Okanagan Nation Jr. Girls Bring Home Provincial Championship

The Syilx, Okanagan Nation, Jr Girls basketball team brought home the Championship and Most Sportsmanlike Team after playing 8 games in Prince Rupert during Spring Break. The final four games were all nail biters, said Reid; the gym was vibrating with the fans from all the villages cheering on their nations.

In the final game against Kitimat there was only 9 seconds left, Okanagan down by 2, when Waardenburg drew the foal that would take her to the free throw line. She made both shots to tie the game and as Kitimat inbound the ball it was stolen by Reid, passed to Sargent and she did a lay in to win the game.

“Okanagan girls were full value for the win, hard working and all the class in the world.” said Kitimat coach Keith Nyce.

Other awards included MVP, Jade Waardenburg, Best Defense and All Star Jasmine Reid, and All Star Ashley McGinnis

The Okanagan Nation will host the 2011 Jr All Native during Spring Break in Penticton, BC. For more information contact Tara (250) 707-0095.
On March 31, 2010 Elders, leaders and community members gathered to pay tribute the Nation’s namesake the “HMCS Okanagan” as part of the Canadian Naval Centennial. Although the event started out as the Navy paying tribute to the Okanagan Nation people and the “HMCS Okanagan” it turned out to be a time of honoring all the Okanagan Nation veterans and those who served. The celebration struck the heartstrings of many of the Elders that were present as they remembered family members, friends and relatives that served and the stories that were told.

The Celebration opened with a song by the Sensisyusten School Children, a prayer from Elder Mary Anne Eli and a welcome from Councilor Mike DeGuevara of the Westbank First Nation. Chief Tim Manuel along with Councilor DeGuevara and Councilor Joseph Pierre (PIB) accepted the gift on behalf of the nation from Commander Bob Ferguson, Commanding Officer of HMCSWinnipeg of Canadian Fleet Pacific, of a framed pictorial history of the Okanagan’s namesake warship, Her Majesty’s Canadian Ship Okanagan that will hang proudly at the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

As part of the celebration Trish Manuel and Jonas Manuel sang an honor song and prayer song for the veterans present as well as those who served and are still serving. Mike Watts a naval veteran was in attendance and spoke of his experience in the navy and shared a few words with the guests present. The Elders were thankful for this event, Elder Margret Kruger said “we need to recognize our veterans more and have more of these events”.

HMC Okanagan was one of three Oberon Class conventional submarines built to order for the Canadian Navy at Chatham Dockyard in the United Kingdom. Commissioned into the Canadian Navy on June 22, 1967 she was assigned to Canada’s Atlantic Naval Fleet with her sister boats maintained watch in the North Atlantic throughout the Cold War era.

The boat became a movie star after participating in the filming of the 1980 Japanese disaster film “Fukkatsu no hi.” She was the first Canadian submarine to sail the Great Lakes in the fall of 1990. When Swissair flight 111 crashed off of Halifax, Okanagan’s paying off ceremony was postponed while she was employed in searching for and finding the flight recorders from the aircraft. She was paid off in Halifax on 14 September 1998.

This event is part of the Naval Canadian Centennial that highlights the connection the Navy has with communities large and small across Canada. For more information on the Naval Centennial go to: http://www.navy.forces.gc.ca/centennial/3/3-c_eng.asp

**MEDIA COVERAGE OF THIS EVENT:**

CHBC:
http://www.syilx.org/events.php?locatio n=Community%20Events&cat_id=4&arch ive=0

AM 1150:
http://www.am1150.ca/node/1109525

To view the Okanagan Nation Alliance Photo Gallery go to:
http://www.syilx.org/gallery.php?id_cat=36 (more pictures to be added soon)
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

April 22 – 25, 2010

When: Orientation/Registration/Opening Ceremonies April 22, 2010 (5:00pm) WFN Multipurpose Room. The Run will start at Westbank First Nation on Friday April 23, 2010 at 8:00 am

End in Douglas Lake, Nkwala School (Merritt, BC) April 25, 2010

Where: Through a portion of the Okanagan Nation Territory: Westbank to Westwold and over to Douglas Lake (Spaxomin/Merritt)

Who: Youth and Okanagan Nation Community Members

Why: To create awareness on the issues of suicide and violence. The Unity run will also promote Nationhood and healthy living. It will provide our Youth with an opportunity to be leaders within their communities and among their peers and it will also allow them to demonstrate their commitment to their Nation.

