in the past and even current instructors in how influential they can be. They can have a great positive effect on students. They can motivate students in different studies and support them to be successful with their career choices and furthermore, encourage them with some of their hobbies they are involved in. It is important to inspire students to believe in themselves and most of all believe that they can succeed in anything they put their mind to.

*Kelli Lacerte, Cold Water Band
Year 2*



MORIES

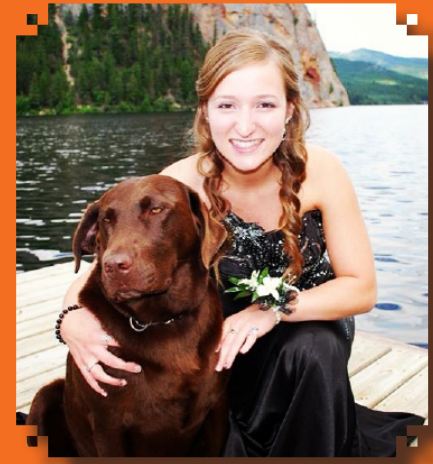


What is it to Inquire? To be brave enough to ask questions, to even question authority. Do not sit in the background and wait for answers to come to you, seek out the answers. To inquire is to actively wonder. We as educators should look to the children to see this sense of wonderment. I look into my sons eyes and see it every day. This is a gift. He reminds me to question, wonder, and inquire. He has the ability to be confident and question all aspects of life. Within each child is the ability to question everything and everyone. I want to be an educator who brings that alive and provides a safe place to question and wonder.

How does one imagine? I imagine a world where education can uplift, empower, and instill pride in all students and educators alike. We are all interconnected and the way we educate should reflect this interconnectedness by not singling out different cultures or peoples.

Inspiration comes from the light inside each of us. The more we allow our light to shine the more inspiration we emit. My inspiration comes from my family: elderly and young members. The young people show me the reasons I need to succeed. The elderly people give me the history and support to succeed. I want to be my son's inspiration to be a giving and receiving person.

*Dancing Water Lulua
Williams Lake Indian Band
Year 2*



Imagine: I imagine myself in 5 years teaching students and helping them by being creative and being able to open up their imagination so they can also do the same.

Inquire: I inquire to push forward. Push myself to achieve every goal I set.

Inspire: My inspiration was my family, friends and the fact I didn't want to be like the people working at McDonalds. I want to teach and motivate students to learn and teach others what they know.

*Breanne Stallard
Adams Lake (Shuswap) Band
Year 1*

URBAN FIELD CENTRE



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

I am the Urban Coordinator, Instructor and also a 2002 Grad! I am honored to work at the NITEP office on the UBC campus, which is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Musqueam people, of which I am a member.

I am passionate about my job! I am happy to come to this place of learning. Working at NITEP is inspiring on a daily basis. 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 (pre-service teachers) and their learning. Our mission is to nurture and cultivate NITEP'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 the larger Aboriginal community and share knowledge and stories – while we "pass the salt"! We 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, how students learn and how to teach to their future students. They are learning how to be INSPIRING so they may see each of their future students reach their greatest potential. NITEP students are learning to INQUIRE; we ask ourselves how can we make a positive impact and change in Aboriginal education! We are committed to creating that change in education! We are IMAGINING that every Aboriginal grade school student will receive and engage in a relevant, honorable education and at the highest quality and our NITEP students understand that they will be a part of that change.

IT IS A GOOD DAY TO BE AN ABORIGINAL EDUCATOR!

*Marny Point
Urban Coordinator*

My name is Chantal Pronteau and I come from an extensive background of mixed ancestry. My mom is of the Red River Métis nation and my dad is of Tsimshian descent. From my dad's side of the family, my grandmother is from Bella Bella B.C. and my grandfather was from Hartley Bay B.C.

I was born and raised in East Vancouver, and when I was fourteen I moved to the town of Klemtu of the Kitasoo/Xaixai's Nation. Klemtu is located in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest along the coast of British Columbia. My five years of living in Klemtu taught me much of the culture and traditions that has been passed down generation to generation for hundreds of years.

