



We are proud to present volume two of the BCIT Aboriginal Services News Update.

We hope to use this newsletter as a platform for discussion, innovation, information and community involvement.

In this second issue we concentrate on the amazing skill set, storytelling and perspectives of our Aboriginal Peer Mentor and Mentee editors: Austin Goode, 2nd year Online Journalism, Ken Paulin, 1st year Online Journalism. Austin and Ken write about the Elders in Residence, BCIT Aboriginal Staff, Mi Chap Tukw – The BCIT Aboriginal Gathering Place and news happening around the Coast Salish territories.

Also, make sure to check out programs and services offered through BCIT Aboriginal Services.



HONOURING OUR LEADERS CELEBRATION

Are you graduating this year? Honouring our Leaders ceremony is coming June 2015. To attend or get involved call 604.432.8474.

DATES AND EVENTS

EVENTS

Honouring our Leaders Celebration
June 10, 2015

Coast Hotel
1763 Comox Street
Vancouver BC

Calling for 50 graduates from June 2014 – June 2015. Also looking for new Alumni to attend as special guests – first 20 to respond.

Please inquire at SW1-1521 or 604.432.8474.

UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP, BURSARIES AND AWARDS

The Norma Rose Point Student Success Grant for Aboriginal Students deadlines:

Technology
January 26, 2015

Trades
January 5, 2015

Apprenticeship completion
Inquire at Aboriginal Services.

The Irving K. Barber BC Scholarship Society
Awards of \$1,000 – \$3,500 for Aboriginal learners.
Deadline March 31, 2015.

See inside Update for more info on our Ausenco Aboriginal Trades Bank

BC Hydro Scholarship Packages accepted between January – April 2015.

The First Citizens Fund Student Bursary Program
Deadline May 2015.

INDIGENOUS ARTIST SPLASH CREATES RIPPLES TO LAST THROUGH TIME

BY KEN PAULIN

BCIT is honoured to have accomplished Coast Salish artist Aaron Nelson-Moody creating a traditional house post on campus.

His English name may be Aaron, however his Squamish Nation name, Tawx'sin Yexwulla, which translates as: Splashing Eagle, so most people know him simply as "Splash". His art is internationally recognized and has recently been featured as part of Vancouver's 2010 Winter Olympics.

Joanne Stone-Campbell asked Splash if he would participate in this project because it was important to have a local Aboriginal artist in order to honour the Coast Salish people whose traditional lands BCIT resides on. She requested he do the work on campus in order to make this an interactive experience for all students, and to illustrate that indigenous culture is alive and well, and not simply something to be found in a museum. It is being commissioned to celebrate BCIT's 50th anniversary and to show Aboriginal students that we have a place here at our school.

The theme Splash has designed is meant to illustrate First Nations past, present and future. It is being created using BCIT's colours and will eventually be permanently displayed at BCIT's SW1 – Gateway building.

When asked why a house post was chosen, Splash explained that traditionally a Coast Salish house post was used to hold up a long-house tribal gathering place. It is the main support that the rest of the building is constructed around. The symbolism of choosing to erect a house post at BCIT is the hope that in some small way it can serve to remind the Aboriginal students at BCIT about our strong foundation. Just as a house post is used to support a long-house, the symbolism of having one erected at BCIT's Burnaby campus is a potent symbol of support for our community that honours from where we came, where we are now, and where we are heading united as people.



SPLASH CARVING THE HOUSE POST AT BCIT.

