



highlights

April 2008



For 30 years, Heiltsuk College and Waglisla Integrated Studies Centre have been offering a wide range of education programs. Read about it inside this issue!

Elect your IAHLA Representatives at the Annual General Meeting

On April 23rd and 24th, IAHLA is hosting its 2008 Annual General Meeting in Vancouver at The Listel Hotel. The AGM will be a valuable opportunity to discuss our collective plans and hear from a guest speakers and presenters, including Dr. Leroy Littlebear of the University of Lethbridge and Dr. Moura Quayle of the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Registration materials are online at www.fnesc.ca at the "Conferences and Workshops" link.

During the AGM, elections will take place to fill the following board positions:
Member at Large (1 position)
Regional Representatives (4 positions):

- Secwepemc/Stl'atl'imc/Nlakapamux
- Gitksan/Wet'suwet'en
- Nuu-chah-nulth/Coast Salish
- Kootenay/Okanagan

Calling All Alumni!

The IAHLA Board is seeking news about your alumni – what are their stories, where did they study/work/travel after leaving your institute?

The goal is to celebrate and share the successes of your students with other students, public institutions and leaders.

Last summer when the Native Education College faced the crisis of potentially closing its doors – it was the loud outcry of their former students who helped to impress upon the decision makers the important contribution NEC made in students' lives and career paths.

The IAHLA Board would like to gather alumni stories to share with others. Please consider sending the names and contact information of your alumni to IAHLA c/o karenbr@fnesc.ca The Board will feature one story in each IAHLA e-newsletter.

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The Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) was formed at the request of Indigenous controlled Post-Secondary Institutes and Adult Learning Programs to address and further the mutual interests of all Indigenous controlled Learning Centres in British Columbia (BC). The organization receives administrative support from the First Nations Education Steering Committee.



Aboriginal PSE Funding Policy

Following the Dialogue on Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education last September and the Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED) Fourth Annual Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Forum held in November, 2007, the AVED Learning Programs Branch is working in partnership with FNEESC to develop a policy paper which will outline an approach to formally recognize Aboriginal-controlled post-secondary institutes as a critical component of the post-secondary system in BC.

The paper will outline the unique and important role that is played by existing Aboriginal institutes, highlighting the fact that they do far more than duplicate the work being done in public institutions. The paper will also outline the rationale for stronger support of Aboriginal-controlled institutes by the government of BC and describes a recommended structure for policy that will allow AVED to recognize and support Aboriginal institutes in a way that respects the range of Aboriginal community and learner needs and circumstances.

This paper will be shared with the IAHLA institutes, the BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners and other stakeholders to gather input and perspectives. At the IAHLA AGM, time will be set aside for membership to provide feedback. We look forward to this discussion.

New Institute Data Available

Juniper Consulting has completed the 2007/08 IAHLA Data Collection Project and this year 82% (23) of 28 eligible institutes returned surveys and 404 adult learners completed surveys. In 2006/07, 76% (19) of 25 eligible institutes returned surveys and 255 adult learners completed surveys. In 2005/06, 81% (17) of 21 eligible institutes returned surveys and 176 adult learners completed surveys.

The survey's success is due in part to IAHLA's collaboration with the First Nations School Association to include the adult students in the IAHLA data collection.

Report highlights include:

- In 2007/08, 81% of the 404 learners surveyed agree they feel better about themselves and 75% feel more confident since beginning at their institutes.
- 70% of the institutes offer First Nations language courses in 2007/08. Typically, up to 50% of their learners participate in these language courses. This is similar to the previous two years of data collection.
- Among the learners surveyed in 2007/08, 40% are studying First Nations language(s) as part of their studies at their institutes. This is an increase over last year. Of these learners, 87% are satisfied with the progress they are making.
- This year more institutes are involved in language revitalization projects – 74% of the 2007/08 responding institutes are involved in such projects.
- In 2007/08, over one-third (39%) of the institutes indicate they have experienced a decrease in funding since last year.

Joy Weismiller, Juniper Consulting, will present the 2007/08 Data Collection findings during the IAHLA AGM.

The IAHLA Board would like to thank the member institutes for making this year's data collection a success.

Kitimat Valley Institute is Working on the IAHLA Membership Drive!

At the February IAHLA Board meeting, the members discussed how to reach other Aboriginal adult and post-secondary institutes. As a result, the members voted to contribute funds to a member institute to hire a student or students to contact potential organizations, such as Friendship Centres, that offer adult and post-secondary courses/programs.

Kitimat Valley Institute was offered the contract as a result of a random draw of Association members. Deborah Wilson Green is overseeing the work of the student researcher, who will contact potential members, encourage them to attend the 2008 IAHLA AGM and Conference and provide a final database of contacts.

Thanks Kitimat Valley Institute for your help on this initiative.

