

BCIT ABORIGINAL SERVICES

NEWS UPDATE

SPRING 2014



BRITISH COLUMBIA
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ABORIGINAL SERVICES

bcit.ca/aboriginal

We are proud to present volume one of The **BCIT Aboriginal Services News Update**.

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

This inaugural issue will concentrate on who makes up the Aboriginal Services office at BCIT, what services the department offers and a brief look at who we are along with upcoming events and grant deadlines. We will also include experiences of a few aboriginal students at BCIT.



DATES AND EVENTS

EVENTS

Honouring our Leaders Celebration

June 12, 2014

Calling graduates from July 2013 – June 2014

Also looking for Alumni to attend as special guests – first 30 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

September 29, 2014

Trades

June 30, 2014

Apprenticeship completion

Inquire at Aboriginal Services.

BCIT Spring 2014 Bursaries deadline:

June 30, 2014

BC Hydro Scholarships

Packages accepted between

Jan 28 – April 15, 2014

The First Citizens Fund Student Bursary Program deadline:

May 23, 2014

Bell (formerly Astral Media) Aboriginal Broadcast and Media Communications

Entrance Award deadline:

August 5, 2014

Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Award deadline:

Aug 31, 2014

HELLO FROM PARIS

BY MIKAH FOX

My given name is Mikah Fox but my traditional name is Wallachea, and my heritage is Northern Tutchone, Tlingit and Italian descent. I belong to the Crown Clan, and I'm a member and beneficiary of Kwanlin Dun First Nation, which is located in Whitehorse Yukon – where I was born and raised.

I'm currently living and studying in "The City of Light" which is Paris. My journey to Paris began at BCIT where I'm currently a student in the School of Business, finishing my last year of my *Bachelor of Business Administration* degree. I would never have thought that pursuing my education would eventually lead me to studying abroad in one of my dream cities.

Paris has been an amazing experience so far – from the amazing architecture, delicious food, beautiful art and the fashion! Since Paris is one of the fashion capitals of the world you have to appreciate everyone's unique and distinct expression of style. I have met many great Parisians who have showed me around their gorgeous city from a local perspective.

During the day I attend Le Pole Leonard De Vinci University in the finance district in La Defense. I have gained a new respect and understanding for the French culture and how they conduct business within the European Union. I have met some of the most amazing international exchange students – who I instantly connected with and know will be friends with for many years into the future.

To live in Paris has always been one of my dreams but I wouldn't have been able to get here without the amazing support from my mother Jacine Fox, my family, Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the amazing team at BCIT Aboriginal Services.

Thank you Joanne, Derik, Celeste and the amazing elders. I feel truly honoured and blessed for receiving your support and constant words of encouragement.

If you're in Paris before June come say hi and we can have tea and bannock by the Eiffel Tower.



MIKAH AT ABORIGINAL SERVICES

PHOTO TAKEN BY MIKAH
OF THE EIFFEL TOWER

IT TAKES DETERMINATION, BUT IT'S WORTH IT

BY YAHOEL VAN ESSEN,
BACHELORS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BCIT's *Marketing Management Diploma in Entrepreneurship* program was a valley and mountain top experience. I polished off the infamous program with distinction over 31 courses, taken in four semesters. I participated in clubs focusing on business consulting and won second place overall in ARLO's 2013 *Innovation Challenge*. I didn't have a second to spare. I was busy completing the *Leader's of Tomorrow* program, building a business and spearheading BCIT's first *Aboriginal Convocation* by raising over \$13,000. I could go on, but the importance of my gloating is to show what can be accomplished in your spare time with a 7–10 course load. BCIT showed me how I could work 10 times harder and be 10 times more efficient.