A MAN WITH A FOOT IN TWO WORLDS

BY KEN PAULIN

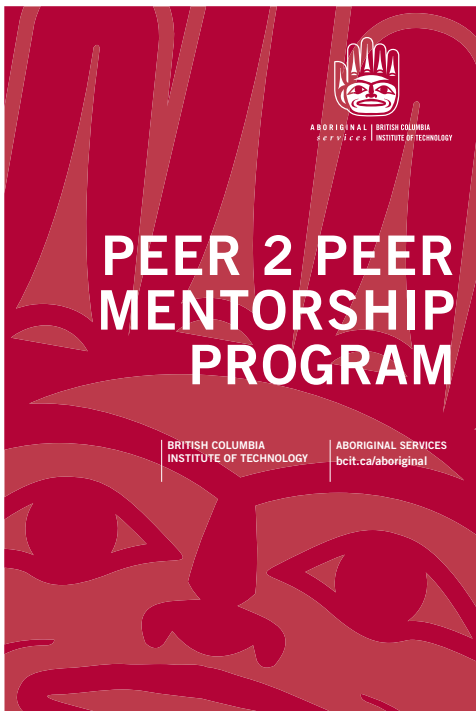
Many First Nation's people find it difficult to reconcile our traditional ways with Christianity. They see the damage caused by residential schools and view the church as an entity that is opposed to our culture and traditions. Yet Alf Dumont, an elder at BCIT's Aboriginal Services office, offers his council in helping interested students in finding a balance between the two worlds.

Alf has been involved in a Christian ministry for over 20 years and is still very much involved with the Aboriginal traditions. In his words, he sees himself as a bridge between the two worlds and shows by example how someone can have a foot firmly planted in each. He understands how many might be conflicted and leads by example. He shows how one can be both a First Nation's person who honours our traditional ways, as well as being a good Christian.

Alf has always made himself available to anyone seeking guidance, especially so when concerning matters of faith. He has made a great effort to try and heal the rift many indigenous people feel regarding Christianity. His genuine belief that both traditions can not only coexist, but thrive, is something that is unmistakable. His approach is to help heal instead of divide. He speaks of acceptance and works tirelessly to share the peace he has found in his own life, with any who wish to hear.



ALF DUMONT



**PEER 2 PEER
MENTORSHIP
PROGRAM**

BRITISH COLUMBIA
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ABORIGINAL SERVICES
bcit.ca/aboriginal

BCIT alumni

Did you know that you are automatically a part of the BCIT Alumni Association if you have completed a credential from BCIT for a program of not less than 15 credits?

The BCIT Alumni Association connects and engages alumni in a lifelong relationship with the BCIT community by providing innovative programs and services that support alumni and student success, as well as committing to help our alumni succeed in their careers.

As an alum, you can look forward to:

- Networking events with future alumni and leaders in your field
- Opportunities to connect with fellow graduates
- Opportunities to volunteer
- Job opportunities
- Better benefits
- Contests with great prizes
- And much more!

If you have any questions, comments or requests, please do not hesitate to visit or contact us at alumni@bcit.ca.



ARE YOU AN ABORIGINAL TRADES STUDENT WHO NEEDS FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

The Ausenco Aboriginal Trades Bank can help lighten the cost of gaining a trades education.

Contact us today.

Aboriginal Services
604.432.8474

bcit.ca/aboriginal

Ausenco

AN AWARD THAT MAKES DREAMS A REALITY

BY AUSTIN GOODE

This past summer, ten students were chosen as the Bell Media Aboriginal Broadcast and Media Communications Entrance Award winners for BCIT.

This award worth \$27,500 pays for the tuition of the students while they attend BCIT for two years. As you can imagine this is a life changing opportunity for Aboriginal students looking to pursue a post- secondary education. We had the chance to sit down with some of the winners and get their reactions upon receiving the award and what it means to them.



THE BELL MEDIA WINNERS IN A GROUP PHOTO WEEKS AFTER RECEIVING THE AWARD.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY ABOUT BCIT ABORIGINAL SERVICES

"I WAS SURPRISED BUT AT THE SAME TIME I KNEW IT WAS SOMETHING REALLY, REALLY BIG. IT MEANS THAT I FINALLY GET TO LIVE OUT SOMETHING I HAVE WANTED TO DO MY ENTIRE LIFE AND BE IN THE TELEVISION AND FILM INDUSTRY. THIS IS JUST A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND IT'S ALL MADE POSSIBLE FROM THIS AWARD."