REGISTRATION

How: Spirit of the Syilx Registrations must be filled out and submitted to your Youth Worker or submit directly to the Okanagan Nation Alliance at (250) 707-0166 or tmontgomery@syilx.org. There is no registration fee required only a desire to run and support your Nation. Registration forms and more information can be found at www.syilx.org

You MUST Register to Run! Or Come Out and Support the Runners

For More Information:

Tara Montgomery, Communications
Toll Free 1.866.662.9609 Email: tmontgomery@syilx.org or
Fax 250.707.0166
The archaeology work. The judge concluded that Tolko’s plan was sufficient. Tolko implemented their archaeological work on February 9th 2010 under the strong objections of the Okanagan Nation. The Browns Creek watershed provides much of the drinking and irrigation water for the Okanagan Indian Band and neighbouring communities. This is the same watershed that Tolko is intent on logging and the province of BC has granted permission for them to clear-cut.

Once again the Okanagan face a situation where our aboriginal Title and Rights are being ignored and the health and safety of the community is being sacrificed so others can profit from the exploitation of our traditional territory. The area where proposed harvesting will occur is in the headwaters of the Nashwito and Bouleau Creeks. Both important contributes to not only the Okanagan Band but to neighboring communities. Both creeks provide inflow into Okanagan Lake. Bouleau Ck is a tributary to Whiteman Creek. Whiteman and Bouleau Creeks has historically been an active fishery for Okanagan People with the increased harvesting in the headwaters the fish populations have been declining due to loss of habitat from increase spring runoff, when the trees are removed there is nothing to hold the water back.

To Tolko Industries this is just business they do not live here. This is our children's future. As was stated by Okanagan Elder Ralph Marchand

“WATER IS LIFE, WITHOUT WATER THERE IS NO LIFE.”

FUNDRAISERS ARE ON-GOING TO ASSIST IN THE LEGAL COST, KEEP POSTED FOR THOSE EVENTS.

Other media on Brown’s Creek:
http://www.vancouverite.com/2010/03/06/the-water-war-okanagan/logging-blockade/

For More Information:
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, ONA - (250) 490-5314
Chief Fabian Alexis, OKIB - (250) 306-2838
WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE BROWNS CREEK CAMPAIGN

ONLINE PETITION

For: Brown's Creek-SAVE OUR WATER!!
http://www.petitionspot.com/petitions/browns creek

JOIN: Brown Creeks Protection For Our Watershed on Facebook

MONETARY DONATION

Donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can do so at the following financial institution:

TD Canada Trust Transit #: 98800
Account #: 08210301543

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POLITICIAN

You can provide your support by contacting:

Vernon MLA George Abbott (250) 833-7414 or email: George.abbott.mla@leg.bc.ca.

Member of Parliament Colin Mayes at (250) 260-5020 or email at mayesc@parl.gc.ca.

VOLUNTEER

To find out what volunteer opportunities are available contact (250) 542-3444 or (250) 542-7132.

