

# President's Update to the College Community



*Serving the communities of Northwestern BC*

**August 30, 2007**

## NWCC Joins Three New Organizations

### **Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS)**

"For over a quarter of a century the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) has successfully promoted the advancement of northern scholarship through its mandate and programs. Established in 1978 under the Canada Corporations Act, Part II, ACUNS is a registered charitable organization operating with an office and part-time Executive Director in Ottawa, and active volunteer representatives at over 40 member institutions across the country."  
(ref Web site: [www.acuns.ca](http://www.acuns.ca))

### **University of the Arctic**

"The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a cooperative network of universities, colleges, and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. Members share resources, facilities, and expertise to build post-secondary education programs that are relevant and accessible to northern students. The overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and northern communities through education and shared knowledge.

UArctic promotes education that is circumpolar, interdisciplinary, and diverse in nature, and draw on our combined strengths to address the unique challenges of the region. The University recognizes the integral role of indigenous peoples in northern education, and seeks to engage their perspectives in all of its activities." (ref Web site: [www.uarctic.org](http://www.uarctic.org))

### **National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD)**

"...the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development (NISOD) is dedicated to the professional development of faculty, administrators, and staff; and to the continued improvement of teaching and learning, with the ultimate goal of student success.

More than 700 community colleges around the world are NISOD-members, including almost every large community college district, the majority of urban and technical colleges in the United States and Canada, and more than 200 small, rural colleges around the world."  
(ref Web site: [www.nisod.org](http://www.nisod.org))

(note: participation in these organizations will be handled through the House of Learning & Applied Research)

### **September 22, 2007 – Community Science Celebration returns to the Terrace campus**

For the 3rd year, NSIS is partnering with Science World and Northwest Community College to bring the fun of science to the Northwest. All departments of the College are strongly encouraged to participate. This is a terrific venue for raising awareness not only about science, but also the College, our programs and the people who work here.

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### **Elders in Residence**

The Elders in Residence pilot program will be launched this September in both the Terrace and Rupert Campus. Corrine McKay, Program Developer, will organize quarterly Circle Dinners involving First Nations Elders and students. In First Nations cultures, elders provide guidance and traditional teachings, and are revered and well respected members of their communities. Circle Dinners will provide an opportunity for Elders to assist First Nations students enrolled at the College and to provide guidance to those who may need encouragement. Their role is central to the culture and history of First Nations people in the region.

This initiative is jointly sponsored by the House of Learning & Applied Research and Student Services. The program receives guidance from the NWCC First Nations Council's 'Elders in Residence Steering Committee'.



## Capital Projects

### Renewal & Expansion of the Smithers Campus

The College is working closely with the Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED) to renew and expand our Smithers campus. We anticipate that this project will be in the order of \$7+ million, of which we are optimistic that AVED will contribute \$5 million. The remaining funds need to be raised locally.

A fund raising campaign will be launched this fall with the assistance of a matching donation fund established by the College Board at their May meeting.

We are in the process of conducting a business plan for this project. This work is being undertaken by CEI Architects from Vancouver.

### Renovations at the Terrace campus

This has been an incredibly busy summer for repairs and renovations at the Terrace campus. Thank you to everyone who has been disrupted while this work has occurred. The good news is that a lot has been accomplished! The not as good news is that the work is not finished. Roofing is now in full swing as a result of the College receiving an additional financial boost from the government to repair our aging roofs and covered walkways. There may be some noise and minor disruptions still to come this September.

### Long house planned for Terrace campus

Pending the acceptance of a grant from the provincial government and a lot of in-kind assistance and donations, we should have a longhouse up and ready for use by late 2008. This structure is slated to be 50' x 80' and will serve as a gathering space for celebrations, ceremonies and exhibits, as well as a home for the Elders in Residence program, a First Nations Student lounge, and the House of Learning & Applied Research. It will also have a small kitchen. Architectural drawings are being drafted by Dr. Nancy Mackin, Architect, who undertook extensive research on longhouses of the northwest, particularly those of the Nisga'a Nation.