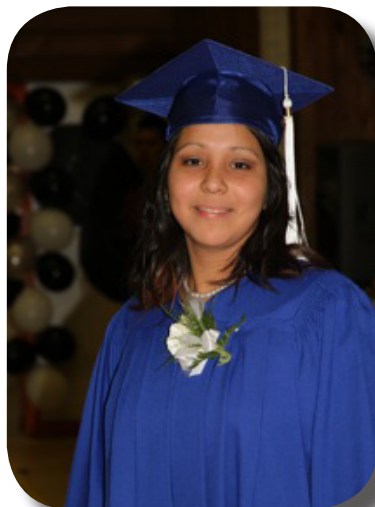
I am in my first year with NITEP, secondary option. I am planning to do a History concentration with a Social Science concentration. I chose to do the NITEP program because of its history with working with Indigenous people and helping them to further their education.

With help from the NITEP program and faculty I hope to inspire more Aboriginal youth/young adults to further their education and never give up on what it is they wish to pursue.

"Whether you think you can or think you can't you are right"
- Harrison Ford

Giaxsixa
(Thank you)

*Chantal Pronteau
Year 1*



Ahnee, my name is Claire Shannon-Akiwenzie. I am Irish and Anishinaabe from the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. I am in the elementary option and plan to focus on science as my teachable subject.

My first year here at UBC and in the NITEP program was incredible. I met many wonderful and encouraging people and was exposed to experiences that inspired and strengthened me in all aspects of my life.

This semester I look forward to becoming more active in the Indigenous community right here on campus as well as in the broader community as an Aboriginal Mentor through the YWCA.

*Claire Shannon-Akiwenzie
Year 2*

My name is Richard Jaques, this is my Christian name. The name given to me by my mother was Ricky Nanawin, this was my grandmother's Indian name. I am a proud father of seven healthy children, five have graduated from high school and gone onto University and College. My two youngest still live at home and attend Ecole Jules Quesnel.

My mother is Swampy Cree from the Poplar River, Manitoba, my grandmother was Cree, my grandfather was Scotch and Cree. My father was from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve of Manitoulin Island, Ontario, his mother was Huron and his father was English and Huron.



*Richard (Rusty) Jaques
Year 2*

My name is Dave Robinson. I am Algonquin from the Timiskaming First Nation in northwestern Quebec. I was born in Windsor, Ontario and have lived in various cities both in BC and Ontario. Growing up as a youth I played hockey at the Junior B level finishing my hockey days playing for the Sarnia Blast. As a boxer I competed in 88 amateur boxing matches, winning titles at the provincial and international levels. In 2003 after a second round stoppage at the Finland World Championships I began coaching. I continued to box until 2012 retiring as the BC Combsport Champion. In 2007, I wrote a poem while training for the Nationals at the River Rock Casino in Richmond BC. It was an uphill battle training for this competition due to the financial necessities of owning a landscaping business with my brother. We both worked seven days a week and trained together at the Astoria Boxing Club. One day a job came and a single tree provided the finances we needed to take a week off for training. After finishing with a bronze medal I wrote this poem that represented my life at that point.

*Earth will open the lids of eyes to see that strength is the soul that bears a weight of burden.
In rings our life will fight to experience knowledge as a leaf finding light for roots to grow.
In rings our life will fight for passion. In rings our life will fight for knowledge.*

Two five-foot sections of the tree were saved and one is being used for training the boxers that I coach. Using a dremel, I engraved the poem on the log. I carved the other log into a sculpture just this past summer. It is an honour to be attending the NITEP program working towards a future where the fight is academic. I am in the Elementary option at NITEP working towards a major in First Nations Education. I believe that my experiences will inspire future youth from all walks of life to believe in their goals. My goal is to teach future generations that goal setting doesn't end in a pass or fail. I like to think that my experiences will inspire future youth to imagine that their passions are relevant.

*Dave Robinson
Year 1*



Hello everyone I am Crystal Asham. I am a proud Ojibway Cree woman from Peguis First Nation in Manitoba. I am in the Secondary option of NITEP, at the Urban Centre. I was blessed to be raised on the beautiful West Coast of Canada in East Vancouver. I am a single mother of two wonderful teenagers my son Dakota and my daughter Raven.

My children inspired me to apply for NITEP. I want my kids to know, that no matter who you are or what your circumstances may be, you can do whatever you want if you believe in yourself. When I imagine the future, I can see myself teaching - while sharing my gift of laughter and creativity.

In this way I hope to inspire youth to be the very best they can be. I know these next four years of learning will be long and at times hard but all the work I put into this will be well worth the effort. My brother Brionne said to me, "Crys" "If you just do the work you will make it through... if look around you - when you are at school everyone is working hard and there is no reason you can not work hard as well... no one is going to push you you have to do it yourself. If you succeed it will be because of you - if you fail it will also be because of you so just remember do the work and you can do it!". My brother graduated this past summer from UBC NITEP and earned his Bachelor of Education.