“Holding the Line”
Okanagan Indian Band
Golf Tournament Fundraiser

~Limited Registration~

Saturday June 19, 2010
Spallumcheen Golf Course
9401 Hwy 97, Vernon, B.C.
www.spallumcheengolf.com
Shotgun Start Time: 1:00 PM
Entry Fee: $400.00 per Team

4 Person Team Texas Scramble *Minimum 1 Lady per Team*
First 36 paid Teams (only 144 golfers) by June 16th 2010

Entrance Fee includes: Green Fee, Range Balls, 2 Golf Carts per Team & Steak Dinner

Registration check-in 11:00 AM-12:00 noon

Menu: Ladies’/Skilful Pitches for Long Drives & closest to the Pin

For more information please contact:
Kevin Nol 250.542.6320 or kevin.nol@okanagan.org
Jrnlr Jat 250.542.7332 or jrnlr.jat@okanagan.org
Kelth Loes 250.542.7332 or kelth.loes@okanagan.org

2nd Annual Coyote Native Classic Golf Tournament
www.coyotegolf.ca

Register Now
Limited Registration
- only 144 golfers
- First 36 paid teams

For more information:
Rob Vedano 250.545.7558
Or
Andy Vedano 250.545.2892

Entry Fee:
$400 for 4 person team

Entry Fee Includes:
- Green Fee
- Range balls
- 2 golf carts per team
- Steak Dinner
- Prizes

ON A
WHAT WE ARE DOING:

Hosted an Okanagan Nation Stories Forum

We hosted an Okanagan Nation stories forum with participants from around the Nation.

Facilitated by Jeanette Armstrong, we looked at 2 stories “Chipmunk and Owl Woman” and “Lazy Boy/The Boy Who Was Abandoned”, we discussed their significance, the teachings and what we can take from them and incorporate into the planning for our children and families.

We will continue looking at our stories for guidance and teachings while we continue our work.

Lim limp to all who participated and to Jeannette Armstrong for facilitating. This small forum was a huge success in moving the planning for our children forward.

Continue to Assist Families through the AFGC Process

We are currently working with 7 families.

4 families went to AFGC and are now in the process of follow up meetings and we currently have 3 new referrals.

These families have received information on their rights and options, extended families are involved and the family explores various support. Support also is provided by their named Bands, Friendship Centers and the Ministry of Children and Families

If you or someone you know would like to know more about this process please contact Jennifer Houde at 1-866-662-9609

Hosting on May 6/7, 2010 a Nation Wide Forum on Children (see poster)

We will be reporting on the planning process and work completed to date as well as sharing more information and having more discussions. We will also be having breakout sessions with the potential topics:

1. Governance
2. Okanagan innovation
3. Potential Models of service provision
4. Stories

Office Location

The Aboriginal Family Group Conferencing Program and the Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health Wellness Program have a new office location.

ONA Penticton Wellness Office
Penticton. 325 Martin Street, Penticton BC
Phone: 250-707-0095

Jennifer Houde, AFGC Program Coordinator
jhoude@syilx.org

Inez Pierre, AFGC Program Assistant
ipierre@syilx.org

Freda McLean, ACYMH Wellness Coordinator
fmclean@syilx.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Family Law Advocates

+ Laurie Wilson works out of Okanagan Nation Transition Emergency House. Contact 250-493-4902. Laurie provides family law advocacy throughout the Nation.

+ Jeannine Terbasket works out the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society. Contact 250-763-4905.

Aboriginal Child Protection Mediation

+ The Mediator Roster Society can be contacted c/o the Dispute Resolution Office. In Victoria, call 356-8147. If elsewhere in B.C., call Enquiry BC and they will forward your call at no charge.

Ask to be connected to the Dispute Resolution Office, Ministry of Attorney General. In Vancouver, the Enquiry BC number is 660-2421; elsewhere in B.C., it is 1-800-663-7867 toll free. You can also contact the society by e-mail at mediators@mediator-roster.bc.ca
FIRST NATIONS LEADERS DENOUNCE FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS

http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100407/bcaboriginal_healing_100407/20100407

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's apology for decades of abuse in residential schools might well be tarnished if Ottawa doesn't reinstate funding for support programs, say aboriginal leaders.

"In the apology, he did commit to walk with us on our healing journey," Charlene Belleau, manager of the Indian residential schools unit with the Assembly of First Nations, told an emotional Vancouver news conference.

