



# Yu-Ys



FIRST NATIONS EMPLOYMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • WINTER, 2002 VOL.1 ISSUE 1

## A new path for First Nations job-seekers

*The First Nations Employment Centre, Yu-Ys, and you*

The word "Yu-ys" is an ancient one; it means work, and since the beginning of time, it has been work that has built our societies, fed our families, and nurtured our generations. Our work defines us; we devote the better part of our lives to it, and at the end of our days, we hope that our descendants will speak of our "good works". Yet increasingly, in this modern world, it is the quest for work, the search for a "job" that engages us, and occupies much of our time. This can be a confusing quest. There are many paths to follow, and just as many dead-ends. There are no signposts to go by, and no maps with which to navigate. The terrain is shifting, and often confusing. This can be a particularly frustrating place for First Nations people. In communities where economic growth can be slow, and in the cities, where people are faced with a life very different from their home community, a job can be hard to find. Meaningful, fulfilling work, "yu-ys", can seem at times beyond reach.

The First Nations Employment and Enterprise Centre was created to change this through the provision of a broad range of services targeted specifically to First Nations people in their communities, and the Greater Vancouver area. In a realm of shifting terrain and confusing paths, the centre exists to provide a way through and to provide job seekers with a personal "map" to a rewarding and successful career. This is our Yu-ys; this is the meaningful work in which we are engaged. Our services represent the collective strength of ten nations, whose territories stretch from Vancouver to the Sunshine Coast; together, we are focused on the common goal of helping First Nations people find the work they deserve.

The friendly staff at the centre are available to assist you in a variety of ways: we offer one-on-one employment counseling to assist you in identifying your areas of interest, and possible options. We will work with you to identify and build upon your strengths, and through our job placement services, endeavour to match these with our extensive network of employers who require staff. Along with our partner organizations, we routinely host career workshops to present job seekers with current, cutting edge information about opportunities, apprenticeships, skills, and sponsorships. Free high-speed internet access is available at the Centre, enabling you to have your own e-mail address, and access to the web and the numerous job opportunities and career resources available. Photocopying and fax



### A Farewell Gathering

Participants and organizers of the Guatemalan/Canadian First Nations Youth Exchange gathered Sept. 7 at the First Nations Employment Centre for a farewell luncheon. Pictured are, from left to right: Aracely Toe, Caroline Huitz, Fausto Paul Oepaz, FNEC Youth Co-ordinator Brandon Stiles, Clyde Wallace, Alison Pascal, Mariposa Dumont, Helen Barreno, Carlos Andress, CWY representative Tammy Hoblak, Jose Armando, Karla Cojulun, Juritha Owens, Angel Peters. Front Row, Left to Right: Oscar Ical, Virgil Benallie. For full coverage of this event, please see page 3.

services are offered free of charge to job seekers, and our friendly and knowledgeable staff is always at hand to assist as required.

Within the comfortable environment of the centre, you will also find an up-to-date job posting board, with the latest positions available from a wide variety of employers, in a number of fields. Our library is always available to access information on areas of interest to you in your job search, or to explore possible career options and how to get there. Our staff is as varied as the nations we represent; they know from experience the often frustrating path to meaningful work, and are a valuable and helpful resource whether you are navigating the many services the centre provides, or dealing with the broader realm of work and the search for a good job. They can match your needs with a variety of governmental and non-governmental programs, support services, and training opportunities. For the budding entrepreneur, the centre provides counseling, business planning assistance, and other services to Aboriginal small business.

This is our Yu-ys; this is our work, and it is through coming by for a visit, and exploring the numerous ways in which we can help you in your work quest, that you help us in our quest to provide helpful, meaningful assistance to First Nations job seekers.

The centre is located at 101A-440 Cambie St, Vancouver B.C., Telephone 604-605-8901, Fax 604-605-8902. The centre is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The centre can be reached via e-mail at [jobs@firstnationsemployment.com](mailto:jobs@firstnationsemployment.com), and on the web at [www.firstnationsemployment.com](http://www.firstnationsemployment.com). The centre provides a friendly, open and casual atmosphere for job seekers, and drop-ins are encouraged. All services are provided free of charge to First Nations job seekers.

## Welcome to the First Nations Employment Society

The First Nations Employment Society (FNES) was incorporated as a non-profit society in April 1997. It represents the strength of ten First Nations, including on and off-reserve people, in the Vancouver and Sunshine Coast areas. These include the T'sleil Waututh, Tsawassen, Squamish, Sliammon, Sechelt, N'quatqua, Musqueam, Mount Currie, Klahoose and Homalco First Nations. Together, these ten nations are working to address employment issues vital to Aboriginal participation in the new economy.

The Society was created to provide a vehicle for First Nations to take over the delivery of employment and training from Human Resource Development Canada. The Society presented an opportunity for First Nations to directly accept responsibility for employment and training in order to address the high unemployment in and around their communities, and to help community members obtain secure and long lasting employment.

