



**JUSTICE  
INSTITUTE**  
*of* BRITISH COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF  
INDIGENIZATION



SPRING  
2020

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Students,

Greetings from JIBC's Office of Indigenization. On behalf of our team, we send our respects and hope you and your relations are healthy and well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While Mother Earth breathes deeply into a new state of healing as a result of grounded aircraft and a slowed industrial pace, the Coronavirus harms health and world economies and has profoundly changed the way we learn, the way we work and live our daily lives.

While the Office of Indigenization (OI) typically is based at the New Westminster campus located on the unceded and traditional x̱məØḵeyem (Musqueam) First Nation territory and qiqéyt (Qayqayt) First Nation territory, we want you to know that our team is continuing to support students in our institution's transition to remote and online learning.

In this newsletter, we share a bit about the OI, the work we do, and offer some relevant information that we hope helps you adjust to life as virtual learner and is culturally and spiritually meaningful.



Office of Indigenization Team: Heather Simpson, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem Nation, Coordinator, Jason La Rochelle, Haida Nation and Director and Kara Weintraub, Administrative Support (left to right).

## WHAT IS THE OFFICE OF INDIGENIZATION?

The Office of Indigenization works across the Institution to support JIBC's commitment to Indigenous education and implementation of its five-year Indigenization Strategy.

Our work includes facilitating Indigenous student spaces and the Indigenization of physical campus spaces at JIBC, enhancing cultural connections and knowledge sharing through our Elders-in-Residence program, and collaborating with internal and external teams and communities to embed Indigeneity within every aspects of JIBC; from governance to student services, from policies to programming and everything in between. By including Indigenous ways of knowing, thinking, being and relating in to the fabric of JIBC, everyone in the circle benefits.

## ABORIGINAL GATHERING PLACE

The Aboriginal Gathering Place is located in AD 135 near the gymnasium in the New Westminster campus. The AGP serves as an inclusive Indigenous space to support instructional activity, cultural exchange, and community engagement and is primarily dedicated for usage by Indigenous students of JIBC. The AGP is a place for study, socialization, and spiritual connection.

We are seeking student input on the usage of the AGP.

- What kind of student space do you want at JIBC?
- How would you like to use this space?

Let us know by emailing Heather, OI's Coordinator, at [hsimpson@jibc.ca](mailto:hsimpson@jibc.ca).



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Office of Indigenization logo is created by Haida Gwaii artist James Cowpar, and reflects a concept of social justice and the design acknowledges the diversity of Indigenous peoples.

## ELDERS-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM



The Elders-In-Residence Program supports and encourages Indigenous students and provides a cultural connection for them on their journey.

Elders encourage and promote understanding and respect for Indigenous knowledges, perspectives, culture and values. Elders are available to students for one on one dialogue and in group settings.

Information on remote Elder-led workshops will be shared with students soon! If you have a request for a specific topic of learning, please email the OI's Coordinator at [hsimpson@jibc.ca](mailto:hsimpson@jibc.ca).



## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS AT JIBC

Support is available to all JIBC students by contacting the Senior Manager of Learning Support and Disability Resources, 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday to Friday, by phone at 604.528.5884 or 1.877.275.4331, or by email at [studentresources@jibc.ca](mailto:studentresources@jibc.ca).

The BC Crisis Line is also available 24/7 at 800.784.2433.

## FACT

After calling a crisis line, callers often report they feel less isolated or alone and are better able to cope.





## FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Achieving educational goals and sustaining life balance is tricky at the best of times. Secure finances plays a crucial role for many learners to successfully pursue and complete post-secondary education.

The OI works with JIBC's Financial Aid Office to communicate funding options and support application processes for student financial aid.

### 1. Indigenous Emergency Assistance Fund

This fund is set up for Indigenous post-secondary learners who are in difficult and emergency situations. The fund provides a modest amount to assist status and non-status students with emergency expenses related to housing, utilities, groceries, medical/dental needs, etc. You can apply at any time in the calendar year. If you have any questions about this fund or wish to apply, please email [financialaid@jibc.ca](mailto:financialaid@jibc.ca) or call (604) 528-5762 or 1(877) 275-4332 (toll-free North America).

