

## IAHLA PIONEERS NEW TRAINING SYSTEM

### Computer Based Training for First Nation Small System Water Operators



Project Interns, left to right: Nolan Allan, Buck Nelson, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Phillip Stewart, Heather Bohn, Daniel Smith

IAHLA, in association with First Nations Education Steering Committee, is using computer simulations as the basis for training new First Nation's Water Operators. Since the water system disasters in Walkerton and Kaschewan, the Federal government has decreed that every water system operator must be trained and certified. In class training is typically time constrained and doesn't allow for much hands-on or mentoring.

The program under development uses 3D simulations to enable the trainee operators to experience real-life scenarios and apply the corrective actions, training that would be both disruptive and difficult to do on the job.

IAHLA has brought together a strong partnership with INAC, Thompson Rivers University and UVIC to provide the necessary financing, course content and multimedia facilities. The project, managed under the guidance of MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates, employs six First Nations Interns that provide the various multimedia talents required while creating a framework and capacity to develop further training and educational products. Here's a little background on each of them.

#### Daniel Smith

Daniel is a member of the Kwakwakawakw nation and was born in Campbell River British Columbia. It was here as a child that Daniel would discover within him a love for his Aboriginal culture with a strong focus on the traditional design styles. In 2007 Daniel took part in a graphic design program offered by the Emily Carr Institute of Art and design and British Columbia Institute of Technology. Daniel plans to use the skills he has to continue his career as an artist and graphic designer.

### Heather Bohn

Heather is from the community of Kitsumkalum, home of the Tsimshian. After graduation she attended North West community College. Continuing her education in Vancouver, she took Film and Television at Capilano, taking their Aboriginal Film program. She then moved into Animation Art & Design, at the Art Institute of Vancouver. Enjoying the field and life of the arts and multi-media communication, Heather plans to continue developing her skills, and hopes to one day take them back home to her community. Heather has developed the extensive 3D model use for simulations and instruction.

### Nolan Allan

Nolan Allan grew up in Stellat'en, and the Prince George area. In 2006 Nolan started his training at the Art Institute of Burnaby, for the professional recording arts program, which ended in 2008. From AI, Nolan has learned a well-balanced skill set, and knowledge of audio, from music production, to film and television, interactive media and live sound applications. Nolan is the Sound Designer for the First Nation Internship for the Small Water Systems project. He has developed the sound effects, original music, dialogue recording and editing for the project.

### Melina Laboucan-Massimo

Melina is Lubicon Cree from Little Buffalo, Alberta. She graduated from the University of Alberta with her BA in 2003. Since then she has worked in media and International Aboriginal Internet Portals in Brazil, Toronto, and Vancouver and has worked with various media organizations from Indigenous Media Arts Group to Redwire Native Media Society. For this project, she was Producer of the major motivational film segments regarding water issues.

### Phillip Stewart

Phillip Stewart is from Hazelton B.C. and is of Gitksan ancestry. He began his career in multi-media helping to revitalize his language producing interactive language cd-roms using Macromedia Flash MX. After four years of project management and multi-media experience, he started his own production business, providing video production services to local organizations and societies. He continues his career in multi-media working on various projects. At present, he is working on a Small Water System resource website, working with Adobe Flash CS3.

### Buck Nelson

Buck Nelson is from Mt. Currie BC. He graduated from BCIT's Film Flex program in 2006. His skills are in Final cut pro and cinematography. This is his first job experience working as First Camera Operator and Video Production Editor.