Heiltsuk College & WISC

Submitted by
Jonathan Woods



Waglisla (Bella Bella), on BC's central coast, is situated in the heart of the homeland of the Heiltsuk Nation. The community of 1,400 live on the main reserve, and there are 23 reserves in total.

Heiltsuk College provides post-secondary programs and job skills training initiatives, while Waglisla Integrated Studies Centre (WISC) provides adult secondary learning opportunities. We offer Hailzaqv language courses in order to preserve and revitalize our language.

Our services have been in place for 30 years as pioneers in adult learning. In partnership with the community, the mission of Heiltsuk College/WISC is to provide personally relevant and challenging educational opportunities to all learners within a safe, caring and supportive environment.

Our vision is to strength students through self-empowerment and self-governance. Throughout the school year, the students are an important part of the decision-making process in all aspects of

their learning. The institute focuses on:

- **Self-identity:** It is important for each student to know oneself, one's heritage, kinship and family. Each person is worthy of respect and has a contribution to make.
- **Heiltsuk History:** Heiltsuk history, through the knowledge of values and traditions, is necessary to present day.
- **Learning Opportunities:** Strengthening students through classroom activities, by peer and professional support, through recognizing the equal position of each person and providing opportunities for career development is necessary.
- **Life-Long Learning:** Development of strong culturally-based values and knowledge, along with skills and understanding as basis for ongoing search for wisdom as indigenous people are provided

Each year, about 100 students are enrolled into a variety of instructed classes, seminars and workshops. WISC is certified through the First Nations Schools Association and Heiltsuk partners with public post-secondary institutes to offer certified and credit transfer courses.

IAHLA welcomes submissions from its member institutes! Send them to karenbr@fnesc.ca

Planning our Collective Strategy

Given the changing landscape for Aboriginal adult and post-secondary education institutes, and building on the IAHLA Framework, the IAHLA Board is actively working to develop a plan for IAHLA's work and strategy for the next three to five years. On March 12 and 13, 2008 the Board held a strategic planning session led by Chris Corrigan of Harvest Moon Consultants, Ltd. Using the appreciative inquiry methodology, Chris led the Board through a process focusing on the current work of IAHLA and looking forward to the work of the next several years.

The Board highlighted the diversity and individuality of each member institute and the communities they serve. At the centre of the discussions was the role of the institutes in supporting their students to reach their goals. Issues around lack of funding, affiliation agreements and frustration with the lack of recognition of the institutes were discussed.

The Strategic Plan will be presented for feedback and potential approval from IAHLA members at the Annual General Meeting.



Affiliation Agreement Research

This research, funded by the Indian Studies Support Program (ISSP) will provide a review of affiliation agreements (including brokering and federation agreements) between First Nation institutes/communities and public post-secondary institutions. The research is to focus on, but is not limited to, agreements over the last three years (2006/07 – 2008/09) using ISSP proposal data. Specifically, this project is intended to gather the following information:

1. A common definition, as understood by the public post-secondary institutions of the terms “affiliation agreement”, “brokering agreement” and “federation agreement.”
2. Models of affiliation agreements between public post-secondary institutions and First Nation adult and post-secondary institutes/communities.
3. Examine costing for program delivery under affiliation agreements including:
 - Cost for instruction
 - Counselling/support
 - Instructor travel
 - Instructor materials
 - What portion is covered by the public institution and what is the First Nation institute/community responsible for?
 - What is the cost per FTE for UCEP and post-secondary programming?
4. Examine the collection of tuition as a condition of the affiliation agreement. How is the tuition applied to the overall cost of the agreement?
5. What are the costs for accreditation (i.e. what does the public institution charge the First Nation partner for accreditation)?
6. How do First Nation institutes/communities benefit from the partnership with the public institute?
7. How do public institutes handle the issue of curriculum and intellectual property ownership?
8. Is there a correlation between Aboriginal Special Project Funding received by the public institutions and ISSP proposals?

The research will be conducted by a team lead by Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi, former director of the Saanich Adult Education Centre and current Director of the University of Victoria Office of Indigenous Affairs.

Fran may contact your organization to clarify information regarding your affiliation agreements. All information will be held in confidence and only an aggregate report will be released.

The final report will be distributed in early June.

If you have any questions regarding this research, please contact Karen Bailey-Romanko at karenbr@fnesc.ca.



www.aboriginallearning.ca

Watch for the launch this spring of Aboriginal Learning Links - a one-stop shop for post-secondary resources for Aboriginal learners in BC. This portal has links to resources for Funding, Schools, Career Planning, Child Care, Scholarships, and more. The website has been created to equip students and frontline student advocates with the tools and knowledge to effectively plan post-secondary opportunities.

IAHLA contributed funds to help launch this site, which is an initiative of the BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners Group.

IAHLA Board

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