



September 2011

Meet our New Aboriginal Access Coordinator

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is **Bob Searle** and I was appointed as the new UFV Aboriginal Access Services Coordinator, beginning August 8, 2011. I come to UFV from Okanagan College, Penticton campus after serving three years as Aboriginal Mentor. Previous to that assignment I worked for UBC-Okanagan as an Associate in the Faculty of Education providing guidance, liaison and evaluation for student teachers completing their teaching practica.



When I first moved to Penticton, I was hired by School District #15 as Aboriginal teacher/counsellor working with secondary students from two high schools, including a large number from the Penticton Indian Band and the local community. After two years I moved back into administration where I served as Vice Principal in elementary schools for 6 years, and later as Principal for 12 years.

Prior to working for School District #15, I served 2.5 years with Indian & Northern Affairs as Assistant Superintendent of Education in Prince George and the Peace River area. I arrived in Prince George after starting my teaching career in School District #24 (Kamloops) where I worked for 14 years as a classroom teacher, physical education specialist and vice principal. During my time in Kamloops I was privileged to be awarded a one-year international teaching exchange in Canberra, Australia where I began classes in education graduate studies.

In the area of education and training I possess a M.Ed. degree in Educational Administration from UBC, and a Bachelor of Education (Geography major) from Simon Fraser University.

I am proud of my aboriginal ancestry, coming from Métis/Cree-Saulteaux heritage in the Makwa Lake area of north-west Saskatchewan. I look forward to a positive working relationship with the Sto:lo Nation area students, Métis & Inuit students, all other students of aboriginal heritage who may reside in the UFV enrolment area.

University of the Fraser Valley

Aboriginal Access Services

Abbotsford Campus

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Fax: 604 855-7614

Chilliwack Campus

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Phone: 604-795-2835
Fax: 604-792-2388

Handy Contact List:

Terry Prest, Elder

Robert Searle, Coordinator

Josephine Charlie, Culture and Events Assistant

Elaine Malloway, Department Assistant

Betty Peters, Department Assistant

Laura Smith, ACLS Program Coordinator

Saylesh Wesley, NITEP Coordinator



S'olh Shxwlèlì Siya:ye

ABORIGINAL ACCESS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Sep 5th—UFV closed Labor Day
Sep 6th Fall Semester Classes Begin
Sep 6th Welcome Back BBQ—Abby Campus
Sep 7th Indigenous Education Signing
Sep 8th Welcome Back BBQ—Chwk Campus
Sep 12th Launch of New Faculty of Health Sciences—Chilliwack campus
Sep 20th Last day for Opt-out of SUS Medical & Dental

Stay Tuned for Upcoming Events

Welcome Back Luncheons for both Abbotsford and Chilliwack Aboriginal Access Centres

Oct 23rd & 24th Tomson Highway Event



OPTING OUT of the SUS Health & Dental Plan

If you're already covered by an equivalent health and dental plan you can opt out and be reimbursed for the fee BETWEEN AUGUST 29 & SEPTEMBER 30.

The easiest way to opt out is to go to IHAVEAPLAN.CA and click on OPT OUTS under the Coverage section on the right-hand side. You'll need scans of documents (either both sides of your Insurance Card or a letter from your employer) showing YOUR NAME, and proof that you are covered for both Health and Dental Extended coverage (Status Card), the name of the Insurance Provider and Group number. Fill out the online Opt Out form, and upload your documentation to the website, make sure you select either the ANNUAL or PERMANENT Opt Out option as is most appropriate for your circumstance and follow up with us if you are unsure that it worked!

Otherwise you can come by one of our offices – Abbotsford C1015 or Chilliwack G133 – during the Change of Coverage period (August 29 to September 20) and we'll give you a hand.

Message to Aboriginal Students:

Information for Websites:

BC Aboriginal Student Awards

Open doors go places with a BC Aboriginal Student Award.

To apply or for more information about this award, visit: www.bcscholarship.ca

Or visit our Website at :

www.ufv.ca/arc/scholarships_and_bursaries

35th Annual Elders Gathering was held July 12th, 13th & 14th in Abbotsford at the Tradex Centre. Aboriginal Access Services set up a recruiting booth along with a hundred other vendors, info booths and other Educational Recruiters. This was well attended by 5,000 Elders to the very young.

Our Aboriginal Access Services booth was manned by our staff and put in long hours volunteering in other areas as well as our own booth. The energy in the building was electrifying. This was my first Elders gathering and witnessed such awesome events and even met with relatives from Vancouver Island and made new friends and old friends. Sad when it was over. Looking forward to the next 2012 Gathering!

Reminders for September

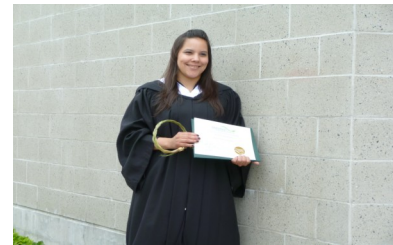
1. Pick up your free SUS agendas
2. Opt out of Medical & Dental
3. Check in at Aboriginal Access Centre for coffee
4. On a class waitlist? Attend the first few classes
5. Manage your time by the 3 for 1 rule. 1 hr of class means 3 hrs of "homework"
6. Get to know your instructors
7. Find a study partner in every course
8. Let your instructor and study partner if you have to miss a class.



2011 University of the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Grads

Leslie Williams, Shawna Williams, Rose Greene, Camille Laslo & Sheilah Marsden

Drummers: Jonny Williams, Jason Thompson, Elder: Terry Prest & Office of Indigenous Affairs : Shirley Hardman



Exciting time for our Aboriginal Students to walk and receive their diplomas & B.A.'s. Wish we had to space to have each and every student's picture for their accomplishments and sacrifices they made to reach their goals.

Aboriginal Access offered light refreshments each day of the Convocation for the graduating students and their families. But this year on Thursday, June 9th AAS held an "Honoring Ceremony" for two retiring faculty Carol Oddy & Susan DeLong. They had been instrumental in guiding Aboriginal students to succeed in their chosen educational paths. This was another important ceremony and not taken lightly in our communities. Carol & Susan were covered with ceremonial shawls and headbands and lead in by singers and placed on the ceremonial blankets. Witnesses were allowed to share their words on how these two ladies impacted their lives. Very touching testimonies shared by several students. I had very good pictures of convocation and our Honoring Ceremony but my camera was stolen and so many good pictures were lost forever. But not from our memories as is with our culture was not written but verbal and passed on for generations. As to this is why witnesses are called. They have to go back to their community/homes and tell what they witnessed. Thank you Carol & Susan for your teaching and caring and thoughtful ways in guiding our students.



National Aboriginal Day Powwow June 14, 2011 Abbotsford Campus



The Purpose of our NADA powwow is to create awareness about National Aboriginal Day.

And another cultural awareness ceremony that we carried out was a "Naming Ceremony" Stuart Charlie was covered with a family ancestral name. The guests were shown the processes & protocols of our ceremonies. Stuart was lead in by singers and put on ceremonial blankets. The history of the name given is shared and then witnesses are asked to speak in response to the work .

Invitations went out to the Sto:lo Nation, UFV faculty, students and community members and shared a bbq lunch. Invites were given to vendors to bring in their crafts and we were also happy to see the Sto:lo Daycare bring in their young ones to witness.

It is always fun to have the audience be involved with the singing and dancing. You can see a good number got up to join in on tribal dance.