If I had one piece of advice to prospective students it is to inquire, inquire, inquire (I didn't). Who knew you had to officially accept your acceptance to University???? ha ha not me!!! ... I was just waiting for the first week of classes to begin and I almost missed the deadline to accept my acceptance ~GASP OH NOOO!!!~ ha ha that makes me laugh every time.

If it wasn't for the wonderful staff at NITEP I may not have been here today writing this for the NITEP News bahahaha-haha! Oh well Live, Learn & Laugh about it ;)

My name is Crystal and I am here at NITEP to; Inquire, Imagine, Inspire ! I am excited for the next four years NITEP Here we go! WOOOOO!

*Crystal Asham
Year 1*



*Owen Bedard
Year 2*

My name is Owen Bedard, I am from Prince Rupert and I am half Haida half Tsimshian. I am in my second year of NITEP in the Secondary option, looking to major in history.

I am in the NITEP program to learn more about my culture and to learn more about my own history. I am learning a lot about First Nation culture within the NITEP program, and also learning how to entwine culture with the subject I am teaching.

I am inspired to become a teacher by my mother and by my sister, who both graduated from NITEP, and have become successful teachers and role models to First Nation students, including myself.

Aw Smatmc, My name is Luke Mack, I am Nuxalkmc and I come from Bella Coola. I am in my second year of the NITEP Elementary program.

I used to work in the school system for a few years and figured that I should take a leap and go further, make my way up the ladder to become a teacher. I became interested in teaching when I was in grade 11 as a student teacher's assistant for a grade 5 class.

With an interest in basketball, I was given an a chance to help coach a girls basketball team which led me to coach my own teams the following years. I coached basketball for a handful of years, coaching both girls and boys from 9 - 16 years old. This is where I believe I had my first job as a teacher. I liked teaching the game of basketball to the youth. It gave me confidence when they displayed the skills I taught them in practice.

The opportunity to come to the NITEP program has opened many doors and introduced me to many different and new people that will help me in my future career. I am glad to be a part of this program and so glad that I took the extra step to pursue my career.

*Luke Mack
Year 2*



My Name is Scott and I represent the Kwakiutl people of the Wei Wai Kum Nation from Campbell River. I am very proud of continuing my second year of the elementary option as a NITEP student.

Family and teachers close to me, who have graduated from the NITEP program, have been such an inspiration to me. I thank them for inspiring me to pursue my dreams and for pointing me in the right direction for a positive life. When I look at all of the NITEP graduates over the years, I am reminded that each one of these people had a goal, and achieved it.

I commend the NITEP Program for giving opportunity for Aboriginal people to further their education and achieve their goals. Anything is possible!

Scott Roberts
Year 2



My name is Anne Pettet, nee Jackart. I am from the Ditidaht Nation in the Nuu-chah-nulth territory located on the West side of Vancouver Island. I have begun my second year at the Urban Centre UBC, and have overcome many challenges to be here.

This year, The Teacher Education Office has created the Motto: Inspire, Imagine and Inquire. These three words have special meaning to me. It all began unassumingly at a dinner party in 2011. A teacher from an East Vancouver High school mentioned NITEP as an education path when I described my desire to become an Educator. This is how I have been inspired to attend UBC. My initial inspiration to attend university was through my Grandmother Marie Neufield, nee Clappis, from the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, in the Nuu-chah-nulth territory. She has been the Matriarch in my first family, and has continually educated herself, despite her experiences with the Alberni Indian Residential School in the 1940's. I have witnessed the need for Educators in the small remote village of Ancla, located near Pachena Bay, BC. My hope is to return to the village, and encourage the cultural techniques to be carried on in our traditional ways. Born the second of 6 children, I have become an inspiration to my siblings, especially to my older sister, Maria Oxouzidis, who attends her first year of Criminology at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, leading to possible Law school. I am so supportive of her academic goals, just as others have been of mine.

Five years ago, I could not have imagined where I stand today. Throughout my childhood, my vivid imagination was perceived as impossible, even childish and at 34 years old, I believed I would be nothing more than a Manager at a retail shop. I was told by a career counsellor 10 years ago, that I did not have the attention span to endure more than 2 years of study. As I begin this second year of a 4 year program, those words are only words said to an immature, misguided 26 year old. The changes I have made in my life, the support of the department, and classmates, have made me believe in myself, and what our purpose is, as a teacher candidate. "With imagination, we'll get there." - Harry Connick Jr.