"So it's important, I think, to make sure that the prime minister, on behalf of the government of Canada, keeps to those commitments," she said Wednesday in reference to Harper's 2008 apology in the House of Commons.

Belleau, along with several residential school survivors, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs and the Indian Residential School Survivors Society, called on the federal government to reinstate financial support for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

The foundation provides culturally appropriate community services for residential school survivors across the country, but its funding ran out on March 31.

The federal government argued the foundation, established in 1998, was never meant to last forever and additional funds were set aside in the budget for Health Canada to deal specifically with mental-health issues among survivors.

But with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission getting set to launch hearings and commemorative events into residential schools, Belleau said that simply isn't good enough.

"(The Health Canada plan is) a government-driven process where they determine the criteria," she said.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, leader of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, sent a letter to Prime Minister Harper on the issue last month and said he's infuriated by the funding cut. To reduce the responsibility on the part of the government that was reflected . . . in the apology to a very cold, calculated fiscal decision flies in the face of the apology that was issued by the prime minister and, in my view, exposes the hypocrisy of the Conservative government of this country," he said.

"We will not stand idly by and watch our residential school survivors continue to suffer."

In his apology, Harper said generations of racist policy was meant to "kill the Indian in the child."

Sara MacIntyre, a spokeswoman for the Prime Minister's Office, said Ottawa isn't closing the book on the foundation entirely.

"Obviously, the work of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation is important in providing healing programs and services to address the experiences of former students at the Indian residential schools," she said in an interview.

"Twelve healing centers will continue to provide services until March 2012, and, as noted already in this year's budget as well, we will be providing an additional $199 million over the next three years to provide emotional, cultural and professional support for former students."

"We have former students of residential schools coming forward to us and saying, 'The government didn't ask us if we are healed, they've just decided for us that we're done,'" she said.

"This void is not being filled by any other Health Canada or health support services that are out there. It's very unique, what the Aboriginal Healing Foundation offers in terms of healing for our people."
Community Engagement Hubs Gain Momentum (excerpt from FNHC Enews)

Over 150 of BC’s 203 First Nations have now partnered with the First Nations Health Council to form 26 Community Engagement Hubs. Community Engagement Hubs provide resources for communities to communicate, collaborate and plan together in order to set and meet their health goals and priorities.

As we enter the second year of fully operational Community Engagement Hubs we are witnessing many exciting developments. First Nations are using the hub model to create regional approaches to chronic disease prevention; to plan innovative approaches to mental wellness with federal and provincial governments; and other hubs are completing individual community health and wellness plans. An exciting example of Hubs in action can be found on Vancouver Island where the Nuuchahnulth Hub is using hub resources to organize a series of community dialogues on social issues. Through community dialogue, participants identified the need for hishuk-nish-tsawalk (a holistic approach) in considering community social issues. This dialogue is now culminating in a forum to be held this month.

One of the principles of the Health Plan is that “no community is left behind” and those communities who are not part of a Community Engagement Hub will be supported in health planning. To find out more about Community Hubs and the support available at the health council please contact Marilyn Ota- VP Health Planning. mota@fnhc.ca

For More Information on the Okanagan Hub Contact our Hub Coordinator Vanessa Mitchell vmitchell@syilx.org

Other FNHC News:

- Employment Opportunity – Health Governance Liaison
- NEW Link www.indigenousfoodsystems.org/


First Nation Health Council Infobulletin

Volume 3 Issue 1 | March 2010

Governance Video in Development | Health Governance Timeline | Health Governance FAQ’s | Physical Activity Strategy | Traditional Medicine Survey | A focus on Maternal and Child Health | First Nations eHealth Knowledge Generation and Sharing | Seabird Hub hosts Elders Gathering | H1N1 Evaluation Project | Regional Health Survey | 80% of First Nations complete Health Human Resources Scan

Download PDF

34th Annual BC Elders Gathering

July 13, 14 and 15, 2010

Sunwave Centre
Salmon Arm, B.C.