Thanks to BCIT, I had the opportunity to study in Toulouse – southern France – in partnership with the Toulouse Business School, one of Europe's premier private business schools. This option allowed me

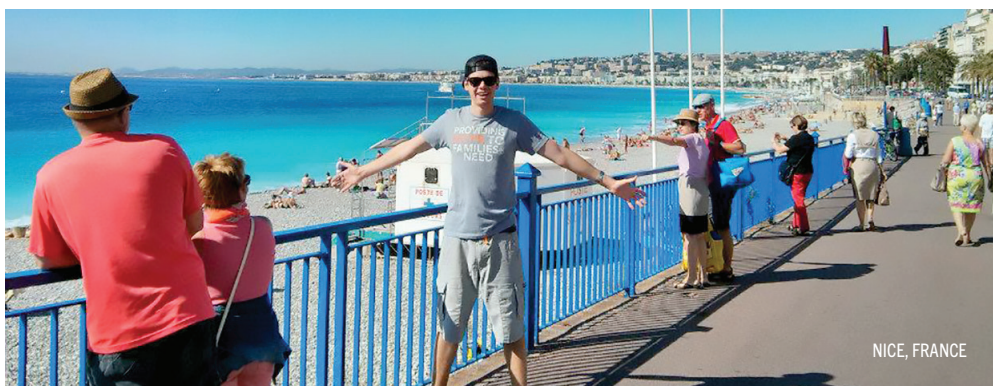
to earn credits toward my *Bachelors in Business Administration*.

The experience taught me a lot about myself and about our culture in Canada. It changed what I value in life. That kind of distance really makes you appreciate the relationships you have back home. While I was there, I visited 19 cities—backpacking on weekends and days off. That made me more risk tolerant/spontaneous; resourceful, and just makes the world seem a lot more accessible. I was immersed in the language and developed a love for linguistics.

So, was it worth it? Despite having to sacrifice my social life, income and even comfort I say it has been the most valuable three years of my entire life. The work tests you physically, emotionally and spiritually, it'll bring the best and worst out of you. If there is anything out there more profitable for my personal and professional growth I'd really like to hear about it.



YAHOEL AT ABORIGINAL SERVICES



NICE, FRANCE

KEGAN BELINA'S JOURNEY

Kegan Belina is a 29 year old Gitksan first nations student at BCIT. Originally from Terrace, British Columbia, Kegan moved to Vancouver in 1999, and began working full-time instead of completing high-school as scheduled in 2001. Over 10 years passed, and Kegan decided to better his life and complete his high school education as an adult. In 2012, he was accepted into the two-year *Diploma of Technology in Business Information Technology Management* program at BCIT.

In 2013, Kegan began to take part as a Mentor in the BCIT Aboriginal Services *Peer 2 Peer Mentorship* program. He makes time to provide guidance and resources to assist fellow students in developing strategies to succeed in their post-secondary education. Additionally, he has taken on the role of Aboriginal Council Representative on the BCIT Student Association, and represents the voice of Aboriginal students at BCIT when participating and voting on decisions that affect the entire student body.

In 2014, Kegan has earned a Certificate in *Associate Project Management (CAPM)*, and is about to graduate from the *Business Information Technology Management* program with distinction. Kegan is getting ready to begin a final 12 months of school at BCIT to earn a *Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration*.

Kegan is now assisting Aboriginal services to launch the BCIT Aboriginal Student Council, and hopes to improve BCIT student life for Aboriginal students in any way possible before graduating with a BBA in 2015.





DR. LORNA WILLIAMS PRESENTING
DURING THE SPEAKER SERIES AT BCIT.



DR. MARK AQUASH SPEAKS ABOUT INDIGENOUS
STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY AT BCIT.

ABORIGINAL SPEAKER SERIES

The Aboriginal Speaker Series at BCIT which started back in October, 2010, continues to be a success at the Burnaby campus.

When the first speaker named “uncle” spoke on the topic, *“Melting the Ice In the Heart of a Man”* back in October of 2010, Aboriginal Services wasn’t sure what to expect following the presentation.

Nearly four years and thirteen speakers later, the series is as strong as ever and is a big part of BCIT. Aboriginal Services coordinator Joanne-Stone Campbell explains, “The series shows the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community what BCIT has to offer and the expertise that Aboriginals offer to the community.”

Campbell, who finds the speakers, uses her past and present involvement in the community to secure presenters.

“I have a long list of communities that I’ve been involved in. I will get recommendations from people, but most of the speakers so far I’ve known personally,” says Campbell.