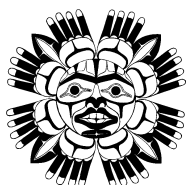
The FNES presently oversees three federal agreements to accomplish these goals. In conjunction with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Society is combining federal assistance funding with federal

employment training money to help move people living on reserves off of welfare and into long-term employment. Second, the FNES has the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Canada. Third, the FNES has signed a landmark agreement with Public Works and Government Services Canada to promote the participation of Aboriginal communities in the federal procurement strategy.

In addition, the FNES oversees the operation of the First Nations Employment and Enterprise Centre in downtown Vancouver, in order to help the dynamic Aboriginal labour force of the Greater Vancouver area participate directly in the local economy. On the community level, the FNES is investing substantial resources into capacity building, to provide community members with the tools, skills and equipment to deliver and receive services that were formerly not available.

The FNES is committed to its primary goal, to facilitate the direct participation of Aboriginal people and communities in the larger economy. The Society seeks to accomplish this in three steps: Information, Education, and Partnerships. Information means letting business know that

CONTINUED • SEE "WELCOME" ON PAGE 4



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## WHO WE ARE

First Nations  
Employment Society and  
Centre Staff Profiles

As you navigate the many services the centre provides, these are some of the people who will be on hand to assist you in your work quest. We look forward to meeting you, and helping you along your path to employment.



**Maureen Leo,**  
Lil'wat Nation.  
Associate Executive  
Director, FNEC.

**Norma Guerin,**  
Musqueam Nation.  
Executive Assistant,  
FNEC.

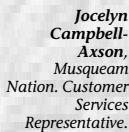


**Sharon  
Bowcott,**  
Tsawwassen First  
Nation, FNEC  
Centre Manager.

**Andrea Harrison,**  
Ojibway/Cree  
Nation, Chief  
Financial Officer.



**Brandon Stiles,**  
Chippewa Nation  
(Georgian Island).  
Youth Projects  
Co-ordinator.



**Jocelyn  
Campbell-  
Axson,**  
Musqueam  
Nation, Customer  
Services  
Representative.



**Valerie  
Monkman,**  
Ojibway, Peguis  
Nation.  
Receptionist.



**Jeanette Ryan,**  
Shushwap Nation.  
Intake/Database  
Technician.



**Colleen Bell,**  
Haida Nation.  
Junior Financial  
Clerk.

Not pictured  
**Lorna Stewart,**  
Musqueam Nation.  
Financial Assistant.



# Work for Youth

## ■ A Chat with FNEC Youth Employment Coordinator Brandon Stiles

*Yu-ys sat down for a chat with Brandon Stiles, the youth coordinator for the First Nations Employment Centre; Brandon is from the Chippewa Nation, and only in his mid-twenties, he carries a wealth of knowledge about the youth labour market, and a perspective on First Nations employment issues beyond his years. Yu-ys began by asking Brandon to describe his role at the centre...*

### What exactly does your role as youth employment coordinator at the FNEC involve?

As per the centre's youth employment program, I am here to assist urban First Nations youth living in the Vancouver area with their employment issues. Whether it be barriers to employment, or just simple assistance with their job search. Some of the services that the centre does provide are up-to-date job postings specific for youth, assistance in resume building, assistance in writing your cover letter, access to training programs, small business information, Internet access which includes e-mail, photocopying and faxing services for resumes, and career focus workshops. I am also administrator for special projects, such as exchange programs and internships.

### The focus on youth is very apparent in the centre. Why such a heavy orientation towards helping youth?

Because 40 per cent of our clientele is youth. We have a high demand for services to youth, and I think particularly in terms of First Nations youth coming from remote areas; sometimes it is not easy to come from those areas into the city and integrate right into the work force, and that is also what we are here for, to assist these people in overcoming barriers and challenges.

### You sound as though you speak from experience; have you been there yourself, coming to the city from a small community and trying to find your way?

Absolutely. I moved from my community in Ontario in January; this is a new community to me, and pretty much a lot of the services we are currently providing to youth are being molded by me, drawing on my personal experiences in coming to Vancouver from a small reserve, and reflecting on the services I felt I needed.

### What are some of the difficulties you encountered in coming to the city that you have worked to incorporate into the centre's youth programs?

When I came to Vancouver, there weren't a lot of employment leads to follow. I didn't know where to begin to find some employment within my field; the information wasn't readily available. This is something I am working to make available to First Nations youth through the Centre: information on their fields of interests, and the paths to employment.

### Are you noticing any common factors that describe the First Nations youth that are coming to the centre for access to these services?

