

CAMPAGNOLO LECTURE RETURNS WITH SENATOR MURRAY SINCLAIR

Canadian Senator Murray Sinclair will be the featured speaker at the annual Campagnolo Lecture in Restorative Justice.

The Campagnolo Lectures are hosted by the Comox Valley Community Justice Centre, in partnership with North Island College and School District 71.

“We are honoured to have Senator Sinclair join us this year to share his thoughts and experiences on restorative justice, Aboriginal law and the Truth and Reconciliation commission,” said Bruce Curtis, chief administrator of the Community Justice Centre.

Called to the Manitoba Bar in 1980, Senator Sinclair has had a distinguished career with a legal practice focusing on civil and criminal litigation, human rights law and Aboriginal law. He was the first Aboriginal Judge appointed in Manitoba and served as co-chair of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry in Manitoba and as Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

As head of the TRC, he participated in hundreds of hearings across Canada, culminating in the issuance of the TRC’s report in 2015. He also oversaw an active multi-million dollar fundraising program to support various TRC events and activities, and to allow survivors to travel to attend TRC events.

Upon his retirement from the Bench in 2015, he was asked by Manitoba’s Indigenous community to allow them to nominate him to an appointment to Canada’s Senate. He was appointed to the Senate in 2016 and has sat on the Senate Standing Committees on Aboriginal Peoples, Fisheries and Oceans, Legal and Constitutional issues, Rules, and Ethics and Conflicts of Interest. He has also



acted as a Mediator, makes numerous public appearances on matters relating to Indigenous issues and the Senate of Canada.

“Reconciliation is about atonement. It’s about making amends. It’s about apology. It’s about recognizing responsibility. It’s about accounting for what has gone on,” said Sinclair. “But ultimately it’s about commitment to maintaining that mutually respectful relationship throughout, recognizing that, even when you establish it, there will be challenges to it.”

The lecture is taking place Thursday, March 5 at the Sid Williams Theatre, starting at 7:30 pm.

Tickets to the event are available through the Sid Williams box office:
<https://www.sidwilliamstheatre.com>.

To see a full list of past Campagnolo speakers and video of their lectures visit <http://www.communityjusticecentre.ca/events/>.

Introduction

*Kelly Shopland, Director
Aboriginal Education*

Gilakas’la,

As we begin a new year, we are welcoming many new projects at NIC with a focus on Indigenization and Reconciliation.

The development of a new Aboriginal Education operational plan for Reconciliation, Indigenization and Decolonization continues. Following our work with the Regional Aboriginal Education Advisory committees, we met with NIC administrators, faculty and staff. It was inspiring to see so many people come forward to discuss how NIC can fulfill the responsibilities to the Indigenous Education Protocols, as well as the TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP. This feedback will be incorporated into our draft plan, which we expect to have complete later this spring.

One step has already been taken, with the renaming of the Aboriginal Education Council to the Indigenous Education Council. This official name change took place in January and will be reflected throughout NIC in the coming year.

This year also marks a significant step forward for a major project at our Campbell River campus – a new Gathering Place. More details on the project will be unveiled in the coming months. I want to thank all the members of the community, students and Elders for their input and feedback on how to create a welcoming and respectful space for indigenous teachings and events to take place.

While these are major projects taking place around NIC, we know there are also examples of the great work being done by our students, faculty and staff.

If you know of an event, activity or project, please share it with us: ab.ed@nic.bc.ca

PROGRAMS AND COURSES HIGHLIGHT

NIC developing Indigenous Language Fluency Certificate

NIC is expanding its Indigenous language offerings with the development of new certificate, set to launch this fall.

“This new certificate is a response to local Indigenous communities and individuals from those communities who were concerned about the critical state of their languages,” said Sara Child, NIC Aboriginal Education Facilitator and developer of the certificate. “For most communities the only fluent speakers are well into their 70’s, there a very few adult speakers. In addition, there is little to no support for language learning for adults or programming that leads to fluency in the language.”