CHAD GENERAL

"IT BLEW MY MIND TO BE ACCEPTED FOR THE AWARD. I WORKED VERY HARD IN MY LAST FEW YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL AND TO BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO MOVE TO A CITY LIKE VANCOUVER AND PURSUE WHAT I LOVE DOING IS UNBELIEVABLE. I REMEMBER GETTING THE EMAIL AT SCHOOL AND FREAKING OUT DURING WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE QUIET STUDY TIME. I DON'T COME FROM AN ESPECIALLY WEALTHY FAMILY SO THE OPPORTUNITY WAS ALL THE MORE EXCITING AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL."

JACOB SCHMIDT

"MY INITIAL REACTION WAS ONE OF CHEERING JOY, THIS AWARD IS A BIG OPPORTUNITY WITH SO MANY POTENTIALLY LIFE CHANGING CAREER CHOICES. I NOW HAVE THE ABILITY TO LEARN THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS NEEDED TO GAIN EMPLOYMENT IN THE GROWING AND FAST PACED TV INDUSTRY. I WANT TO CREATE AND PRODUCE CONTENT FOR CANADIANS AND WITH THIS AWARD I'M ONE STEP CLOSER TO MAKING THAT DREAM A REALITY."

JORDAN WAUNCH

"I FELT AS IF I JUST DESTROYED THE DEATH STAR; IF THE DEATH STAR WAS POVERTY AND MY FORCE ABILITIES WERE NARROWED DOWN TO SCHOOL WORK. IN TWO YEARS I WILL HAVE A VALUABLE SET OF SKILLS AND PERHAPS FIND A HIGHER PATH FOR MY VIDEO ART."

IAN PEASE-BRACERO

"MY INITIAL REACTION WHEN I FOUND OUT I WON WAS PURE SHOCK AND EXCITEMENT. I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO WIN THAT MUCH MONEY FOR ONE SPECIFIC AWARD. WITHOUT THIS AWARD I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD COMING TO BCIT. SO I AM EXTREMELY THANKFUL TO ABORIGINAL SERVICES, STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND BELL MEDIA FOR SETTING ME UP WITH AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY."

RACHELE VANZOEREN

A JOURNEY FROM EAST TO WEST

BY AUSTIN GOODE

Chad General has embarked on a journey to the Lower Mainland all made possible by Bell Media. Chad received news that he was one of the ten Bell Media award winners for BCIT. When the Six Nations native received word that he had been chosen as one of the recipients he was surprised to say the least.

"I was surprised, but at the same time I was really excited because I knew it was something big. It means that I finally get to live out something that I wanted to do all my life and be in the television and film industry. This is just a step in that direction and I finally get a chance to do it through this award."

Chad who's in the Television and Video Production program here at BCIT has made the transition to the west coast and BCIT fairly well, largely because of Aboriginal Services.

"It's been a lot easier. I've tried post-secondary before and I didn't have much support and that's why I wasn't successful at that time. With Aboriginal Services at BCIT I've found that they're very helpful, their door is always open. Right from the reception desk to Joanne and Derik they're

all very supportive and know how to deal with the things you're dealing with."

Although Chad is busy pursuing a TV career, he finds time to be the General Manager of the North Shore Indians, a Senior B lacrosse club in BC.

Coming from the Six Nations reserve in Ontario, lacrosse is something that Chad believes they're born with.

"It's something that I love to do and it's in our blood, it's part of our nationhood I guess and part of our culture and traditions."

Being part of lacrosse since he can remember, Chad feels sports are very important and help kids further in life.

"Any sport that kids in general put their minds to should go for it, because it helps them, not only in life circumstances, but it helps keeping their mind focused on what they want to do in life. It's a great stepping stone towards schooling."

Now when it comes to his proudest moment concerning lacrosse, it isn't one of his own accomplishments, rather his daughters.



