



# LE,NONET

Supporting the success of undergraduate Aboriginal students  
at the University of Victoria

Project Update #2  
July 2006

## ***Bursary Program***

The LE,NONET Bursary Program continues to provide renewable bursaries of up to \$5000 to new-to-UVic Indigenous students. We would like to acknowledge the great support we have received from UVic Student Financial Aid, particularly Lori Nolt, Janice Burke and Michele Favarger. To date we have awarded \$77,442 in bursaries.

## ***Mentoring Program***

From October 2005 to April 2006, 15 new-to-UVic Indigenous students were matched with senior Indigenous students through the LE,NONET Mentoring Program. Feedback from the students involved in the mentoring program during this period indicates that it was a good experience for both mentors and mentored students. Over the summer session one mentor will continue to be available for Indigenous students starting in May.

## ***LE,NONET Preparation Seminar***

The pilot offering of the LE,NONET Preparation Seminar took place during the Spring semester of 2006. Twenty-one students have successfully completed the seminar and are now eligible to participate in either a Community Internship or Research Apprenticeship through LE,NONET. Topics covered included an introduction to: 1) local (Coast Salish and Straits Salish) peoples, history and their protocols; 2) the histories of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples; 3) and overview of, the Community Internships and Research Apprenticeships Programs; 4) Indigenous worldview of research; and 5) a western worldview of research methodologies.

## ***Community Internship Program***

To date, there are 23 local communities/organizations that have expressed interest in having a community intern: 4 local First Nations, 17 local urban Aboriginal organizations/programs and 2 non-Aboriginal organizations offering Aboriginal programming, as well as 3 First Nations up island. Four students who have expressed interest in carrying out community internships outside of Victoria, three within their home community and one within their home Nation. Eighteen students have expressed an interest in a community internship. Approximately half of the students will be carrying out their community internship over the summer semester. Students have expressed interest in the areas of health, wellness, recreation, computer technology, medicine, language curriculum/preservation, youth at risk.

## ***Research Apprenticeship Program***

We currently have thirty-nine (39) potential Faculty Advisors willing to accept apprentices to work on their various research projects, with new applicants being received weekly. Available projects cover a wide variety of areas and disciplines, for example we have projects including: Salish and Hul'qumi'num language revitalization, mathematics in Aboriginal society, photo archiving of the Inkameep Day School, oral history projects in Indigenous communities and of Aboriginal veterans, Indigenous law curriculum development, and development and Morphogenesis in starfish with UVic's new Island Medical Program. Currently we have nineteen (19) students enrolled in our Research Apprenticeship Program; six of those students are starting their projects this summer; the remainder in the coming fall and spring.

## ***SFACT - Staff and Faculty Aboriginal Cultural Training***

LE,NONET's first offering of Staff/Faculty Aboriginal Cultural Training (SFACT) is underway. SFACT has been developed by consultants Dr. Robin Hood and Art Napoleon with direction from the LE,NONET SFACT subcommittee. SFACT is an online education program which contains units on: 1) An Introduction to Indigenous Worldviews and Value Systems; 2) First Peoples and Colonization; 3) An Introduction to the Local First Nations: People, Places and Local Knowledge; 4) Exploring Concepts of Racism and 5) Decolonizing Research. The primary purpose of this offering of SFACT Module 1 is to prepare registered Research Apprenticeship Faculty Advisors to supervise LE,NONET Research Apprentices.

## ***Research Update***

Our recently hired Research Assistants, Vanessa Watts and In In Po, have begun working on analyzing the data from our first year of operation. Vanessa is working with the data gathered from our first group of student mentors, and on developing instruments for measuring success as defined by students, faculty and staff. In In is working on gathering the historical comparison data that will help us determine whether our programs increase the retention and graduation rates of current UVic students.

## **LE,NONET Project**

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