Hosts:
Adams Lake Indian Band
Secwepemc Nation

Adams Lake Indian Band and the Secwepemc Nation Band are looking forward to welcoming you to our traditional territories.

A 2010 Planning Team has started the planning for this wonderful Gathering.

For more Information please contact:
Susan Matthew, Project Coordinator
Ph: 250-679-2247
Email: smatthew@alib.ca

For more Information www.bcelders.com
Okanagan Nation Fisheries

Staffing Changes:

This spring will mark a change in the Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Department (ONAFD), as two of our staff, Shayla Lawrence and Julie Richard will both be taking maternity leave.

Shayla Lawrence Fisheries biologist: supervisor of the Central-North Okanagan, Fraser, and Columbia regions. Shayla will begin her maternity leave at the end of March 2010. She will be returning to her position after her one year leave, in April 2011. She is an integral part of the ONAFD team and her absence will be noticed and she will be greatly missed.

Julie Richard Fisheries Administrative Assistant: Julie will begin her maternity leave mid April, resuming her duties after one year. Although Julie is looking forward to spending her time with her family, she is going to miss the day to day interactions with her co-workers, and the dynamic environment that is special to working for the ONAFD.

The ONAFD looks forward to meeting the two newest, smallest, and cutest members of the ONAFD family. Maybe both babies will grow up to be ONA fisheries biologists or technicians?? Both Shayla and Julie will be sure to bring the babies around to meet the ONA staff.

Columbia River:

The head of the Columbia River system has it’s origins in the province of BC. It flows into the traditional territory of the Okanagan Nation. The Columbia River is the largest river system in the Pacific Northwest. The river is 2000 km, stretching from the Canadian Rockies into the Pacific Ocean into the State of Oregon. The Okanagan River flows into the Columbia River, east of the Grand Coulee Dam, Washington State.

The ONAFD holds two offices, one in Castlegar, BC and the other in Nelson BC. We have two full time staff in the region. Heidi McGregor, Aquatic Habitat Biologist and Natasha Audy, Certified Fisheries Technician. Shayla Lawrence from our office here in Westbank, serves as project supervisor for the Columbia region.

We also have Certified technician Colette Louie, subcontracted with the Osoyoos Indian band and Certified Technician Keith Louis, subcontracted with the Okanagan Indian Band, Cash Tonasket, from our Penticton office that frequently make trips to the Columbia for field work. We are making great strides in exerting for a stronger presence in the Columbia. We are making greater gains in obtaining more of a lead position in projects and approvals on proposals for new and upcoming projects.

During this time of year our staff members are currently working on reports, going out into the field and drafting new proposals for future work.

At the moment our technicians and biologists are involved in the field work for the following projects.

- Mica Mountain Whitefish egg mats
- Lower Columbia Whitefish Life History and Egg Mat Monitoring
- Middle Columbia River Adult Fish Habitat Use

Office Relocation:

The Penticton Fisheries Office will be relocated as of May 1, 2010 to 697 Wade Street, Penticton BC, where the old Hockey used to be. They will be there until the new hatchery is complete.

All phone numbers will remain the same, if you have any questions please contact Howie Wright, Fisheries Manager hwright@syilx.org 1-866-662-9609
930, 000 Sockeye Fry to be Released May 26, 2010

The Okanagan Nation Alliance will be hosting the sixth Okanagan Sockeye Fry Release into Skaha Lake on Wednesday May 26, 2010 Penticton.

Please join us for a Cultural Ceremony, Fry Release and Feast and help us celebrate the return of Okanagan Sockeye to their historic habitat in Skaha Lake.

This year’s fry release will mark the 6th year of a 12-year initiative being led by the Okanagan Nation Alliance to reintroduce sockeye back into a portion of their historic habitat and migration range after nearly a century of habitat destruction and blocked migration.

ONAFD began planning to implement Year 6 of 12 of the sockeye reintroduction program in the fall of 2009. During October 2009, 488 females and 550 males were retained for gametes. These eggs and milt were taken to the Shuswap River Hatchery for fertilization and incubation. Estimated number of eggs collected: 1,391,000.

