

# The Office of Aboriginal Education

## “Moccasin Memo”

### November 2008



Welcome to the first edition of “moccasin memo”. This will be a monthly memo to update our internal and external stakeholders on the activities taking place in the Office of Aboriginal Education. The website will be updated and will include the moccasin memo.

#### **Aboriginal Service Plan**

On October 21st, we submitted the ASP report to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development (ALMD). The Ministry has indicated they hope to finalize year two implementation funding in December. On January 22nd and 23rd sharing sessions demonstrating “leading practices” by all ASP funded public post-secondary institutions will be hosted by the Ministry in Vancouver. These sessions will help inform ALMD’s allocation of a small amount of additional funding to recognize excellent practice.

#### **Aboriginal Speaker Series**

The Aboriginal Speaker Series has scheduled two presentations:

- November 24th: Doctor Eber Hampton, Bldg. 255, 170 from 11:00 to 1:00
- December 2nd: Tribal Journey “Mal-U Nation” Canoe Family, Bldg. 305, 440 from 11:30 to 1:00am

The speaker series are open to all faculty, staff and community members.

#### **Christmas Feast**

The Christmas Feast is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd from 12:30 to 2:30 in Building 355, 211 and will be hosted by Career and Academic Prep (CAP). Please join us for food, traditional drumming and singing, and other festive activities. A raffle for two 18” drums will be held at this event with proceeds supporting the CAP graduation. Everyone Welcome!

#### **Gathering Place**

The building of the Gathering Place at VIU is moving forward. We’ve had numerous meetings with the steering committee, elders, and community members. A decision on the design has been made as well as the location of the building on the Nanaimo campus. Updated information is available at the following weblink: [http://www.viu.ca/facilities/Campus\\_Development/MAJOR%20CAPITAL%20PROJECTS/GATHERINGPLACE/TheGatheringPlace.asp](http://www.viu.ca/facilities/Campus_Development/MAJOR%20CAPITAL%20PROJECTS/GATHERINGPLACE/TheGatheringPlace.asp)

If you have any questions on this exciting endeavor please contact Dan Lines at dan.lines@viu.ca or call (250) 740-6146.

## VIU Elders

VIU elders met on November 7th at Milner Gardens in Qualicum. Six out of the seven elders were in attendance and discussed the elders council policy. We are very pleased to report that all of our elders indicated they are enjoying the work that they are involved in across all four campuses at VIU.

The elders are active in a variety of areas encompassing student support, classroom instruction, teaching traditional protocols and cross-cultural sharing. If you are interested in hosting an elder in your classroom/program please contact Karen Baxter at Karen.baxter@viu.ca or call 250-740-6412.



VIU Elders from left to right Florence James, Delores Louie, Mavis Wyse, Ray Peter, Elsie Paul, Florence Elliott (guest) and Geraldine Manson.

Missing: Margaret Sloan

### Elders Council Policy

*"The purpose of the council will be to offer peer support for individual elders, as well as offer them an opportunity to speak informally to Vancouver Island University administration, faculty and staff. Although the First Nations Advisory Committee will play a central role on campus in representing Aboriginal community interests, it is important that elders have a mechanism by which to share their insights and gather together for their mutual benefit."*

As this is our first attempt at the Moccasin Memo we welcome and appreciate feedback and input. Please contact Sylvia Scow: sylvia.scow@viu.ca or call (250) 753-3245, local 2096. Thank you.