

President's Update to the College Community



Serving the communities of Northwestern BC

March 17, 2006

Freda Diesing School of Art & Design

School Launch

Roberta Perry, the only living sibling and Executor of Ms. Freda Diesing's estate has granted the College permission to title a new school of art after Freda.

The Freda Diesing School of Art and Design has been established to honour and recognize Freda's legacy to the art world. Freda was a tireless educator and a champion of Northwest First Nations art. She is credited with making a significant contribution to the revival of First Nations art and her influence and respect is recognized internationally.

The "School" is not a bricks and mortar facility. It is a program area that will focus on First Nations northwest coast art of the College region. It will offer new and existing courses that lead to certificates and diplomas. We are currently in discussion with Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design to develop a collaborative Degree in Fine Arts. This degree will be distinct from other degrees offered in the Province due to its unique focus on First Nations art of northwestern BC.

Rocque Berthiaume, a faculty member of the College, has been hired to advance the new School. He will work with an advisory committee of First Nations artists and curators from across the region, including Demsey Bob, Stan Bevan, Ken McNeil and Nathalie McFarlane. Regular reports and consultations will take place with First Nations Council as work progresses.

The former First Nations Artist in Residence carving program will become part of the School's offerings and is scheduled to run this September in Terrace and Prince Rupert. A subsequent offering may take place in Kitimaat Village pending funding contributions.

People of the Cedar Exhibition

On March 2nd, the Canadian High Commission launched an Art Exhibition entitled *People of the Cedar* in Canberra, Australia. Co-curated by NWCC's own Rocque Berthiaume, the exhibition showcases works of art from Pacific northwest First Nations artists. Featured artists include Freda Diesing (Haida) and Dempsey Bob (Tahltan-Tlingit), as well as Walter Harris (Gitksan), William White (Tsimshian), Roy Henry Vickers (Tsimshian), Glen Wood (Gitksan/Tsimshian) and Ron Sebastian (Wet'suwet'en/Gitksan). The launch of the exhibition was covered by Australia's national and international media and included a public announcement by Canadian High Commissioner to Australia, Michael Lier, of the recent launch of Northwest Community College's Freda Diesing School of Art and Design. Freda's moon face mask is being used as the feature exhibit on the cover of the exhibition catalogue and in promotional material. Sponsors of the exhibition include the Australian division of Alcan.

This was a significant event for the northwest and for the College. It has created the opportunity for various long term relationships with the Australian art community and educational institutions.

Essential Skills for Work (ESKW)

The response to this new program has been very strong and it is now being offered in partnership with First Nations communities in the following areas: Kispiox, Glen Vowell, Laxgalts'ap, and Lax Kwa'laams. Each program has enrolled approximately 20 people.

Four new instructors have been brought into the CCP Cluster to teach ESKW:

Casey Forslund
Rachel Pozzo
John Dyck
Glenn Groulx

Please join me in welcoming them to the College.

New Faces at NWCC

In addition to the new ESKW instructors, the following people have joined the college staff or taken on new positions:

Diane Cullen

Program Coordinator CE,
Smithers Campus

Irlanda Price and Evie Nance

Educational Advisor (job sharing)
Terrace Campus

Mary Hiemstra

Campus Administrative Officer
Smithers Campus

Tracy Moore

Program Officer CE
Smithers Campus

Angie Gagnon

First Nations Access Coordinator
Smithers Campus



NWCC School of Exploration & Mining

Last summer NWCC worked in partnership with the Smithers Exploration Group to utilize a \$360,000 grant from the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources (MEMPER) to develop and deliver exploration assistant training in bush camps around our region. 170 students were trained with over 70% of them gaining immediate employment.

As a result, MEMPR has recognized the School's *Mining Exploration Field Assistant* (MEFA) program as the leading exploration education and skills development program in the Province. NWCC has set the standard for a province-wide roll out of MEFA which will see the College playing a lead role. Over \$220 million dollars is being spent in mining exploration in British Columbia; 70% of that in the Northwest.

Some of the 'secrets' of our success to date are:

- Industry partnership - We couldn't have done it without the help of the Smithers Exploration Group
- Curriculum developed, refined and edited with input from Industry experts
- On-site, applied learning & performance-based learning outcomes - Energy & Mines and Employers were impressed that we offered practical training in a bush camps, under real working conditions
- Instruction delivered by industry experts
- 50% First Nations instructors
- Community consultation, information sessions & promotion of mining as a career, and not just a job
- Delivery in communities throughout the Northwest

Building on the success of this work, this spring and summer the NWCC School of Exploration and Mining is offering:

Project #1 - \$300,000

- Mining Exploration Field Assistant (8 day field camp)
- Driller's helper (2 weeks)
- Basic Prospector Training (1 wk)
- Intro to Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Draining (1 wk)
- Camp Manager program (8 days in-camp training in: Terrace starting April 3; Mackenzie starting April 24)

Project #2 - approx \$1,000,000

A rollout of last summer's training model - now the Mining Exploration Field Assistant program - throughout the province in partnership with:

- Smithers Exploration Group and their local industry counterparts
- College of the Rockies
- North Island College
- College of New Caledonia
- Northern Lights College

Project #3 \$1,000,000+

A proposal relating to a potential third project valued at approximately \$1 million from the Federal Government for NWCC's School of Exploration and Mining; \$500,000 from the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources and an additional \$500,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture was submitted on March 1st, with decision pending April 1, 2006.

Kitimat Valley Industrial Education Institute (KVI)

February 23, 2006 marked the change in ownership of this institution, located in Kitimat. Formerly owned by Nancy McNab, the institution is now owned by three partners: The Haisla Nation (50%), Alcan (25%) and Nancy McNab (25%).

In the spring of 2005, the College signed a protocol agreement with KVI. Preliminary discussions with Ms. McNab indicate that this agreement will be honoured by the new partners.

Update on Administrator portfolios

Katherine McIndoe will be making a gradual return to work. While it will be several months yet before her left arm is fully functioning, Katherine will be resuming responsibility for her portfolio as follows:

Effective March 20 - Health programs

Effective April 3 - University Credit

This past week, Dave O'Leary resumed responsibility for Computer Technology.

Changes to NWCC Web site

As a result of our discussions at the last First Nations Council meeting, changes to the NWCC web site were made to centralize information on First Nations support. More website enhancements are planned so stay tuned.



The Mining Exploration Field Assistant program teaches students in base camp settings, providing them with job-ready skills.