Yes. It depends on their age group, and the level of education they have completed. Lots of the youth are coming in at the high school stage, and are looking to enter the work

force for the first time. Post-secondary graduates are also coming in looking for assistance, and this is where I think our programs could really be developed further, in our services to these people. At this point, we are looking to get involved with an employer network for post-secondary students and graduates who have qualifications and perhaps

## "I WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO SAY TO EVERY JOB SEEKER THAT COMES TO THE CENTRE 'HERE YOU GO, HERE IS A JOB'"

certifications but don't have a network of employers they can go to and find those jobs that they are looking for.

### You have mentioned that there are a lot of positions available, though many are hard to find; what is your estimation of the employment prospects for First Nations youth at the present time?

Fairly good. It is growing, and these opportunities are expanding. A lot of places are looking to employ our people in part because the centre's youth program has been instrumental in advocating for the hiring of First Nations youth. I have gone out into the community and promoted this notion to the employer community. They often ask the question "why?" to which I reply "why not?". We have a group of talented First Nations youth that are ready for work and are looking for work; why not hire them?

### What do you see as your greatest challenge in your position as youth employment coordinator?

My greatest challenge? Well, it is challenging every day, but one of my greatest challenges is matching each person who walks through the door with an ideal job. I would love to be able to say to every job seeker that comes to the centre "here you go, here is a job". That is my day-to-day challenge, trying to find employment for youth. In a perfect world I would be able to sit down with them, do a bit of critiquing, and have them leave with a million leads to employment and opportunity. The reality is, depending on particular barriers to employment and sometimes social barriers, every case is different. We deal with each set of barriers on an individual, reactive basis.

### What are some important qualities that First Nations youth, and indeed youth in general, need to bring to the quest for employment and a good job?

Be very confident. Confidence will get you a long way when you are involved in the employment search. Be straightforward regarding what you are looking for. A lot of youth will come in here and have some great ideas for some exciting employment ideas, but they really don't come in and tell me precisely what they want, and what path they want to begin following to

get there. That's where I come in, and ask some direct questions of them. I had a youth come in looking for work at a major music retailer. I suggested to him that he make this desire into a research project; that he go to the manager of this record store and say "what cool jobs around here; how does somebody like me get here?" Ask questions, take notes, see what employers say, and bring it all back to me and I will call back on your behalf and follow up and say "hey, I had a first nations youth come in and remark on a great job at your company. I am going to work with him and act on the information you shared with him. Let's work together and see if we can't get him a job." It is a very reactive, case specific process. You have to sit down with each client as they come in and deal with each thing as it comes up.

### This might seem a rhetorical question, in light of what has been said, but how do you feel about your job as youth employment coordinator at the FNEC?

Very good. I like doing the work towards First Nations development, and I like helping other First Nations youth just like myself. It is rewarding work for me, as I said before I am basing a lot of my work on this program by example, based upon my experience with gaps in services when I first arrived in Vancouver. I am working daily to address these gaps, as youth coordinator.

### When all is said and done, and you are able to sit back and reflect on your work here, how do you hope your legacy as youth coordinator will read? What would you like to see come out of the work you are doing, now and in the future?

Because the youth program is fairly new, some of the services are as mentioned very grass roots, and reactive based upon the case-by-case needs of youth who come in. So far this has worked very well, but I feel that we are missing vital parts of the First Nations youth community: homeless youth, some of the street youth who are out there. I have often asked the question when I get together with other youth workers and youth coordinators in the area: how do we get a youth from the streets, or somebody that is homeless off the street, rehabilitated to whatever degree they require, bring them to a job-ready state, and get them into a job? That is a process I would like to see worked out, some sort of a process to accomplish this for those youth that we are missing. We don't presently have somebody to do outreach to those youth, to share with them some of the services that we provide. And that would be extremely beneficial, not just to assist the work of one coordinator, but to assist all the youth coordinators in Vancouver to come up with a program where all of us can sit around a table and address those need together.

### Do you have anything you would like to say directly to First Nations youth that might be reading this, regarding the ways in which the Centre can help?

Come into the centre. Check it out. It is culturally appropriate for our First Nations people. It is designed to make every First Nations youth, from whatever walk of life, very comfortable. We are here to service and assist you in every way possible, in overcoming your barriers to employment.

## Community Health Nurse - Chehalis Indian Band

### NOTICE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE

The community of Chehalis requires the services of a well-qualified Community Health Nurse. Chehalis is a progressive First Nations community with a membership approaching 1000, half of whom live on the reserve. Located 40 kms east of Mission, the community is nestled in a park-like setting, offers excellent access to recreation and cultural resources.

**The Position:** The Community Health Nurse, working with other members of the Health and Social Development Program, is responsible for the delivery and evaluation of culturally appropriate Community Health Prevention and Promotion programs and services. The Community Health Nurse will promote wellness with individuals, families and the community in the area of Prenatal, Infant, Pre-school, Adult, Chronic Care and the care of Elders.