CHAD GENERAL AT BCIT.



CHAD WITH THE NORTH SHORE INDIANS OF THE SENIOR B LACROSSE LEAGUE.

"Watching my daughter win the National Lacrosse Championships in Whitby, Ontario, was such a proud moment for me. She fell in love with the game and now she plays rugby. It was all made possible through lacrosse."

Chad will continue to chase his dream of becoming a successful TV producer and it's all been made possible through the Bell Media and Aboriginal Services at BCIT.

ABORIGINAL INVOLVEMENT TO HALT PIPELINE EXPANSION

BY KEN PAULIN

There is a strong native presence amongst the group of protesters that have been busy erecting barricades and setting up camp atop Burnaby Mountain. Kinder Morgan is beginning work tunneling through the mountain with the intention of doubling the pipeline that carries bitumen from the Alberta oil sands to the shores of the Fraser River.

Rose Siccama is a First Nation's woman who is very passionate about why she is taking a stand against this development. When asked why she was participating in this protest she said.

"As an Indigenous woman, it's my duty to help stand for the land and Kinder Morgan can't be coming onto Unseated

Territory and doing as they please. Um... to construct this pipeline, oil based resource, when there is so many other alternatives for energy on this planet. The governments need to stop what they're doing, and

everyone needs to stop this because it's going to result in the destruction of the environment and the people and will affect everyone for generations to come."



BE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE AND WHERE YOU CAME FROM

BY AUSTIN GOODE

When I first applied to BCIT for the Broadcast and Online Journalism program, I was filling out the application and then came the question ... are you of Aboriginal descent? At the time when I checked the Metis box I didn't realize the impact that this would have. Nearly three months later I would receive a phone call that would change my life forever.

His name was Samuel Hill, a Student Financial Aid and Awards Advisor for BCIT and a former Advisor at Aboriginal Services on campus. I was working and he left a message to call him back as soon as possible. He said there was an award I could apply for, going into my first year at BCIT. So I called Sam back and he tells me "Austin you have an opportunity to receive an award worth nearly \$28,000 dollars that will pay for your tuition and some living expenses." I truly didn't believe him at first and he assured me this was no joke. Two months after that I received the Bell Media Aboriginal Broadcast and Media Communications Entrance Award worth \$27,500 dollars. The reality of this award still hasn't sunk in and I always wonder if I didn't check that box that day and self-identify where would I be?

The award was life changing yes, but what I appreciate most now, going into my last semester here at BCIT, is how much Aboriginal Services on campus has helped me. They welcomed me with open arms and have provided so much support that I can't thank them enough. So why not self-identify?

I talked with Sam and he speculated as to why some students may not.

"An Aboriginal student may feel that he or she may be stereotyped and singled out. Some institutes lower admission standards which therefore diminishes an Aboriginal student's achievement of being admitted into a post-secondary institute and some Aboriginal student's feel that information is unnecessary to their educational endeavors. Also the memory



AUSTIN GOODE CELEBRATING AT BCIT.



PROUD BELL WINNER WITH BCIT STAFF.

of the residential school impact may leave students with hard feelings."

It is clear that all these reasons factor in to why some students choose not to self-identify but Sam believes the benefits of identifying are endless.

"It generates self-pride and helps strengthen the notion of Aboriginal community on campus. It helps institutes acknowledge a diverse student population at post-secondary. Finally, it increases the sharing of cultural knowledge by Aboriginal

students in their class discussions which leads to better understanding of the issues that affect Aboriginals."

Obviously every single Aboriginal student will not self-identify and that's ok. But making Aboriginal student's aware of the possibilities that come when you do is something that's important. It has opened up so many doors and opportunities for myself and I wouldn't be where I am today if I didn't check off that little box a year and a half ago.

2014 ABORIGINAL 2015 SPEAKER SERIES



PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Hear compelling speakers share their stories on issues that affect the Aboriginal community, culture, and the world around us.

