



VANCOUVER ISLAND  
UNIVERSITY



Creating Wealth from Knowledge

## Press Release

### ***FLOW - Future Leaders On the Water,*** First Nation Youth Leadership Shellfish Program

Building upon the success of last year's program, the Centre for Shellfish Research hosted its second called ***FLOW - Future Leaders On the Water***, from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup> at the relaxed setting of Moorecroft camp in Nanoose, BC.

The Centre for Shellfish Research would like to share our vision of empowering our *Future Leaders On the Water*. Our objective is to bring together intergenerational groups of youth and adult mentors from First Nation communities around the province.

The goal of this program is to develop leadership skills in youth age 13 to 18, help develop their interest in marine science and re-connect them with the ocean by combining activities related to marine biology, ecology, shellfish aquaculture and traditional knowledge. The participants learn transferable skills through experiential learning, interactive team building and effective communication, and are presented with new horizons at Vancouver Island University (VIU) and other opportunities that are available to them.

We consider this year's program to be a huge success and was attended by twenty-nine youth, student-mentors and Elders from nine Vancouver Island First Nation Communities.

The youth participated in five days of fun-filled activities, which included leadership workshops, traditional knowledge and activities, such as pit cooking and native crafts; chemistry labs, marine biology and botany field trips and tours to Milner Gardens, the CSR's Deep Bay field site and Vancouver Island University.

The 2009 program was jointly funded by BC Hydro, the Vancouver Island University Foundation, the Hamber Foundation and the Centre for Shellfish Research, whom we would like to thank for their generous support.