**Qualifications and Requirements:** The ideal candidate possesses the following qualifications and knowledge:

- B.Sc.N Degree with Community Health emphasis or Public Health Diploma and/or Health Education Training.
- Valid Innoculist Certificate.
- Registration with the Registered Nurses Association of BC (or eligible for registration).
- Several years of experience in Community Health Nursing and Health Education, preferably in First Nation Communities.
- In-depth knowledge and experience regarding the development, design and evaluation of culturally appropriate programs and services.
- Knowledge and experience of program evaluation and quality assurance disciplines.
- Familiarity and understanding of Chehalis Culture, Spirituality and History or a willingness to learn.
- Ability to provide leadership and support to a Health and Social Development Team with a wide variety of training, background and experience.
- Ability to develop and maintain healthy relationships with co-workers, community members and representatives from other departments and agencies.
- Training and experience with computers and software considered an asset.
- Criminal Record Check.

**Salary:** Negotiable: Subject to experience and qualifications. Compensation includes competitive employee benefits program.

**Term:** Permanent employment, provided that the incumbent meets probation period and performance requirement of position.

Interested candidates should submit a complete Resume, Covering Letter and Three Work Related Reference Letters to:

**Chehalis Indian Band, Health and Family Services Manager**  
Attention: Virginia Peters Comp. 66, Chehalis Road  
Agassiz, BC V0M 1A1 Fax: (604) 796-3946

# CONGRATULATIONS

to the First Nations Employment Society on the Inaugural publication of Yu-Ys

from

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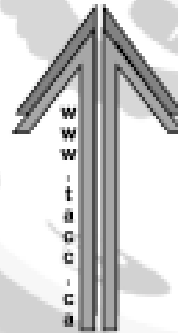


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# Yu-Ys

WINTER, 2002 • VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

*Yu-ys is a periodic newsletter published by  
Taiga Communications Inc. in conjunction with  
the First Nations Employment Society of British Columbia.  
Yu-ys (pronounced Yuh-yees) means work in Hun'qumi'num.*

**Circulation:**

10,000 copies are distributed throughout British Columbia.

**Vancouver Office:**

Taiga Communications Inc.  
210-B Whonoak Rd., North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 1P3  
Tel (604) 990-1174  
Advertising sales: 204-988-9421

SALES AGREEMENT #: 40010532

# In Memory of Angel Peters

The following story was written on September 7, 2001, on the evening of the departure of Canadian First Nations participants for a three month stay in Guatemala. One week later, this story took a tragic turn, when Canadian participant Angel Peters, a young woman from the Ojibway Nation, passed away suddenly in Guatemala. All of us at the First Nations Employment Society and Centre, along with the editorial staff of Yu-ys wish to express our heartfelt condolences to the Peters family in this difficult time. After some discussion, it was decided to run the following article, describing the positive, exciting atmosphere of the Sept. 7 send-off luncheon held for participants at the Centre. It seemed fitting, somehow, that we honour our memory of Angel Peters by relating how we knew her that day: happy, excited for the

journey ahead, and surrounded by close friends from Canada and Guatemala. On that day, Angel Peters expressed her hopes and impressed us all with her vision for the future. The eloquence of her words of September ring clear today, as they will in the days and years to come.

"There is so much more out there for First Nations youth than just staying at home; my experiences with the exchange have opened my eyes up to the things that can be accomplished when indigenous peoples work together. I would like to devote myself to bringing this awareness to other indigenous youth."

As we mourn the loss of Angel Peters, let us also ensure that her vision, expressed that day, lives on.



## A Farewell Feast

"Great Spirit let your voice carry truth to your people, as it travels on the wind. Let us be as one with our brothers and sisters in love and peace. Make us strong mentally, physically, and spiritually to lead the way for future generations and make this world a better place to live, and may all your blessings of kindness be bestowed upon our people. We thank you Great Spirit for this wonderful day." -Musqueam Elder Mary Charles, opening prayer to First Nations/Guatemala Send-off Luncheon.

The downtown Vancouver office of the First Nations Employment Society (FNES) and the First Nations Employment Centre was transformed into a place of food, gratitude, and farewells on Friday, Sept. 7 as members of the Society, centre, and Canada World Youth bid farewell to participants in the landmark First Nations/Guatemala Youth Exchange. This program was initiated by the FNES in partnership with Canada World Youth, the MUNI'K'AT Institute of Guatemala, and the Guatemalan municipality of Quetzaltenango. Central to this exchange was the pairing of eight indigenous Guatemalan youth with eight Canadian First Nations youth selected by the FNES. Over a six month period, the visitors from Guatemala lived and worked within local First Nations communities in the Vancouver and Mt. Currie areas in an intensive learning environment designed to immerse them in the unique cultures of local First Nations. The eight Canadian participants shared these experiences with them, working alongside them in the communities and guiding them in their cultural experiences.

Sept. 7 marked a pivotal point in this exchange. As the Guatemalan participants stood to thank the members of the local First Nations communities for their hospitality, the Canadian partici-

pants stood to say farewell, as they departed for a six-month stay in Guatemala, to be hosted by the families of those whom they had themselves hosted in Canada.