Being in NITEP, has given me the ability to seek within myself, and where I belong in the world. It began with my inquiry to school 2 years ago, thus leading me to continually seek out answers, and creating questions to be answered. My goal is to pass this level of inquiry onto my students, as well as anyone who I come in contact with.

Anne Pettet (Jackart)
Year 2



kalhwá7acw, my name is Louisa Barney, and I'm in my first year NITEP elementary option. I was born on the tenth of June in 1994 and for most of my life I've lived as a ward of the state because my mother (rest her soul) was unfit to take care of me and my younger brother David.

We are not her only children though, I have two older sisters Shanelle and Joleen, they were both given away at birth, and then I have my youngest brother

Brian; he was adopted right at birth. When we were younger we lived with our mom for short periods on and off in N'Quatqua, which is located in D'Arcy. Living on the rez was fun, I had a great childhood, running around freely with cousins, who were also most of my best friends. Growing up I never had a solid/stable figure to teach me things. Most kids learn to fish from one of their parents I didn't have that option; it was my cousins that taught us most of what we know because their parents would teach them and in turn when we hung out they taught us.

My mom was the reason my family was broken up, but because of that she inspired me to do better, because I never wanted to be like her, I never wanted to just settle in a way of life that I did not like or want. I promised myself I would go onto a post-secondary education; go farther than she ever had, to give myself a chance to succeed. I look around on my rez and I see a lot of people settling into lives that they never imagined for themselves. I mean, who grows up dreaming of being a drop out and an alcoholic with a newborn child at the age of nineteen? It makes me sad, I see so much hope and potential, but they are just never given the chance or shown the resources at their disposal.

I came to NITEP because I heard it was a great resource that gave you the best chance to succeed. I want to graduate and perhaps go home and help those kids. To volunteer and organize events; I want to see a future where we educate our kids that alcohol isn't the only way to have fun! To perhaps teach some traditional ways, like language. In my community there are only ten fluent speakers and if we don't start picking it up it may be lost. Yes, I haven't had an easy life, but most people haven't if you look around and listen to people's stories, watch how they interact and you'll see we're all fighting our own secret battles.

I've experienced first-hand how excessive use of alcohol or any substance can destroy a family, tear them worlds apart. I do not wish that upon anyone, so my dream, my goal is to educate the youth on healthy life choices, to inspire them to go for their dreams no matter what, and that they are allowed to inquire! To look until they find the answers they seek.

Louisa Barney
Year 1



Tansi, my name is Jonathan George I am Cree from the Ochapowace First Nations located in the southeast corner of Saskatchewan. I am in my first year at NITEP in the Elementary cohort. I am choosing to become a teacher because I am wanting to inspire the youth of the next generation, to take control of their futures through education.

I have worked with at risk youth since I was coaching basketball within my community. I also imagine my children being able to have a wonderful future and be in control of their own destiny.

For me in my journey I am so interested in learning my culture and language of my ancestors. I believe that, by doing this, it will lead me into the right direction for that ultimate learning experience - so I can inquire about my cultural heritage through my Elders, so that it is never forgotten and will be carried on for many generations ahead. I am proud to be in this program and look forward to learning how to teach. Ay-hi.

Jonathan George
Year 1

Greetings!

My name is Shannon L. Rehlau and I am a transfer student from Douglas College where I received my Associate Degree in Arts for Future Teachers. I am also a mother of a young man of 17, a wife of 24 years, a daughter, sister, niece and aunt. My family originally comes from Winnipeg and then in 1979 we moved to Vancouver. My family and my cousins, but not our children, are the last of our clan to have attained our status when Bill C-31 was passed by the Federal government in 1986. However, it wasn't until 1996, the year my son was born, that my mother, overcoming years of the social stigma associated with being native, decided to apply for our status. The Anishinaabe on the Couchiching reserve, my grandmother's people, are located in the SW corner of Ontario near Fort Francis where my education is being sponsored from. It is important to note that without the assistance of my band I would not be able to get the education I need to become the certified teacher I have always wanted to be.