Conceptual drawings and floor plans are on display at the Terrace Library.

### Indigenous Gardens

Indigenous gardens are being planned for both the Prince Rupert campus and the Terrace campus. These gardens are intended to support educational offerings as well as provide the Terrace cafeteria with a small supply of indigenous berries and herbs. Ken Downs, Judy Thompson, Clint Marshall and Nancy Mackin, Landscape Architect, have all been involved in the conceptualization of these gardens. A mock up of the Terrace gardens may be seen in the Terrace Library. The Prince Rupert garden designs are still in progress.

### Going Green ....

Colleges and universities are more seriously beginning to investigate how environmentally friendly their campuses are. At a recent ACCC meeting in Montreal, I challenged the Canadian College system to bring a report back next summer about what steps they have taken to 'go green'.

Colleges can serve as early adopters when it comes to implementing new technology and new business practices. Colleges can play an important role in leading community sustainability.

New construction, food service, recycling of paper products and transportation are four areas that frequently come to mind when considering the green college question. There's also the digitization of paper resources, the improved recycling of old computer and audio visual equipment, more efficient campus lighting and landscaping. The list goes on and on, with the obvious lesson being that we can take significant steps to becoming greener.

This year will mark the start of a concentrated College campaign to 'go green'. I hope that every campus and every department will take up the challenge and explore ways in which they might play a significant role in environmental sustainability.



## NWCC opens at Kaay Llnagaay Heritage Centre, Haida Gwaii

In a unique partnership with the Haida, NWCC will commence programming at the recently opened Kaay Llnagaay Heritage Centre on Haida Gwaii. This beautiful 26 million dollar facility includes classroom space, performance theatre, carving sheds, small eatery, gift shop and museum. Educational offerings will be planned in consultation with the Kaay Llnagaay Heritage Centre Society and the NWCC All Island Education Advisory Committee.

Sarah Loewen, formerly a Business Administration instructor at the college, will take up the role of Director of Education for Haida Gwaii and will be based at the Kaay Centre.

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## NWCC Socioeconomic Impact Study

An obvious question often asked, but rarely answered more than anecdotally is, "How do the NWCC Service Area economy and the Province of BC benefit from the presence of NWCC?"

NWCC, along with most other colleges and university/colleges in the province of BC, was recently involved in a comprehensive Socioeconomic Impact Study to answer this question quantitatively. The just released findings demonstrate that NWCC is an extremely sound investment from multiple perspectives. The College enriches the lives of students and increases their lifetime incomes. It benefits taxpayers by generating increased tax revenues from an enlarged economy and reducing the demand for taxpayer-supported social services (reduced crime, welfare and unemployment, and improvements in health). Finally, it contributes to the vitality of both the local and provincial economies. At a glance; students enjoy a 16% rate of return on their investment, taxpayers earn a 15.7% rate of return on their support for NWCC. Detailed information can be found on the College web-site.

## ***Book these dates!***

**October 11, 12, 2007**

### **Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Conference**

**Northwest Community College, Terrace Campus, BC**

- Integrating the Aboriginal paradigm in education
- Enhancing Aboriginal access
- Redressing Colonization in the Post-Secondary System
- Best Practices in designing culturally relevant curriculum
- What's working; what's not – changing how we think about Aboriginal education

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#### *Scope:*

Post-secondary education

#### *Audience:*

Faculty, instructors, senior secondary teachers, administrators, Aboriginal support workers and others involved in education, from the public, independent and Aboriginal post-secondary school systems.

#### *Keynote Speaker:*

Dr. Leroy Littlebear, Professor, University of Lethbridge (Blackfoot)

#### *Workshop Presenters include:*

Jacinda Mack, Barb Wilson, Ken Downs, Deborah Wilson Greene, Sheree Ronaasen & Cecil Paul, Senior Kaarlene Lindsay, Arlene Herman, Louise Lefebvre, Deanna Nyce, Corrine MacKay, and Dr. Jim McDonald.