ONAFD also has several schools that participate in the Salmonids in the classroom that have been diligently raising sockeye fry for release either at the Fry release or on their own. These schools are, Sensisyusten (WFN), Outma (PIB), Sen Pok Chin (OIB), Osoyoos Elementary, Cawston Primary, and here at the Fisheries office in Westbank.

The ONAFD would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their support to this worthwhile program over the past 6 years.

- Grant Public Utilities District: Washington
- Chelan Public Utilities District: Washington
- Our partners—Fisheries and Oceans Canada— Ministry of Environment
- En’owkin—for the use of the center and the catering
- To our esteemed elders and honoured guests that always make this a special event.
- Adam and Sandi Eneas: for allowing us the use of the parking facilities
- Wolski Environmental—for raising the Sockeye
- To Keith Louis and Colin Marchand (OKIB)— for raising and delivering the sockeye
- To the drummers; for making the Fry Release very special.
- To the staff of ONAFD—for all their hard work and dedication to the program.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this celebration, marking the midway point to the Sockeye Reintroduction program.

KɁ cp’əłk’stím’ “CAUSE IT TO COME BACK”

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2010

Okanagan River, Penticton B.C. Hwy 97 & Green Mountain Road
Celebrate Earth Week!
Sturgeon Gathering
Friday, April 23, 2010
@ Revelstoke Centennial Ball Fields

Events & Activities

9am
Arrival of the
Sturgeon Warrior Canoes

9am-10am
Spiritual Ceremonies

10am-2pm
Release a Sturgeon
into the Columbia
River!

10am-11am
Welcome Addresses by
Ktunaxa, Okanagan &
Secwepemc Nations

12pm-1pm
LUNCH

10am-2pm
Kids Activities
Arts & Crafts, Storytelling...

11am-12pm
Welcome Addresses by
Sponsors & Organizations

10am-2pm
Sturgeon & Cultural
Displays

1pm-2pm
Hand Drumming
& Singing

What to Bring:
✓ Warm Clothing
✓ Hand Drums
✓ Your appetite!

Location:
Revelstoke Centennial
Ball Fields

For more information
please contact:
Dawn Morrison
250-679-1116
dawnm@cablean.net
Esketemc First Nation
34th Annual AA Round Up

Theme: A Common Solution

Friday July 9, 2010:
5:00 PM Registration
6:00 PM Opening Drumming & Dancing/Prayer
            Ice Cream Social
7:00 PM Welcome Meeting
9:00 PM Outdoor Dance

Saturday July 10, 2010:
7:00 AM Sweatlodge
8:00 AM Breakfast & Registration
10:00 AM Local Speaker
            Debbie R - Alkali Lake
10:30 AM Call Up Meeting
12:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM New Comers Meeting
2:30 PM Break
3:00 PM AA Birthday Meeting
4:30 PM TBA
5:30 PM Set Up for Supper Break
6:00 PM Banquet
7:00 PM Guest Speakers:
            Dave B - Edmonton, AB
            Betty B - New Westminster, BC
            Serina S - Alkali Lake
8:45 PM Indian Bingo

Saturday July 10, 2010 Cont'd:
9:00 PM Outdoor Dance
11:00 PM Nite Owl Meeting

Sunday July 11, 2011:
7:00 AM Sweat Lodge
8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Farewell Meeting
11:00 AM Closing Drumming & Dancing
12:00 PM Lunch

Registration:
(Covers All Weekend)
Family (4) $50.00
Single $25.00

Group Rates are negotiable,
talk to Ken J.

Bring your Camping Equipment and Drinking Water

No Vendors unless approved by
Round Up Committee

Please! Stay for the whole Round Up we have excellent speakers

The Esketemc First Nation AA Round Up Committee will not be held responsible for any injury, damage or loss during this event.