Elder Mary Charles of Musqueam initiated the proceedings, with an opening prayer of thanks to the

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**"ALL SAT DOWN TO A DELICIOUS LUNCH OF HALIBUT CHOWDER AND BANNOCK SANDWICHES, TO ENSURE THE TRAVELERS SET FORTH WITH THE TASTE OF LOCAL FOODS FRESH IN THEIR MEMORY"**

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Great Spirit, and her words lended strength to the youth who were on the threshold of such a great journey.

Following a moment of silence, First Nations Employment Society Board President Faye Halls stood on behalf of the Board, relaying their wishes for a safe and successful journey and addressed the Canadian First Nations participants directly, asking that they "come back, and be role models for our communities." It was evident to all in attendance that the exchange experience has already initiated this process. The youth who stood to speak of their experience thus far demonstrated a strength of character and grace before their elders and the assembled gathering, qualities which they attributed directly to the exchange. Juritha Owens, a Cree/Beaver participant from the community of Moberly Lake, reflected on how far she has come in the six months since the exchange began: "before... I was shy, but I have had to become open, to push myself out of my own boundaries... it has been amazing, and so many

opportunities have come my way. I felt so strongly since I began this exchange a senses of wanting to give back to my culture and my community; this has been because of my experience in the exchange." Her words summed up the sentiments of many of the Canadian participants; all spoke of how far they had come as people, and spoke with excitement about how far they hoped yet to go as they began their six-month sojourn in Guatemala.

These feelings were not confined solely to the Canadian participants; in the course of their presentation to those gathered, the Guatemalan participants thanked the FNES and local communities for their hospitality.

"The First Nations have been so kind to us... they always gave us the best that they had, and we learned much from the elders, listening to their histories". Guatemalan participant Jose Armando summed up the feelings of the Guatemala participants as a whole, addressing the gathering: "I am sad to leave...but I am happy that I bring eight friends to Guatemala."

And this was perhaps clearest of all, that these sixteen strangers from distant ends of the hemisphere had become, in six short months, close friends; that despite the barriers of language, and culture, the bond of their shared experience and their commonalties as indigenous youth had united them.

Following the prayers for a safe journey, the presentations, and the farewells, all sat down to a delicious lunch of halibut chowder and bannock sandwiches, to ensure the travelers set forth with the taste of local foods fresh in their memory. Mr. Roy Wallace of Mt. Currie, who together with his wife Anastasia Wallace had hosted Guatemalan participants in their home, and whose son Clyde Wallace was himself among the Canadian contingent, sat back amidst the tearful farewells and words of thanks and reflected on what the experience had brought to his community: "It was really good when they came to our village, a real comfort....they are helping to build up our future".

That future, as represented by the eight Canadian participants who will in time return to their home communities to share what they have learned, and the clear bond between distant peoples, looks bright indeed.

# First Nations Students Create First Class Meals

By Jason McRobbie

*(The following article originally appeared in the May 2001 issue of the B.C. Restaurant News. It appears here by permission of the author)*

In January 1999, the doors opened on the Musqueam Café, a community café which, under the nurturing instruction of Chef Benedict Genaille, is providing Aboriginal students with an educational introduction to the food service and hospitality industry. On March 30, 2001, Chef Genaille and the students of his culinary arts program transformed the Native Education Centre in East Vancouver into a centrepiece of Aboriginal culture during an evening of First Nations Food and Art.

"Events such as this are important for the students" said Genaille who started his culinary career as a Hobart engineer (read: dishwasher) before moving on to work with some of the province's top chefs including Wolfgang Leske and Blair Rasmussen. Opening Blanco Nero Restaurant as Chef and spending two years as Sous Chef at Le Crocodile, it was not until he was hired by the Operation Youth Society, that Genaille found his calling—working with youth.

"I spent two years as Senior Chef Instructor at Picasso Café and I know the exposure to the pressures outside our own community café is key to their development. Last year we had one of our students apprentice at the Fairmont Waterfront for a period and recently we had a student into Quest and another into C Restaurant. The learning experience is invaluable."

Ideally, Genaille envisions a café similar to Picasso with a twist. At Genaille's café, the learning experience would be a two-way street, with students learning to master their skills in a demanding environment and diners learning a thing or two about Aboriginal cuisine and culture.

"Education is critical, but creating a launching pad for employment in the industry would realize an important goal", said Genaille. "I would love to take a group of students to the next Bocuse d'Or so that they can see the potential and one day, take a team of Aboriginal chefs to compete at the International Culinary Olympics."