The Speaker Series is also unique because we web cast the presentation while it is being presented live.

“We want to share the experience with everyone, whether it be elementary or secondary students, people from around the province or the States.”

The web casts are uploaded to the Aboriginal Services website so that can be accessed at any time, adding further reach into the community.

“Because the sessions are recorded, people who have missed it – such as staff and students – can go online and watch the presentations which have been getting a lot of views,” says Campbell.

Campbell believes the series will continue its success, with other schools following suit.

“We hope to continue this series as I think it’s a really unique opportunity. I see a lot of other schools doing it as well because it shares knowledge and resources. It’s part of our culture to share our knowledge with other people.”

ABORIGINAL SERVICES STAFF

**Joanne Stone-Campbell, Coordinator**

Aanii, my name is ly'imelwit, which means blanket of strength. It was given to me in a Squamish Naming Ceremony. I also carry an Anishnaabe Spirit name which is "Sound of Thunderbird Speaking". My parents Agnes Stone, and the late Francis Stone, both elected chiefs, were my inspiration from Michipicoten First Nation in Ontario.

I am a registered member of the Squamish Nation, and live in West Vancouver with my beautiful 10 year old daughter, Cascade.

My career highlights include: being appointed Justice of the Peace for the Province of Ontario; I was one of the youngest First Nations appointed as Marriage Commissioner at the age of 22; receiving the title of "Women of Distinction, in Education, Training and Development" from YWCA in 2008; carrying the 2010 Olympic torch; and working in education for more than 30 years.

As the coordinator of Aboriginal Services for BCIT, I work with a team to help students of Aboriginal ancestry fulfill their dreams of a higher education by providing a safe, supportive, and culturally relevant environment. Together, we aim to build bridges for our future generations so that they may be free to be themselves. Through this we have broken down barriers by showing our rich, ancient, and authentic history of which people can be proud and change the way people think about Aboriginal people.

My purpose in life is to open doors by encouraging others to fulfill their dreams

**Derik Joseph, Advisor**

Hello. My full name is Zaa Derik Gammel Joseph. I was born in Victoria and raised in the Tl'azt'en Nation Territory and Vancouver. My motivation comes from my upbringing around the value of life-long learning. As a father, recently completing my MA, I can easily relate to balancing work, school, and family. My role is to provide a safe and productive environment for students, make available the resources on and off campus and provide opportunities to give back through initiatives such as the *Peer Mentoring* program. Aboriginal Services Gathering Place is an environment for studying, to receive support and meet each other.

I am proud to stand beside Rose, Joe, Alf, Jennie, Vince, Blair, Joanne and Celeste to support BCIT's diverse Aboriginal student population.

TRADITIONAL SWEAT LODGE CEREMONIES

In Aboriginal culture, the sweat lodge empowers the natural elements of our being with the four elements of water, air, fire, and earth. Each element brings a quality of balance to our lives through prayer and purification. As you participate in the ceremony, you are purified with breathing, meditating, and in the sharing of words, prayers, songs, and storytelling.

A lodge ceremony is a gentle and caring approach to the cleansing of your mind, body, and spirit. Through the experience, your body is cleansed of the toxins within your body, which aids in the de-stressing of your mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. The non-threatening, non-imposing, and safe environment allows you to seek your greater power with all cultures.

Welcome BCIT Staff and Students

The Aboriginal Services department exclusively welcomes BCIT staff and students to join us in our sweat lodge ceremonies. All lodges start at 9:00 AM, please be there no later than 11am. The lodge will usually run until 4:00 pm. Please dress in weather appropriate clothing.

Parking is in Lot G beside SE30. You can pick up a parking pass in lodge.

Sweatlodge Dates for 2014

- > May 18 – day before Victoria Day
- > September 21, 2014
- > October 19, 2014
- > November 16, 2014
- > December 21, 2014
- > January 18, 2015
- > February 15, 2015
- > March 15, 2015

Please notify lodge keeper if you have any health concerns. Please bring your own water bottle.

