



highlights

Summer 2007

IAHLA AGM and Conference Hugely Successful

The 2007 Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association's (IAHLA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference was held on April 18th and 19th in Richmond, BC. The AGM provided attendees with an update of IAHLA projects and activities, including the continued preparation of the IAHLA Framework document and the IAHLA Adult and Post-Secondary Institute Data Collection Project, both of which are detailed within this newsletter. Also at the AGM, two new IAHLA representatives were enthusiastically welcomed: Martha Manuel, representing the Neskonlith Education Centre, and Deborah Wilson Green, with the Kitimat Valley Institute.

The highlight of the first day of the conference was an evening presentation by Chief Clarence Louie from the Osoyoos Indian Band on the necessity for First Nations education to lead to employment. In addition to eight informative workshops, the second day of the conference was marked by two keynote addresses. In the morning Dr. Moura Quayle from the Ministry of Advanced Education spoke on strengthening community partnerships in Aboriginal post-secondary education and Chief Shawn Atleo of the Assembly of First Nations, BC Region, spoke about adult learning and global change. Overall the response to the conference was enthusiastic and our thanks to everyone who shared in the wonderful information exchange that took place over the two days.

Data Collection Project

During the AGM, Juniper Consulting provided an update to attendees of the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association Year 2 Data Collection Project. Since its introduction in 2004, the data collected has provided interested parties with a better understanding of current trends and issues in First Nation post-secondary institutes and adult education. The data collection project helps First Nation institutes to examine student and institute data using a framework developed for First Nations adult and post-secondary institutes by First Nation institutes. The framework has five elements: personal, leadership, cultural and wisdom development and student satisfaction. (see next page)



Pauline Waterfall, Vice Chair of IAHLA and Dr. Moura Quayle, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education speaking at the 2007 IAHLA AGM and Conference

Mark Your Calendars!

The 2008 IAHLA AGM is scheduled for April 23rd and 24th.

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Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA)

Suite 113 - 100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2

Toll-Free: 1-877-422-3672

T: 604.925.6087

F: 604.925.6097

iahla@fnesc.ca

www.fnesc.ca/iahla

The Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) was formed at the request of Indigenous controlled Post-Secondary Institutes and Adult Learning Programs to address and further the mutual interests of all Indigenous controlled Learning Centres in British Columbia (BC). The organization receives administrative support from the First Nations Education Steering Committee.



Education Coordinator Training Program

The first course (NVIT – INST 102) of the Education Coordinator Program has been successfully delivered at five sites throughout the province. The program was created by the FNEC Post-Secondary Sub-Committee, working through IAHLA, and based on survey feedback and expressed need by communities and Post-Secondary Education Coordinators. The Nicola Valley Institute of Technology's (NVIT) proposal to develop the program was chosen from institutes' submissions, and they are in the process of delivering the program, with the support of the Indian Studies Support Program (ISSP) and IAHLA.

The funding for program start-up costs and the delivery of the first course of the twenty course program was provided by INAC. Plans are underway to schedule the next course delivery. All courses are accredited with some laddering to an Education degree or a Business Management degree. The first course (NVIT INST 102), which covered Policy Development and Application, was well received by the over 75 students who attended during the Williams Lake, Kamloops, Victoria, Vancouver, or Terrace delivery. Plans are underway to schedule the next course delivery.

For more information on the Education Coordinator Program, contact the FNEC office or visit www.fnesc.ca.

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Nineteen of the 25 eligible institutes responded to the data collection survey, for a 76% response rate. From the student survey made available, 255 learners from 18 institutes responded. The data collected demonstrated an overall decrease in funding issued for adult and post-secondary institutes compared to the 2005/2006 data. Seventy-nine percent of the institutes offer language courses and 68% reported involvement in language revitalization.

The aggregate data collection final report for 2006/2007 is available at www.fnesc.ca/iahla. Each participating institute received their individual institute data.

The IAHLA members approved the data collection project to continue for the 2007/2008 year. Please watch for further information so that your institution may participate as we reach for our goal of 100% participation. Thanks to everyone who contributed this year.

IAHLA Framework Update

The IAHLA Framework document serves to communicate the current standing of Indigenous controlled adult and post-secondary institutes, and to outline opportunities both to seek resources to support these institutes and for collaboration with other agencies to increase community based educational offerings. The document was presented in draft form to the Campus 2020 team at the November IAHLA Board meeting. The IAHLA Framework document, which was adopted at the 2007 IAHLA AGM, will serve as the IAHLA work plan for the coming year. To review a copy of the document, visit www.fnesc.ca/iahla.

Have you ever wondered what's inside that mysterious computer tower of yours?

Information Submitted by Jan Green

Has your community started connecting to the global world via the Internet and you're wondering how your family and community will benefit from this virtual connection? Can a person successfully blend traditional culture and computer technology? These questions and more were answered at the 2007 Summit- Strategic Use of Information Technology for Communities.

The 2007 Summit took place from February 23-25, 2007 in Vancouver, BC with representation from many communities throughout British Columbia and beyond. This year's Summit kicked-off with the third annual pre-conference day, hosted by the First Nation Technology Council. People from various backgrounds and disciplines in the fields of government, business, health, education, non-profit, research, technology services, as well as many community leaders and students learned about and shared information on how Internet Computer Technologies (ICT's) can move communities from developing capacity into building community capital.