The event at the NEC was created as a fund-raiser to help realize such goals and aspirations. Guests entered the longhouse through the ceremonial door located at the foot of a totem pole carved by Norman Tate

and were greeted by a roaring fire in the central fireplace and the harmonic voices of the Wallace Family. The classrooms were transformed into dining rooms and decorated to create a dining atmosphere befitting the cuisine created by Chef Ben Genaille and the students. Chef Darryle Ryo Nagate of the Waterfront was among those gathered for the evening and has displayed an active interest in the origins of Aboriginal cuisine.

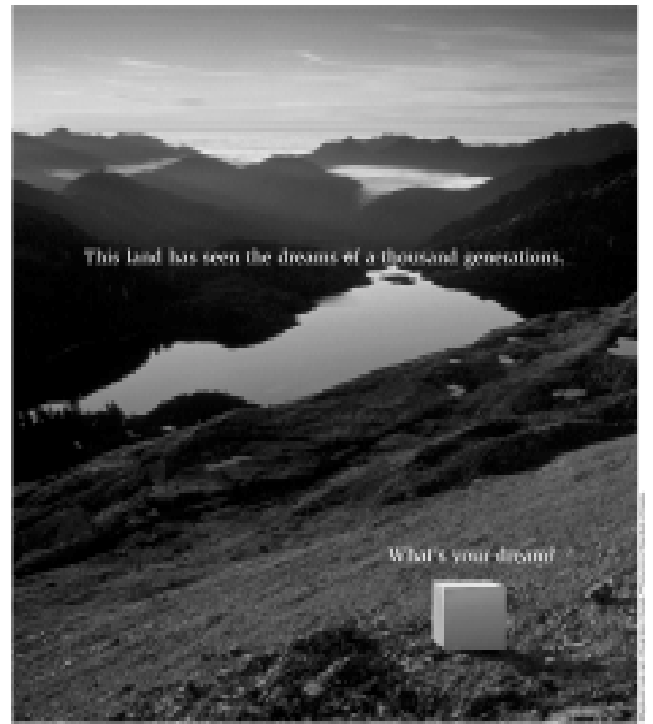
"Darryle has been tremendously supportive of our efforts," said Genaille. "He has taken a river rafting trip with us to the home of the bald eagles and taken a student into his kitchen." Learning works in both directions.

What distinguished the meal was not only the admirable talents of the student chefs, but the strikingly

## A GLIMPSE AT THE 'TRENDY' MENUS AROUND THE PROVINCE IS PROOF ENOUGH OF THE ENDURING ASPECTS OF ABORIGINAL CUISINE

familiar aspects of the five course meal itself. Wild greens, fresh berries, delicate milk pod soup with herring and salmon row, tender cuts of pheasant, savoury bison festooned with Saskatoon berries: edible proof that culinary trends are often deeply rooted in the past. The exotic traditional Aboriginal foods are finding favour not only at the Musqueam Café in North Vancouver, but on menus across the province, as alternative proteins and local produce continues to gain in popularity.

In essence, a glimpse at the 'trendy' menus around the province is proof enough of the enduring aspects of Aboriginal cuisine. Those interested in learning more about Aboriginal cuisine or the educational program being run through the Musqueam Café can contact Christina Piche at 604-408-1170.



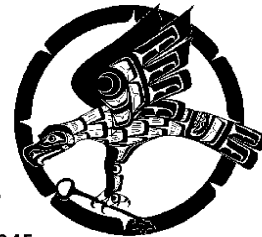
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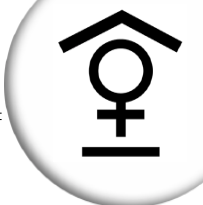
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Aboriginal people are seeking employment, and that they bring a wide range of skills, interests, and abilities to the workforce. It means working with companies to ensure they meet their own targets for the recruitment of Aboriginal people, and it means linking them directly with Aboriginal communities, so they can quickly find the people they need. Education involves knowing where the jobs are, and sharing information on the dynamics of the regional labour market with First Nations communities. Industry must be taught that the Aboriginal population is distinct, young, and fast growing. Partnerships

must be established for action, with businesses interested in working with First Nations communities.

The FNES views these steps, and its overall mission, as essential if we are going to be successful in creating an equal opportunity environment in B.C. which will support the direct participation of Aboriginal communities in the new economy. It is a large task, but the FNES is not doing it alone. In partnership with industry, the private sector, and First Nations communities, the Society will continue to work toward getting our young people into the workforce and keeping them there, so that they may look toward the future with hope and opportunity.