Join us at BCIT Burnaby Campus, SW1, room 1521.

Can't attend? Ask about live streaming.

For dates and topics, visit bcit.ca/aboriginal.

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people for allowing us to study on their traditional territory and share our stories.

MCD 2066

For more information, contact:

Joanne Stone-Campbell
Joanne_Stone-Campbell@bcit.ca
604.451.6901
bcit.ca/aboriginal



A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

We recently sat down with Aboriginal Services to see what they have in store for the upcoming year.

BY AUSTIN GOODE

“Being away at school, far from your home and family can be tough — I know that first hand. But for Aboriginal students at BCIT, there’s Mi Chap Tukw (a home away from home), the campus’ Aboriginal gathering place. Since 2011, it has welcomed Aboriginal students with open arms, to feel a sense of inclusion and belonging. Tucked away in SW1, it’s a place on campus where students can learn about and also participate in ceremonies celebrating the diversity and richness of Aboriginal culture. “

Since opening, Aboriginal Services has worked hard to expand its involvement on campus so that all students can learn about Aboriginal heritage. With the fall semester beginning, Aboriginal Services is in full swing and has some new and exciting projects on the go.

Derik Joseph, an Aboriginal advisor at BCIT since 2008, couldn’t be more excited for what this year has to offer.

“This year we are really implementing student perspective into all of the things we do at Aboriginal Services,” he told Austin Goode.

Joseph points to the newly formed Aboriginal Student Council, Peer 2 Peer Mentorship program, and upcoming workshops as examples.

“They all incorporate indigenous perspective. As it is the student that leads the direction of the great services here at BCIT, it should also be the student who can pass on the information to others through story,” he explained.

Although Aboriginal Services was built for Aboriginal students, many people don’t realize that

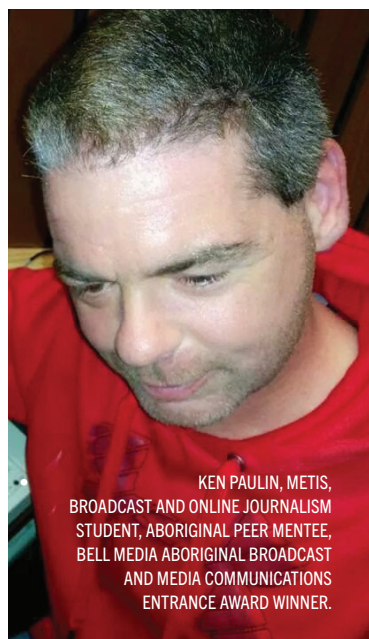
it’s meant for ALL students. This is one thing Derik can’t stress enough.

“Our doors are open to all students. If you are interested in Aboriginal culture or have questions to ask about our student services, please feel free to drop by and say hello,” he told Austin Goode.

The centre also hosts community Elders, who are available to talk three days a week, something Joseph says he’s particularly excited about.

“Our Elders are really BCIT’s best kept secret for cultural advising.”

Throughout the year Aboriginal Services puts on a number of events on campus, so don’t be shy and stop by to say hello. You will be amazed at what Mi Chap Tukw has to offer.



KEN PAULIN, METIS, BROADCAST AND ONLINE JOURNALISM STUDENT, ABORIGINAL PEER MENTEE, BELL MEDIA ABORIGINAL BROADCAST AND MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS ENTRANCE AWARD WINNER.



AUSTIN GOODE, METIS, BROADCAST AND ONLINE JOURNALISM STUDENT, ABORIGINAL PEER MENTOR, BELL MEDIA ABORIGINAL BROADCAST AND MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS ENTRANCE AWARD WINNER.

EDITORS

Austin Goode

Ken Paulin

If you wish to be on the mailing list for this newsletter, please send us your name, address and e-mail.

Please pass on this copy to others who are interested in BCIT’s Aboriginal Services. Thank you.

MORE INFORMATION

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