It wasn't until 2010 that an opportunity to return to school presented itself, so I started upgrading and in 2012 I received my Associates degree. I discovered the NITEP program at UBC and realized that this was an important step in my education and that the information I could garner from the courses offered through this program would help me to be better informed on First Nations issues and how to incorporate the different types of "ways of knowing" to lessons I will have to teach. I have chosen the secondary option as part of the B.Ed. program at UBC focusing on First Nations Studies

and the Social Sciences as my teachable subject(s). It is a tumultuous time emotionally and physically and with the immense amount of patience and flexibility I have I feel that I would be a great influence on the generations of teenagers that follow.

My passion is history and coupled with my studies in First Nations I feel that I could best serve a community, as not only a member of a First Nations group, but as an individual who has seen how change can be for the better when the right guidance is anticipated and acted upon.

Shannon L. Rehlau
Year 1



ON CAMPUS – YEARS 3, 4, 5



Another academic year is here! The years seem to go by so fast.

This year our theme is Imagine, Inquire, and Inspire. These three words alone bring up so many thought provoking ideas and questions.

I recently attended the Truth and Reconciliation event that was held in Vancouver. I listened to heartbreaking story after story from the survivors of Residential Schools. I could only imagine what life has been like for them and their families. I commend them and their strength to share. I thought about my family and the secrets we still carry and refuse to share with anyone. I think about how many stories will never be told.

My thoughts lead me to inquire with different members in my family about their experiences. I learned that many are just not willing to share. I have come to accept that I may never know.

I thought about my own educational journey. I thought about what it was that brought me to where I am today. I understand that the experiences of my family, some good, some bad, have brought me to where I am today. I acknowledge the suffering my family has had to endure. I also understand that no matter what happened to them that they were fighters. It is because of their fight that I am where I am. It is important to always remember who we are and where we come from. It is important to remember and acknowledge the fight our ancestors had, but it is also just as important to think about the direction we are going.

It is with these thoughts that I choose to inspire all those around me that education is key to our people. I inspire you to think about where you have been, where you are going, and what you will do once you get there.

I encourage you all to Imagine, Inquire, and Inspire.

Lucetta George-Grant
Year 3, 4-5 Coordinator

Hello, my name is Leah Hjorth Chantyman. I belong to the NDAZKOH Carrier Nation. I recently relocated to Vancouver to enter my final and professional year of NITEP!!

I started out in Kamloops at TRU with the wonderful Karen Blain as my Coordinator!! I have made so many wonderful friends throughout the years in NITEP and am very thankful for having this opportunity to chase my dreams. I'm glad to be here at UBC to celebrate the *Year of Teacher Education's* theme "Inquire, Imagine Inspire." It is so exciting and I hope to make new friends and have a wonderful experience here at UBC as I had to leave my husband, family and friends at home!

This journey of mine has been awesome, exciting but also had its good times and its bad times so I am so thankful I to be here today completing what I started. I hope to bring back with me all of the knowledge possible to share with the communities and schools I will encounter on my journey of learning and teaching.

Some exciting news I have is that I recently got married August 25, 2012; a beautiful memorable experience that's for sure. I would like to thank my loving husband Stacey and also my wonderful family and friends for supporting and encouraging me. Good Luck to past, present and future NITEP students! LIVE LAUGH LOVE



Leah Hjorth Chantyman
Year 4



My name is Raven. I am a 22-year-old student in my third year of NITEP at the Urban Campus. I come from the Haida Nation, although I grew up in the Vancouver (Coast Salish) area. I came to NITEP in 2011 because I imagined a brighter future for Aboriginal youth. I myself overcame some struggles facing many First Nation youth today, and feel inspired to help make a difference in the lives of future generations.

The staff and peers at NITEP are wonderfully knowledgeable and supportive of my goals, which eases the challenges of university. When my education is finished, I know I will have the tools necessary to create positive change in the Aboriginal community.

Raven McCallum
Year 3

Weytkp' my name is Kenthen Thomas I am a Secwepemc Native from Salmon Arm and I am a Neskonlith Band member. My grandparents are Herbie and Vera Johnny, Dr. Mary Thomas and Mark Thomas. My parents are Phyllis and Gerry Thomas and I have a son and his name is Susep Soulle.

This is my third year in the NITEP program, first year in Vancouver at UBC, after my first two years at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. The transition to UBC had its fair share of challenges from finding a place to reside while in Vancouver, figuring out bus schedules, finding my classes and finding my way through Vancouver. Everything here seems to take longer to do and is way more intense however as the days seem to be flying and I'm becoming adjusted. However, the Secwepemlucw is always my home.