ELDERS IN RESIDENCE



**Jennie Heyes,
Kitikmeot
Region**

Jennie is from the Kitikmeot Region and is a skilled soapstone carver, family counselor, and teacher. Jennie offers students

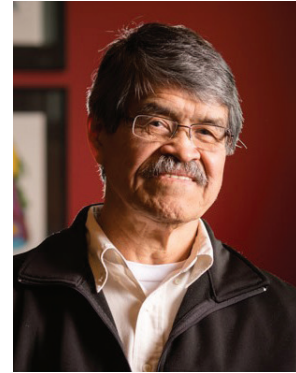
her expertise in Jin Shin Do and aroma therapy at the Gathering Place.



**Alf Dumont,
Ojibwa**

Alf's, Ojibwa name is Biidaaban Migizi, has served in the United Church of Canada for 40 years — as a minister and as director

of the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre (a theological training centre for First Nations people entering the ministry), among other positions. He works to help build bridges of understanding between Christian and traditional Ojibwa spiritual ways.



**Vince Gogag,
Gitksan**

Gawa gani, or Vincent Gogag in English, was born and raised in Kitwancool, now Gitanyow, a Gitksan village 42 miles northwest of

Hazelton.

He studied for five years at UBC and received a BEd '79 and DSC '80. He has been employed as a trapper, gillnet fisherman, lumberjack, tree-faller, and high school teacher.

Vincent now lives in False Creek, or Snaug in Musqueam, and spends his retirement weight lifting, hiking, camping, playing basketball, soccer and singing with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir. He enjoys spending time with his son and daughter and volunteering at BCIT, UBC, VanDusen Botanical Garden, and marathons.

Please contact Aboriginal Services if you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment.



HONOURING OUR LEADERS CELEBRATION

Are you graduating this year? Honouring our Leaders ceremony is coming June 2014. To attend or get involved call 604.432.8474.



ABORIGINAL STUDENT CIRCLE

Goals

Create a unified Aboriginal student voice to speak to the Student Association Council and Aboriginal Advisory Council

Overview and Values

The Aboriginal Student Council is a student group on BCIT campus. We acknowledge the Traditional Territories of the Coast Salish People on which the main BCIT campuses reside on. Our values

are based on the identity, culture, family history, role modeling, and work ethic of our Aboriginal Student population at BCIT. The Aboriginal Student Council is elected voluntarily to represent Aboriginal students and to ensure that the Aboriginal student voice on campus is heard. The Aboriginal Student Council works closely with the Aboriginal Services department. We report to the Student Association Council as well as the Aboriginal Advisory

Council. Take a look at the profile of Kegan Belina, Student Association Aboriginal Council Representative and Business Information Technology Management second year student. Also check out the Facebook page: BCIT Aboriginal Student Circle.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY ABOUT BCIT



CHOOSING BCIT WAS A NO-BRAINER FOR ME SINCE IT IS SO CLOSE TO MY HOMETOWN AND I AM CLOSE TO MY FAMILY – WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO ME. I AM GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF SUCH A GREAT SCHOOL AND I AM VERY EXCITED ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE HAS TO OFFER.

I HOPE ONE DAY I WILL ACCOMPLISH MY DREAM OF BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL SPORTSCASTER.

~ AUSTIN GOODE,
BROADCAST AND
ONLINE JOURNALISM STUDENT



BCIT HAS BEEN A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ME. I'VE LEARNED QUITE A BIT ABOUT MYSELF AND MY ABILITY TO PUSH BOUNDARIES AND CHALLENGE MYSELF – NOT ONLY ACADEMICALLY BUT PERSONALLY AS WELL.

I'M ENJOYING THE PROGRAM AND FEEL LIKE I'M LEARNING MORE AND MORE INVALUABLE SKILLS AS WELL AS MEETING NEW PEOPLE WITHIN THE INDUSTRY AND PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS THAT I WILL CARRY FORWARD INTO MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER.

~ JILLIAN PASQUAYAK,
RADIO ARTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT STUDENT

EDITORS

Austin Goode

Jill Pasquayak

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

Aboriginal Services

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