## VANCOUVER RAPE RELIEF AND WOMEN'S SHELTER



Warm congratulations and best wishes Yu-Ys from the women of Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

24 HOUR CRISIS LINE  
EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN  
WOMEN'S ORGANIZING CENTRE

RAPE CRISIS LINE (604) 872-8212

# Event Focus

## Guatemalan Youth Exchange Luncheon



*FNEC Youth Projects Coordinator Brandon Stiles accepts a gift in honour of his work on behalf of the Canadian/Guatemalan youth exchange from Canadian participant Virgil Benallie while FNEC Customer Service representative Jocelyn Campbell-Axson (standing) and FNEC Centre Manager Sharon Bowcott (seated) look on.*



*Guatemalan participant Jose Armando poses for a final farewell photo with exchange host Mr. Roy Wallace of Mt. Currie.*



*Canadian and Guatemalan exchange participants present a mural tracing the hands of each participant and depicting messages of thanks to their Canadian hosts. The message on the bottom reads: "Here you can identify the indigenous Canadian hands and indigenous Guatemalan hands and you know that these are indigenous friends, sisters and brothers and that you can count on them. Thank you for everything!"*



*Roy and Anastasia Wallace of Mt. Currie, who had hosted exchange participants in their home and introduced them to their community, stand before the assembled gathering to thank the participants, and wish them a good journey.*

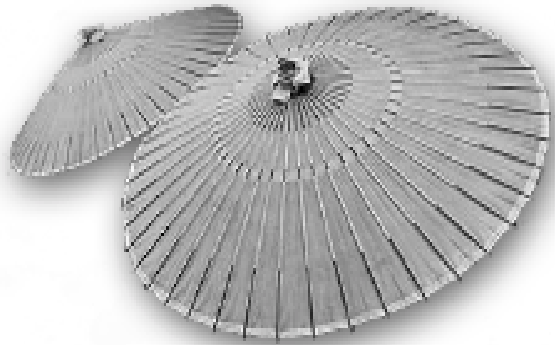
### *Scenes from the September*

7 farewell luncheon for participants in the First Nations Guatemalan Youth Exchange, held at the First Nations Employment Centre. The following traditional story, presented to the assembled gathering by the Guatemalan participants, eloquently expresses the spirit of this event, and the exchange as a whole. Among all present, there was a close bond of shared experience and cross-cultural understanding that is as relevant today as it was on that day of celebration.

"Once upon a time there were two villages who had a healer. Each village needed to improve its knowledge and techniques to treat its people. One of the villages knew the secrets of the land, and the other one knew the secrets of the universe. Both of them believed in the same Great Spirit, but at the same time, the problems between the villages grew.

One day, they decided to go up to the mountain to the wise man and ask for his advice. He said "Live together for a while," so they did this. Both villages lived together, and in time started to learn a new language, and gained new knowledge. They learned new magic to treat their people. In time, they separated and went their own ways, but shared with everybody in their villages the things they had learned, and the new knowledge they had gained."

# Japan



## FNEC Intern Finds Yu-Ys (and more) in the Land of the Rising Sun

By Shae Morin

### In January of 2001

I was sent for a half a year to Japan to work and learn about the hotel industry. The project objective was basically designed to empower first nations youth and broaden our horizons. It was a pilot project sponsored by the First Nations Employment Center and Human Resources Development Canada.

When I stepped off my plane and back onto Canadian soil for the first time after six months in Japan, I was acutely aware of how much I'd changed. Naturally I'd expected to come home a different person, but it was the form those changes took that left me stunned for a few weeks as I got reacquainted with my culture.

When I got back I realized that no matter how we plan a journey, adventure, or transition in our lives, it will generally come about in a completely different fashion than anything us puny humans are capable of preparing for.

Obviously six months abroad left me feeling like a bigger, more well rounded person, but more significantly, I felt hungrier, not complacent.

After accomplishing so much, I was left with a desire to see how much more I could be led to accomplish. I'm still finding out.

Before any of this started, a friend of mine told me about the internship that the First Nations Employment Centre was offering. Within a space of two or three weeks I was shocked to find out that I'd be going to Japan to work in a hotel and live with a Japanese family, sharing and learning about their lives, and hopefully exposing Japan to some Canadian and First Nations culture.

When I arrived, fighting off some nasty nine-hour-flight jet lag and desperate for a smoke, I met the family I was to stay with. The Sakamotos turned out to be the most affable, good-natured people I've ever met. I was a member of the household and welcome into their lives right away. The Japanese people are, if nothing else, accommodating. I'm sure that they developed some kind of super-human sense of humor and patience, dealing with the unpredictable and sometimes ridiculous predicaments I found myself in.

Being a gai-jin (foreigner) in Japan is an experience like nothing else. I suspect that the over-saturation of western culture and Hollywood on the world has given other countries an exaggerated view of our continent. After a couple of my co-workers at the hotel asked me if I had a gun at home in Vancouver I couldn't figure out if they were having some fun at my expense or if they really believed North Americans were that trigger-happy. When I asked where they would get an idea like that, (I'm not joking) they switched the TV on and found an example for me; Cops, The TV show.

Suddenly where they were coming from made more sense to me. I calmly explained that: no, nobody I know

owns a gun, and besides, that show was probably filmed in CALIFORNIA. Even they got the joke.

My first-and-only trip to Mt. Fuji turned out to be more than I expected. A friend of my homestay mother offered to show me some of the more out-of-the-way, but not-to-be-missed parts of Japan and drove me to see the famous dormant volcano.