My personal life away from school consists of good movies, time with family and performing my Secwepemc culture. The highlight of my summer was the Salmon Arm Roots and Blues festival where I was invited to do the opening ceremonies and to MC one of the offstages called "The Boogie Barn and Dance Stage" where I met some great people and musicians with "A Tribe Called Red" be-

ing the most notable.

Spending time with my son is always the best thing in my life. He is currently playing rep hockey in the pee wee division in Chase, BC and I will watch every game possible to root him and his little teammates along. I took part in an outreach program called the "Routes and Blues" where I took part in the hike and told stories of the Secwepemc. After our hike we would gather for a community feast and a band that would play long into the night with the pitter patter of our dancing feet bringing in the sunlight of a new day. My little son is also singing and performing with me in some stories and becoming immersed into the wide world of performing arts. This makes me proud of him for stepping out of his comfort zone and challenging himself because that's a philosophy I try to carry into my life with me each and every day; to challenge myself and to stretch the boundaries of my comfort to hopefully grow. Other than that, that's myself in a nutshell. I'm here on campus, I seek the best of myself, I love my son and I love my culture.

Kenthen Thomas
Year 3



ALUMNI CORNER



My name is Perry Smith. I am Shuswap from the Bonaparte First Nation in Cache Creek British Columbia. I graduated from NITEP in 2000. I have been fortunate to have worked in the Abbotsford School District since graduation. Though I began my career teaching grade one at Terry Fox Elementary, I quickly joined the district's Aboriginal department as a Helping Teacher. I thoroughly enjoyed my work as a helping teaching which included cultural integration, co-teaching with classroom

teachers, and mentoring vulnerable youth. In 2004, I was appointed District Vice Principal of Aboriginal Education. In 2006, I was appointed District Principal of Aboriginal Education.

Working to promote Indigenous education and support our Aboriginal students has been an honour and a privilege. In the last 14 years I have been blessed to have worked with wonderful students, families, and staff that have journeyed through the education system. Though not all of my stories are joyful, each of my stories, as an Indigenous educator, has formed who I am. I am stronger, more resilient, and more aware of my own identity because the work I have done in the education field.

To all of my colleagues and future colleagues in Indigenous education, I wish you strength and great fortune in your journey. The work you do individually will have a greater impact on the collective than you will ever know.

Perry Smith

Boozhoo. My name is Mike Akiwenzie; I am from the Anishinaabek Nation, a member of the Chippewas of Nawash First Nations. I am a proud graduate of NITEP. After completing a Bachelor degree in Education in 1991, I began teaching at Grandview/Ɂuuqinak'uuh Elementary School in Vancouver. As a resource teacher I taught Cognitive Education Enrichment and a reading recovery program to grades four to seven.

In 1992, I moved to the Richmond School District into a teacher consultant position. As the new District First Nations Resource Teacher, I created, developed and taught lessons and units on First Nations science, math, and traditions to grades one to twelve. As a member of the Learning Services Department I support the academic, social, and emotional well being of aboriginal students.

In 2009, I completed a Master Degree in Counselling Psychology and since then I have been a Secondary Counsellor and presently, I am an Elementary School Counsellor in the Richmond School District. It is through my personal and professional

experiences that I know the importance of maintaining a positive cultural identity. As Indigenous people we have witnessed many kinds of floods that have attempted to wash our communities away. However, as in our traditional flood story, Waynaboozhoo (transformer/cultural hero), armed with traditional wisdom, knowledge and skills faced the unknown future with hope and endless possibilities. As an educator and counsellor I am still hungry for knowledge and ways to increase my capacity. Like our traditional super hero Waynaboozhoo, I am learning to be a healer and transformer adapting to every situation. Migwetch,