The certificate expands on NIC’s current Indigenous language offerings in Nuu-chah-nulth and Kwak’waka, which also incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing and being along with language teaching.

“The framework for the certificate will support the infusion of culture and draw on local fluent elders and knowledge keepers,”

said Child. “By adopting an Indigenized, experiential approach, drawing on local Indigenous knowledge systems, ways of knowing, protocols, methodology, pedagogy and land-based learning we intended to provide a pathway to healing. The program also supports a multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary, intergenerational process and offers an opportunity for students to gain an understanding of the integral link between language, culture and wellness.”

The curriculum is in its final development stage and is expected to be approved this spring for a first offering in September 2020.

“When our communities approached NIC it was with the hope and determination that we would develop a unique certificate rooted in the restoration of those vital aspects of our Indigenous knowledge’s and ways of being,” said Child. “That request presents many challenges and we hope to provide a program that will help to unearth those ways of being encoded in our language



NIC Aboriginal Education Facilitator Sara Child is leading the development of a new Indigenous Language Certificate program at NIC.

that have been buried under decades of colonized education. We are navigating new ground. I have no doubt that this will be an empowering journey a journey that will change the perspectives of our students and their communities, and transform how we do education.”



Students in NCN 096 celebrate their last class of the fall semester. Photo and story submitted by Roz Latvala, ABE instructor, Wahmeesh Centre, Tsaxana, BC.

Discovering a road to reconciliation on the West Coast

Since 2013, North Island College has had a presence in the Nuu-chah-nulth community of Tsaxana.

We were the recipients of an Aboriginal Special Service Project and over two years graduated 10 students in a program designed for the community, Cultural Heritage and Resource Management.

We have had an ongoing upgrading program through the Adult Basic Education department.

Now, the College has heard the voice of the community – “It is time to recover our language!”

Thus, in the 2019 fall semester with the support of both a community instructor and

an elder, twenty students registered to take NCN 096 (Fundamental Course in Nuu-chah-nulth language).

At the conclusion of the fourteen-week course, the students attended a community meeting and introduced themselves in Nuu-chah-nulth with their traditional names.

Those students without Nuu-chah-nulth ancestry adopted a wildlife name. Support for the course translated into a request to the instructors to continue learning to the next level (NCN 097) this semester.

So, thank you North Island College for getting us started on the reconciliation road and a better future for us all on the West Coast.

PROGRAMS AND COURSES HIGHLIGHT

NIC business student named UBC Sauder Ch'nook Scholar

by UBC Sauder School of Business

Chris Scarlatti knows the value of hard work. A resident of Courtenay, Scarlatti worked minimum wage jobs for more than two decades, picking up invaluable skills and expertise that would one day lead him into his new phase of education.

"I went back to college and decided that since I was good with mathematics, I'd pursue a business degree in accounting," said Scarlatti.

Scarlatti enrolled in the Bachelor of Business Administration program at NIC. Once he was in the program, his horizons widened. "They [faculty at NIC] started to push me to strive for new goals," said Scarlatti.

It was at the encouragement of an Aboriginal advisor at NIC that he applied to the Ch'nook Scholars Program at the UBC Sauder School of Business — a coveted opportunity that gives Indigenous post-secondary business students in British Columbia the financial means, mentorship and connections to succeed in their studies and careers.

The program, which began in 2007, complements post-secondary education and aims to equip students with leadership skills and business knowledge. Scarlatti knew the scholarship would take his new academic journey to the next level.

"When I got the acceptance letter, I nearly hit the roof. I couldn't believe it," recounted Scarlatti.

The scholarship provides Scarlatti with the financial means to continue his studies at NIC.

"Knowing that there was extra help to pay for tuition and books — it meant that I could pick up an extra course each semester which I couldn't afford before. This helps me accelerate my studies a bit more," said Scarlatti, who's is pursuing his dream of becoming a Chartered Professional Accountant.