Fuji-san, as it's called, is a surreal thing to see in person, and the experience can't really be captured on film. More than anything else, the mountain is a reminder of how ancient and alive Japanese culture is. To see it up close brings to mind the centuries of paintings and writing the mountain has inspired.

I was feeling a little misty eyed and idealistic about the whole thing until I was snapped out of my little reverie by the nice lady's romantic advances. She took my hand and started to get a little too cuddly for my comfort, and all I could really think was:

"He advised me not to stare too long, because they were Yakuza, or Japanese Mafia, and had previously roughed him up for asking them to park somewhere else"

"Is this what it appears to be, or am I just getting the wrong idea about Japanese hospitality?"

Turns out I was right and I had to delicately explain that Mt. Fuji was lovely but that it was getting a little late and I should probably get home soon. My trip was getting stranger daily.

At work I noticed a black Mercedes parked in a no-parking area of the hotel and asked my best friend Haneda about the two well dressed men in suits and gold chains that seemed to come and go as they pleased. He advised me not to stare too long, because they were Yakuza, or Japanese Mafia, and had previously roughed him up for asking them to park somewhere else. I stared regardless. I stood out more than they did anyway.

I'd probably have to say my experience of Japan mainly consisted of a lot of alternately great and strange food (ever try a chopstick full of worm-like tiny fish, or chicken cartilage on a stick?), crowded trains, neon signs, good spots to skateboard, overly-loud advertisements blared from businesses



BELLHOPPING JAPANESE STYLE. THE AUTHOR (BACK ROW, FAR RIGHT) TAKES A BREAK WITH FELLOW STAFF AT THE SHIN-URAYASU HOTEL IN URAYASU CITY NEAR TOKYO. PICTURED BELOW ARE SCENES FROM AROUND JAPAN.



as you walk by, crowded trains, fascinating street-fashion, crowded trains, and a population eager to get to know foreigners. Occasionally a complete stranger would strike up a conversation with me. I was offered free drinks, food, trips going golfing or boating, and one invitation to a wedding party.

The Japanese, however, seem painfully shy and sometimes intimidated of using English, which almost everyone speaks a little of, but will never admit to.

I made a lot of friends during my stay, who I know I'll keep in touch with, and gained a huge amount of work experience. Learning a new language and etiquette has benefited my employability and adaptability to no end. Actually as a result of my trip, other doors of opportunity have been opened and I'm going to Osaka, Japan within the next year.

I'm prepared for just about anything.



## CONGRATULATIONS ON THE INAUGURAL ISSUE OF YU-Ys

from the  
**Allied Hydro Council**  
of  
**British Columbia**

Providing equity employment  
on power generation projects through  
Collective Agreements

## Leonard George

*President* • FIRST NATIONS EMPLOYMENT SOCIETY

Leonard George, the new President of the First Nations Employment and Enterprise Centre, is honored by his appointment to an exciting position filled with opportunity. "We have a strong team and I am proud to be part of it," he said.

George, who has served on the Centre's Board of Directors since its inception in 1999, is eager to establish a pact between every Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement in the region. "I would love to see an accord between all of us to strategize how we can compliment our

services," he said.

"We live in a great time, as partnerships are of great value. The Urban Native, Metis and First Nations have a clearer vision of what strengths we give to each other," said George, who was appointed in November 2001.

On accepting his new position, George, of the T'sleilwaututh Nation, first thanked Faye Halls for her leadership and numerous contributions to the Society during the two-years she served as President. Halls will remain part of the Centre by serving as Ex-Officio.

## Michael Sadler

*Executive Director* • FIRST NATIONS  
EMPLOYMENT SOCIETY

The First Nations Employment and Enterprise Centre is proud to welcome Michael Sadler as their new Executive Director. Michael brings more than 10 years of experience working in the field of First Nations employment and training to the Centre. Most recently, he was the provincial coordinator of DIAND's Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative.

Michael, who is Gitksan from the Kispix First Nation, has a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Education and has used his knowledge and experience to work with the Aboriginal community to establish policies, programs and services to meet our ever increasing human resource development needs.



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Nations Education Coordinator: 604-7020

[www.vcc.bc.ca](http://www.vcc.bc.ca)

## Totem Pole

**The First Nations Employment and Enterprise Centre's vision to increase employment for all Aboriginal People in Vancouver and the Sunshine Coast is eloquently depicted in a giant totem pole that greets clients and visitors to the Centre's reception area.**

**The figures on the magnificent pole, carved by Richard Krenz of the Sechelt nation, represent three of the Centre's guiding values:**

**The base of the pole represents the Way of the Beaver, which illustrates everyone working together to end unemployment for urban First Nations clients.**

**The Gift of the Goose demonstrates the cheering and encouragement Centre staff offers to its clients, while the Spirit of the Squirrel teaches us that all work is worthwhile.**