Contact:
Ken Johnson
250.440.5651 (w)
250.267.1614 (cell)

Edna Johnson
250.440.5768 (h)
"A Gathering of Wisdom & Strength"

April 28th, 29th, and 30th, and May 1st, 2010

Prestige Inn, Vernon, B.C.

"The Grandmothers Speak"

featuring Bonnie Sinclair is a special workshop for all who work and heal from violence in any capacity.

Also featuring a presentation from Alaska

"Beauty for Ashes"

Topics include:

- The Journey Back to My Story
  - My Journey With Shame and Anger
- Relating to Others on my Journey
  - Disappointment on My Journey
- My Journey of Recovery

Other workshops featuring:

- 10,000 Warriors
- Healing with Humour
- Community Losses, Grieving & Recovery
- Traumatized Families
- Grief & Trauma & Addictions Recovery
- Sexual Abuse, Battering, Child Apprehensions, Abuses

*** Registration for early birds ~ $300.00 ***

Registration after March 15th, 2010 ~ $350.00

For registration or vendor display information contact Conference Coordinator:

#22 - 650 Duncan Avenue West, Penticton, BC V2A 7N1

Fax (250) 493-4952 or email at martie.louis@hotmail.com
Building a better future
Education for life
Okanagan Nation Bursary Program

Open to all Okanagan Nation Students who:

- Are Post Secondary students who are attending a recognized university or college on a full time basis or are graduating from Grade 12
- Are registered in a two year program
- Can demonstrate financial need
- Application available on our website:

TO BE AWARDED:
Two: $1,200 Bursaries

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS
Annual - May 31, 2010

Applications are available at any of the Okanagan Nation Member Band Offices or through the Okanagan Nation Alliance
The RNative Voice celebrated the end of the Winter programs with a youth gathering in Westbank at the end of February 2010.

The gathering included the following workshops:

a) Sweatlodge with Arnie Baptiste
b) Sewing with Tiana Louis
c) Bone Painting with Billie Kruger
d) Rope Making with Ruby Alexis
e) Outdoor Activities

The gathering ended with a round dance with Big Island Cree hand drummers. The RNative Voice program is currently in the following communities:

**Westbank First Nations**
Youth Centre
Contact person: Justin Lott
Day: Thursday’s
Time: 4:30-7:30

**Sookinshoot Friendship Centre (Vernon)**
Contact Person: Mariel Belanger
Day: Monday’s
Time: 3:30-6:30

**Penticton (PIB youth centre)**
Contact person: Kim Gouchie
Day: Wednesday’s
Time: 3:30-6:30

**For More Information Contact:**
Amanda Montgomery, amontgomery@syilx.org
One week at UVic... a million possibilities.

Indigenous Student Mini-University Summer Camp

Wondering if University is right for you?
Come stay with us at the University of Victoria for a week and find out!

The Indigenous Student Mini-U Summer Camp gives you a taste of university life—a week filled with academic, physical, creative, cultural and social activities. It’s a great way to learn about the benefits of a post-secondary education and to envision your options for the future.

Application is open to Indigenous students (including Status, Non-status, First Nations, Métis and Inuit) in Grades 8 to 12 who reside in British Columbia.

To download an application, find the link at: http://www.uvic.ca/inaf/index.php mini-university or request a copy to be emailed to you.

Join us Monday, July 5 to Friday, July 9, 2010
Application deadline: May 14, 2009

For more information, contact Kerissa Dickie at (250) 853-3529 or inafcomm@uvic.ca
Chief Fabian Alexis, Raymond Marchand, Coola Louis, and Rhoda Poschenrieder, along with Band members attended the environmental assessment hearing on World Water Day, March 22, 2010 to support the Xeni Gwet’in and the Tsilhqot’in’s fight to save Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) from the proposed Prosperity Mine by Taseko Mines.

