

Gathering Voices

SELKIRK COLLEGE ABORIGINAL STUDENTS & SERVICES

Winter 2017 (1)

Our circle grows...

Boozhoo elders, students & community. I am delighted and honoured to be a part of the Aboriginal Services team and to be working with Jessica Morin. I would like to introduce myself to all you to start off in a good way.

I am from Thunder Bay in Northern Ontario and have lived in this territory in Nelson for eight years. I am Ojibway/Anishinaabe on my mother's side and Ukrainian on my father's side. I have recently completed my Master's degree in Indigenous Communities Counselling Psychology at the University of Victoria.

My other current role is the Kootenay Boundary Aboriginal Patient Navigator with Interior Health.

I'm looking forward to working and learning from you all.

Chi-Miigwetch,

Leah Lychowyd

Aboriginal Access & Support Assistant

Reflecting on our Fall Semester

Strengthening Our Relations Regional Aboriginal Youth Conference

This two-day conference was the third conference hosted in partnership with Selkirk College and the Columbia Basin Trust. The conference was attended by approximately 90 youth, Elders and educators from across the BC Southern Interior, and included various cultural activities - MC Nyla Carpentier, Keynote Address by Wab Kinew, workshops by Dr. Christopher Horsethief, The En'owkin Centre and Winnipeg's Bear Clan Patrol. The conference ran concurrently with the International Peace and Justice conference also hosted by Selkirk College and the Mir Centre for Peace. It was a great experience full of connection, learning, and fantastic workshops. Check out our facebook page for some [photos](#) of the experience.

Elders-in-Residence Program

We are grateful to have several of our elders from our Elders Program coming to our Castlegar campus to support our students in sharing their wisdom, skills, and their laughter in the Gathering Place, especially as many of them travel a significant distance to be here.

Over this Fall semester we have been lucky to have Joanie Holmes, Métis elder from Grand Forks come to host a Pine Needle basket workshop as well as visit with our students. We have also had Métis elder Donna Wright visit several times co-facilitate our beaded earring workshops well as visit, sing and drum with our students. We also had Ganishka Silverfox, an Ojibway elder from Naksup join us earlier this semester to connect with our students. Most recently we had Anne-Marie Smith lead us in a drum making workshop with some of us using hide tanned by one of our talented students.

Stay tuned for details of our upcoming Winter 2017 Elders Program dates!



Winter 2016 Programming in the Gathering Place

Come join us for the following Indigenous Health Webinars:

Jan. 12th - 10:00 - 11:30am: Part I: Indigenous Health Leadership – with Leslie Bonshor

Jan. 17th - 10:00 - 11:30 am: Indigenous Bio-cultural Heritage: Health, Wellness and Land – with Julian Napoleon

Wed. Feb 1st 12:00-1pm – FNHA PURSUING CULTURAL SAFETY From Unearthing Bias to Realizing Reconciliation with Carol Peters, Dina Lambright, Vishal Jain

Thurs. February 2nd - 10:00 - 11:30 am - Safety Planning for Domestic Violence Using the Medicine Bundle with Corinne Stone

Thurs. February 9th - 10:00 - 11:30 am – Aboriginal Youth Voice Educating Adults – with School Aged Children and Youth (SACY) members

Tues. February 14th - 10:00 - 11:30 am - Raising the Next Generation: Transforming the Legacy of Residential School with Denise Findlay

Tues. February 21st - 10:00 - 11:30 am - Warriors Against Violence – with Joyce & Joseph Fossella

Drumming with Shemmaho - Tuesdays
12:00 - 12:50pm
January – 17th, 24th, 31st
February – 7th, 21st, 28th

Pow Wow Dance with Jessica - Mondays
12:15 - 12:45pm
February – 6th, 20th, 27th
March 6th



Pictured in photo on left (L to R): Aboriginal students; Laura Coombs, Santanna Hernandez, Haley Seven Deers and Karen Newmoon. Also pictured is Simka Marshall, chair of British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS)

Previous page Left: Leah Lychowyd and Jessica Morin at our Holiday Celebration

Centre: Métis Elder Donna Wright welcoming Wab Kinew

Right: Lesley Garlow, elder Joanie Holmes & Raven Hiebert creating and visiting

“Being involved in the inaugural BCFS Indigenous Students' Conference emphasized to me the importance of Indigenous voices within the student community and I was proud to see how many Indigenous students were involved in making this a reality at their post-secondary institutions. The speakers gave me a fresh perspective to the struggles that Indigenous students face within both post-secondary and the K-12 system and to listen to the experiences and activism of the speakers and fellow Indigenous students was truly inspiring. This was an unforgettable experience and I am honoured to have been part of it” – Haley Seven deers (*pictured above*)

[Lynx Portal](#) - Free Online Career Portal for Aboriginal Students looking for employment. Please contact Olga Sherstobitoff - osherstobitoff@selkirk.ca for more info.

The Gathering Place – A gentle reminder that the Gathering Place is a space dedicated to the promotion of Aboriginal culture, tradition and ceremony. It is intended to support Aboriginal students in their learning journey, but we welcome all students who are interested in learning about Indigenous cultures and participate in events held here. We have the project room available as a quiet space for Indigenous students to study, connect, and gather. Any student is able to book the space for up to two hours for an Aboriginal specific topic, get in touch with Jessica (jmorin@selkirk.ca). We also have our Elder’s lounge as a resting quiet space to support our Elders when they come to visit us. Come drop by and say hello!

Aboriginal Services Contacts

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get**connected**

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