Throughout the Summit participants learned about the wealth of community initiatives using Internet Computer Technologies and the potential for new technologies and projects. Many First Nation communities are on the leading edge of ICT's and shared their stories and experiences during the 2007 Summit. For more information, visit First Nations Technology Council on the web at http://www.fntc.info/news_and_events. Watch for details on the next 2008 Summit!



The Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute

Submitted by Deanna L.E. Nyce, B.Ed., M.Ed, Chief Executive Officer, WWNI and Linda Adams, BA, Executive Assistant, WWNI

The Nisga'a have been offering adult and post-secondary education for the past thirty-two years. Fourteen years ago, the Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWNI) was incorporated and became a community driven student focused post-secondary institution mandated by Nisga'a Government. The WWNI has become a federated school of the University of Northern British Columbia through a Federated Agreement and is also a federated school of Northwest Community College. For other educational projects, the WWNI enters into formal agreements with other post-secondary institutions such as the Royal Roads University, Malaspina University-College, and BCIT. The WWNI is also in partnership with the Vancouver School of Theology and the Native Ministries Consortium. The WWNI is celebrating fourteen years of successful programming in the Nass Valley and elsewhere.



2007 Grads, Left to right: Joseph Coosemans, First Nations Language Certificate; Lori Nyce, Bachelor of Arts degree; Yvette Mc-Millan, Bachelor of Arts degree; Linda Morven (Adams-Tait), Bachelor of Arts degree. Photo by Rob van Adrichem, Director of Media/Public Relations/Communications, UNBC (2007).

WWNI offers a rare opportunity for students to study and work in an Aboriginal community where they can interact with Elder experts in Nisga'a language, culture, and history. WWNI's most popular courses continue to be Nisga'a language and culture courses, and these elements are incorporated into all of WWNI's programming. The WWNI's most popular, and mainstay program is the Bachelor of Arts: First Nations Studies-Nisga'a degree program. It includes options for academic certificate completion in Nisga'a Studies, General First Nations Studies, First Nations Language, and Public Administration. It incorporates the Northern Advancement Program which has been very successful in providing access and academic support, especially for first time university students, and the Education Diploma program in Nisga'a Language and Culture which is critical to its revitalization. The WWNI is currently finalizing a Master of Arts program that will begin in September 2007.

The WWNI also offers Vocational-Technical Programming. These are college-level programs that include course work in areas such as career and college preparation, home support, and business administration. The Career and College Preparation

NVIT Announces New Lower Mainland Campus

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology recently announced its plans to open a second campus in the Lower Mainland, in addition to the institutions' home campus in Merritt.

The new campus will be located in Burnaby, BC and is expected to be open in time for the fall 2007 semester.

IAHLA Online

www.fnesc.ca/iahla

Visit IAHLA online! The IAHLA website is the central source for information about membership, research, career planning, and Indigenous adult education and post-secondary institutes



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program is offered tuition free to students each year. Students can complete one to two courses they lack for university or college entrance, they can complete the high school diploma program, or prepare for their GED exam. Recent Voc-Tech program offerings include Entry Level Carpentry, Basic Mining, Essential Skills for Work, Level 2 Carpentry, and the Residential Building Maintenance Worker Program. Upcoming 2007/08 programs include Plumbing & Electrical programs, and Licensed Practical Nursing.



Jacob McKay, Chair, WWNI Board of Directors. Photo by Rob van Adrichem, Director of Media/Public Relations/Communications, UNBC (2007)

The WWNI has delivered a wide array of courses in continuing education over the years including moose hide tanning, basket weaving, creative writing with Thomas King, and photography with Greg Staats. Most of the courses delivered are non-accredited. However, industrial certification courses such as Flagging, First Aid, Transport Endorsement, Food Safe, and WHMIS are provincially recognized. The WWNI is in discussion with UNBC to offer some continuing education courses that have university credits attached. For example, students can take computer technology courses that would accrue toward university credit.

The WWNI has a small, but very dedicated staff that is renowned for serving WWNI students very well. Not only do WWNI staff work for the WWNI, they are also students and graduates of WWNI, and practitioners of Nisga'a culture. They participate in the Nisga'a community.

WWNI is guided by a very dedicated Board of Governors who are elected or selected by the Nisga'a community and a very dedicated group of Elder advisors who assist with curriculum development, and who have assisted countless researchers in a myriad of topical areas.

The WWNI is moving forward to obtain official recognition from the provincial government. It is the vision of the WWNI Board of Governors to construct a campus based on traditional Nisga'a architecture as shaped by its panoramic landscape. The WWNI is honored to assist in shaping the tomorrow for the Nisga'a Nation, other Aboriginal people, and the world of academia.

If WWNI can be of assistance to your institute or others in the province, we are happy to share our story.

The WWNI thanks IAHLA for its interest and support of rural and Aboriginal educational programming. The WWNI extends its very best wishes to all IAHLA institutes.

IAHLA Board

Chair: Verna Billy-Minnabarriet, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology - Merrit

Vice-Chair: Pauline Waterfall, Heiltsuk College - Waglisla

Secretary: Cathy Seymour, Kwadacha Dune Ty

Treasurer: Huia Martin, Native Education College

Member: Jacob McKay, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a - Nass Valley

Member: Vacant, Kootenay-Okanagan Region

Member: Sheila Joseph, Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Education Society - Hazelton

Member: Jan Green, Nuu-chah-nulth/Coast Salish Region

Member: Louise Lacerte, Ted Williams Memorial Learning Centre

Member at large: Sharon Wilson, Nuxalk College