Scarlatti draws inspiration from people who continue to help him surmount personal and financial hurdles. When he attains his CPA, he wants to give back by working with not-for-profit companies.



He's also determined to tell more Indigenous business students about the Ch'nook Scholars Program, and wants to ensure that organizations across BC recognize the talent that comes from colleges and communities just like his.

[Read the full story and learn more about the Ch'nook Scholars Program at the UBC Sauder School of Business.](#)



NIC Elder in Residence June Johnson (right) is joined by NIC faculty and staff for TRC Talks in the Campbell River Aboriginal Students' Lounge. TRC Talks provide staff the opportunity to reflect on, and learn more about the TRC's Calls to Action, local Laichwiltach history and culture and the ways we can create a more welcoming environment for Indigenous learners.

MEET NIC'S ABORIGINAL ADVISORS

NIC's Aboriginal Educational Advisors are available to help students with education planning, career goals and funding sources.

**Sandra Mountain
 Mixelakwila campus**

Why did you become an advisor?

Advising for me is a culmination of years of working in assessments, admissions, accessibility, financial aid and other departments. I want to share that experience on how the post secondary system works from start to finish. I thrive on personal interactions and establishing relationships with students that span their time with us. I enjoy the opportunity to inform, mentor and support a variety of students to achieve their goal, no matter what that goal may be. Education is my passion so I am excited to share that with others. To sum up what informs my work, in a quote....

"So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable." - Christopher Reeve

What services and supports do you offer for students?

Because Port Hardy is a smaller community, I wear a few different hats. I can provide information and guidance on:

- how to apply and necessary requirements such as assessments or sponsorship letters
- prerequisites and upgrading
- course and career planning
- financial aid



I also take part in high school advising in Port Hardy and Port McNeill, community liaison and outreach and recruitment initiatives and sit on the First Nations Education Committee. You'll also see me out in the community attending events and representing the College.

What's something you would like students to know?

First, I am excited to be living on the Island — that is my own dream come true! I feel really welcomed by the community. I look forward to building the NIC presence here and expanding educational opportunities. I truly believe education is empowering; it develops the whole person and improves the quality of our lives. And it can be fun!

Most importantly, I believe it should be available to everyone, no matter their level or previous history. Education is a gift we give ourselves and in turn, it benefits us all. I look forward to meeting potential and current students, so come by and say hello!

Gila'kasla!

**NIC Elder in Residence
 awarded Honorary Fellow**

NIC Elder in Residence and Bachelor of Science in Nursing faculty member Dr. Evelyn Voyageur has been named a 2020 Honorary Fellow by Douglas College - the highest honour presented by the College.

Dr. Voyageur attended Douglas College and graduated with a diploma in general nursing. From there, she began her career as a Registered Nurse.

Through her career, Dr. Voyageur became a leader in Indigenous Health Care, founding the Native and Inuit Nurses Association of BC, co-authoring a number of publications on cultural safety and nursing, and leading NIC in its development of in-community training and indigenization of curriculum for student nurse.

"Dr. Voyageur's contributions to health care, post-secondary education and Indigenous communities reflect the values and passion that Douglas College strives to promote in our students," said Dr. Kathy Denton, President of Douglas College. "Her dedication to supporting and mentoring future generations of nurses is truly inspiring."

The Honorary Fellow is the latest recognition Dr. Voyageur has received for her work. She has received the Indspire Award for Outstanding Career Achievement, the CNA Top Nurses of Canada Award and an ARNBC Lifetime Achievement Award. She was also the first Indigenous nurse to receive Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Award of Excellence in Nursing.

"Evelyn is an inspiration to all of us in the Faculty of Health and Human Services," said Dr. Kathleen Haggith, NIC dean of health and human services. "Her wisdom and teachings profoundly affect the direction of our Bachelor of Science in Nursing program."