

President's Update to the College Community

Serving the communities of Northwestern BC

June 6, 2008

Prime Minister delivers apology to Aboriginal Residential School Survivors

On Wednesday June 11th at 12:00 noon BC time, Prime Minister Stephen Harper will deliver Canada's apology to Aboriginal residential school survivors and their families. I am encouraging all NWCC employees to stop whatever they are doing to watch or listen to this historic moment.

To facilitate the viewing of this apology, various viewing or listening (radio) areas have been arranged where possible, at our campuses. Signs will be posted and switchboard messages will convey that the campuses are closed from 11:45 to 1:00 pm to facilitate employees to view or hear the apology and responses at their campuses or at community gatherings.

The locations of gatherings are as follows:

Houston:	tba (possibly at Nadina Community Futures)
Smithers:	Friendship Centre
Hazelton:	Hagwilget Hall
Terrace:	Kiva & Cafeteria
Kitimat:	Campus
Prince Rupert:	Gathering Space Room
Haida Gwaii:	Available at every college location

Across the nation, First Nations communities are planning gatherings to mark this historic event. In the northwest, Northwest Community College is helping to facilitate the gathering of Aboriginal communities in various locations. In Prince Rupert and Terrace, First Nations will be gathering at the College campus to collectively view the televised apology and will be linked via video conference to eight other Aboriginal gatherings across the province. The other sites are: Nanaimo, Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops, Cranbrook, Kelowna, Campbell River and Prince George. At the Terrace campus, the College is supporting the Kermode Friendship Society to host two Aboriginal gatherings (by invitation only) beginning June 10th at 7pm with an Elders Gathering and the lighting of a ceremonial fire at a fire pit constructed by the All Nations Education pole. This event will be followed by activities throughout the day, on June 11th, indoors as well as on college grounds (see attached agendas). The college community is welcome to join the afternoon activities from 1:30 pm onwards.

Through First Nations Council, Aboriginal students and their communities, we see and hear first hand the barriers that the impact of colonization and residential schools has had on Aboriginal students. As a college we are committed to addressing these barriers, and to the ideals of fostering a respectful and supportive learning experience that incorporates the values, cultures and world views of mainstream Canadian society alongside Northwest Aboriginal societies. We are actively engaged in work which will see the realization of that goal.

Please take the time on June 11th to listen to the Prime Minister and where appropriate, join the local gatherings. June 11th will be a historic moment in the history of Canada; an opportunity for all of us to signal our commitment to a renewed relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and to further the process of healing.



Kermode Friendship Society & NWCC

Elders' Gathering
June 10th, 6:45 pm
Waap Freda Diesing
NWCC Terrace Campus

AGENDA

1. Smudging of rooms to be used for June 11th Gatherings (6:45 pm)
2. Elders to discuss the Prime Ministers Canadians (7:00 pm)
Apology to Residential School Survivors
3. Lighting of the Ceremonial fire at NWCC (8:00 pm)
4. Drumming and songs

Note:

6:30 pm Transportation to NWCC Terrace Campus for those needing transportation (Contact Kermode Friendship Society)

Beverages and desserts will be available



**Kermode Friendship Society & NWCC
Prime Minister Delivers Canadians Apology to Residential
School Survivors**

**Aboriginal Gathering
June 11th, 2008
NWCC Terrace Campus**

Time	Item	Info	Details
10:30 – 11:45 am	Transport	Between down town KFS to NWCC	Provided by Kermode Friendship Society 1 bus (20 passengers) & 1 van (14 passengers)
10:30 – 11:45 am	Gathering of the community Lunch		Location: NWCC Cafeteria Kermode staff/volunteers will greet people at the doors of the Cafeteria Lunch served from 11:20 to 11:50 & 12:30 to 1:00 pm
12:00 noon	Prime Minister's Apology & Responses		Video conference live in NWCC Cafeteria PM apology Responses: Elder representative, AFN, Grand Chiefs, FN Summit
12:30 – 1:00 pm	Select responses from gathering		To be announced
Following apology & ongoing as needed	Counseling Support		Location: Waap Freda (House of Freda) Support Workers on site to meet with any who would like to debrief one-on-one
Approx. 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Welcome Home Ceremony		To occur after responses – estimate 1 hour in length Location: Cafeteria or Rooms 2001 & 2002 Drummers, singers – paddle song

The following activities are open to the public:

Time	Item	Info	Details
1:30 pm	Fruit, cookies Beverages available		Available in Cafeteria, at fire pit – tent outside And Waap Freda
Following responses & ongoing	Smudging at the Fire pit		Location: outside at the fire pit at NWCC Drummers, singers Vera Dudoward & Sharon Bryant? (Cedar chips & cedar boughs)
Approx. 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Cultural Afternoon		Barbeque Speakers Drummers & Dancers
3:00 pm onwards	Transport	Between NWCC to KFS & town	Provided by Kermode Friendship Society 1 bus (20 passengers) & 1 van (14 passengers)