In early March, the Chiefs from the Tsilhqot’in National Government and Esketemc First Nation, including Chief Marilyn Baptiste, Xeni Gwet’in First Nation, and Chief Bernie Elkins, Esdilagh First Nation and Chief Fred Robbins, Esketemc First Nation supported the Okanagan Nation and the Band by standing in unity with the Okanagan People at the Bouleau Lake Blockade and Westside Roadside checkpoint to protect our Watersheds in the Browns Creek area.

Similar disputes over protection of our water sources are infringing on traditional territories of many Indigenous lands and impact the entire environmental surroundings.

The Okanagan Indian Band supports the Tsilhqot’in Nation to stop the Vancouver-based Taseko Mines Ltd proposal in draining the Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) in order to stockpile solid waste and use Fish Creek and Little Fish Lake as tailings impoundment areas for a gold-copper mining project called Prosperity Mine. Teztan Biny is home to an estimated 85,000 rainbow trout. The Tsilhqot’in has lived in the area for thousands of years. They oppose the environmental destruction being proposed by Taseko Mines and were not properly consulted by the Province of British Columbia when it approved the project.

The Federal Review Panel are conducting environmental hearings that began with a motion submitted by Taseko Mines Ltd. to prevent a documentary about the Tsilhqot’in people’s connection to Teztan Biny, or Fish Lake, from being shown at a public hearing on the mine proposal southwest of Williams Lake. The federal review panel dismissed Taseko’s motion that last week asked that the film Blue Gold: The Tsilhqot’in Fight for Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) not be shown at the public hearing. The link to the Blue Gold film is: http://vimeo.com/9679174

Chief Fabian Alexis and the members of the Okanagan Indian Band also participated in the Support Rally following the daytime presentations. Water issues across the Country are increasing; recent activities that concern clean and safe drinking water are being brought to the forefront by the Halalt First Nation, the Okanagan Indian Band and the Xeni Gwet’in “Water” is the issue.”
**What's Happening**

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**Okanagan Nation Alliance Annual General Meeting**

**July 15 – 16, 2010**

Sen Pok Chin, Gymnasium

For more information please contact:

Cheryl Stump cstump@syilx.org

Phone: 1-866-662-9609

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**April 23rd Sturgeon Release**

For more information contact:

Cheryl Stump at (250) 707-0095

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**16th Annual UBCO Career Fair**

**May 6, 2010**

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

At UBCO Okanagan Campus

3333 University Way, Kelowna B.C.

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**Gathering Wisdom & Strength Conference**

**April 28-May 1, 2010**

Prestige Inn, Vernon B.C.

Topics Include:

- The Journey back to my story
- My Journey with shame & anger
- Relating to others on my Journey
- My Journey of Recovery

Registration after March 15, 2010: $350.00

For registration or vendor display information please contact conference coordinator at:

#22-650 Duncan Ave. West

Penticton B.C. V2A 7N1

Fax (250) 493-4952 or email:

martie.louise@hotmail.com

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**ONA May E-News**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: April 26, 2010**

If you have a story or event that you would like included in our E-bulletin please email:

tmontgomery@syilx.org

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**Build Your Future as a Housing Inspector**

**BC First Nations Building Inspector Certificate Program**

In this 9-week, full-time course, you'll learn:

- How to inspect new and existing homes
- Building Code requirements
- WHMIS and Occupational First Aid Level 1
- Basic math, computers and writing skills

The program will provide the knowledge and skills required to work with First Nations, CMHC, and INAC to inspect new house construction and renovations on BC reserves.

**NEW DATES:**

**September 20 to November 19, 2010**

(Monday – Friday)

Vancouver Island University,

Cowichan Campus, Duncan, BC

Cost: $4,250 tuition (plus application fee/student union fees)

To register, you must:

- have two years of post apprentice experience as a fully qualified tradesperson OR at least four years experience as a construction generalist (documented proof required) AND
- be able to communicate effectively, both in writing and in person.

**Start your future today!**

For more information call 250-746-3546

Or visit: http://viu.ca/ccs/certificates/fhbi.asp

Email contracts@cc.viu.ca

Enrollment limited to 20 people