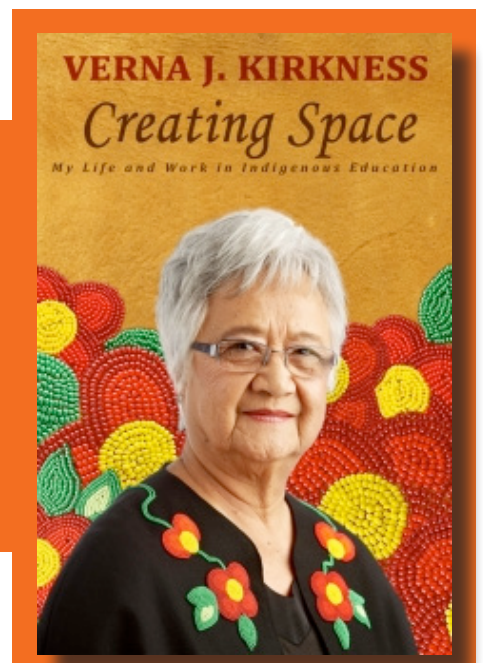
Mike Akiwenzie



NITEP Gathering and Book Launch

On December 13th, alumni of the Native Indian Teacher Education Program and their friends are invited to gather for a reception at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver from 4:45 – 6:00 pm following the FNEC Conference Workshops.

A special feature is a book launch for Verna J. Kirkness, a former NITEP Director: "Creating Space: My Life and Work in Indigenous Education" published by University of Manitoba Press. Room tba.





As the Co-Chair of NITEP's First Nations Education Council, it is with pleasure that I submit how NITEP has laid the foundation so I am able to Inquire, Imagine and be Inspired. Even though I entered the NITEP Field Centre in Williams Lake in 1976 I still feel like it was only yesterday. NITEP provided me with a safe place to inquire, imagine and be inspired to pursue a career as an educator. The doors and windows that the NITEP opened for me have outdone even my wildest hopes and dreams.

Imagine sharing the stage with Chief Justice Sinclair from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and hearing him say "It's education that got us into this mess, and it's going to be education that gets us out." Imagine being inspired by the TRC student panelists who shared their views on the role education and hearing them commit to going back to their learning environments to do their part to bring about positive change. Imagine the feeling of accomplishment when those British Columbians of all ages who have never learned about the impact of Residential Schools have their interest piqued enough to inquire - to want to learn more. Imagine being inspired by a residential school survivor who spoke at the sacred fire at 6:30 am telling us that this September was the first time in her life that she felt a sense of belonging, joy and peace. She said that until the TRC event, throughout her life she has dreaded September with feelings of loneliness and fear. She also said that she is now able to move forward.

In my role as the Superintendent of Aboriginal Achievement I know that there is much work to be done to address Aboriginal student success (or lack thereof). However, when looking at data over time, it is apparent that if a school district uses its data to drive decisions, has a sound Enhancement Agreement (with a commitment for: Aboriginal information being embedded throughout the curriculum; providing courses such as FNS12 and EFP10; having Aboriginal educators visible in their buildings and district; addressing the challenges of ensuring that Aboriginal students feel like they belong and feel safe) with clear measures and tied to their Achievement Contract, actively seeks involvement from Aboriginal parents and communities that Aboriginal students in their school districts are more likely to have Aboriginal students succeed. Funny isn't it? All the things that were identified in the Indian Control of Indian Education Paper in 1973 still apply. That paper continues to, even today, cause me to Inquire, Imagine and be Inspired.

DeDe DeRose

Congratulations to the NITEP Grads!



2013 Spring Graduates

Steven Adams

Brionne Asham

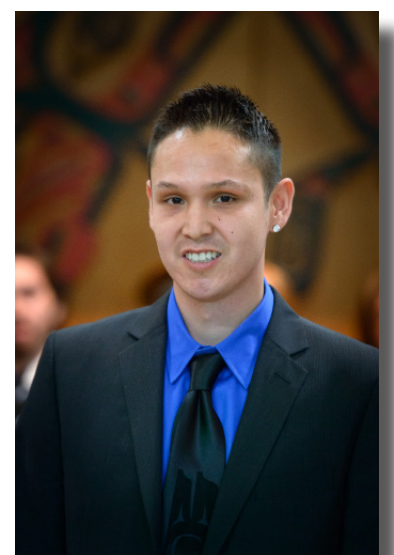
Joni-Rae Johnson

Camielle Laslo

Brandon Peters

Tyler Peters

Tanya Terbasket





How do I apply to NITEP?



Applicants submit the NITEP application package.

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

Submit to:

Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP)
Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia
1985 West Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

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

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 Aboriginal 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 July 31 and be responsible for paying the Faculty of Education Application Fee.



How do I get readmitted to NITEP?



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

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

Submit to:

Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP)
Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia
1985 West Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

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

2. Submit any official transcripts of college or university transfer work completed.
3. Complete a Faculty of Education Application for Readmission Form and submit the re-application fee.
4. Submit two Confidential Reports.

If you are offered readmission 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 readmission.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JULY 31