### 2. Marvin and Colette Storrow Award

This award provides tuition support for Indigenous students enrolled in a JIBC certificate (6 credits or more), diploma or degree program. Value: \$1,000 awarded annually. For eligibility criteria visit: <https://www.jibc.ca/student-services/financial-aid-awards/awards-bursaries-scholarships/marvin-and-colette-storrow-award>

### 3. JIBC General Student Bursary

Value: Bursary awards will not exceed 60% of the tuition and mandatory fees for a student's program of study in any calendar year. The maximum disbursement of funds to any one student in a calendar year is \$2000. For students in short certificates the bursary award will not exceed 60% of the tuition taken in any one term. For eligibility criteria visit: <https://www.jibc.ca/student-services/financial-aid-awards/awards-bursaries-scholarships/general-student-bursary>

### 4. Chief Joe Mathias British Columbia Aboriginal Scholarship

This fund is established to honour the memory of the late Chief Joe Mathias, a hereditary and elected Chief of the Squamish Nation. Since 2002, this fund has helped to realize Chief Mathias's vision to support generations of Indigenous learners pursue the profession of their choosing in post-secondary institutions and become active leaders in their respective communities. Check out the eligibility criteria and download an application form at <https://chiefjoemathias.ca/>. The application deadline is June 13, 2020 11:59 PM.

### 5. Irving K Barber BC Scholarship Indigenous Awards

This fund is established for students who identify as Indigenous, defined as First Nations (Status or Non-Status), Métis or Inuit who are pursuing post-secondary education. There are three awards, all renewable for sustainable funding over multiple years. Check out the eligibility criteria and download an application form at <https://www.ikbbc.ca/indigenous-awards/about-this-award/>. The application deadline is May 29, 2020.

### 6. Additional External Scholarships and Bursaries

There are external funding opportunities that are administered outside of JIBC. For more information, check out: <https://www.jibc.ca/student-services/financial-aid-awards/external-awards#aboriginal>. For inquiries about any funding information presented above or have general questions for the Financial Aid Office, please email [financialaid@jibc.ca](mailto:financialaid@jibc.ca) or call (604) 528-5762 or 1(877) 275-4332 (toll-free North America).

## ADJUSTING TO CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY

By nature, the work that we do in the OI is leading people and teams through transition. "Indigenization" as a concept has many definitions, but a common thread among meanings, is the necessity of disrupting and dismantling colonialism so that, in partnership, we build a new way of living inclusive of Indigeneity, within institutional life.

We draw parallels between this work and the circumstances we are facing due to COVID-19. Navigating different waters is a challenge for even the most skilled voyager but like it is for Indigenization, persisting in the face of struggle is essential to success.

The OI offers practices that have been taught over the course of our team's lifetimes; teachings passed on by our Elders that have strengthened and sustained us to work through times of change and adapt to uncertainty. Like you, this is what we are called to do facing this pandemic.

1. Connect with the land. We are ordered by the province to practice physical distancing. As Indigenous Peoples, wellness and health is found in the natural world. Seek ways where you can safely tune in to Mother Earth. For example, sit by an open window and listen to the birds sing or eat foods you grow. #physicalisolation #spiritualconnection
2. Use Medicine Wheel teachings. These teachings are diverse and offer different ways to relate to and understand the world around us. As we experience a global pandemic, we see the interconnection and interrelatedness among all things. When we look within, we see that our health is holistic, made up of a physical, mental, emotional and spiritual dimensions. Caring for all parts of yourself is fundamental to achieving balance.

What teachings have helped you in times of change and uncertainty?

We would like to hear from you email [usw.indigenization@jibc.ca](mailto:usw.indigenization@jibc.ca).

## CULTURAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS IN COMMUNITY

First Nations Health Authority recently shared this infographic for four community-based resources for 24 Hour Mental Health Services.

We suggest sharing this among your circle.

We are all in this together.

**First Nations Health Authority**  
Health through wellness

**24 Hour Mental Health Services**

**Are you currently seeing a counselor?  
Would you be comfortable with calling a counselor or using telehealth?**

 <b>KUU-US:</b> The KUU-US Crisis Line Society operates a 24 hour provincial Aboriginal crisis line for: Adults/Elders (250) 723-4050 Child/Youth (250) 723-2040  Toll Free 1-800-588-8717 <a href="https://www.kuu-uscisline.ca/">https://www.kuu-uscisline.ca/</a>	 <b>Hope for Wellness Helpline:</b> The Hope for Wellness Help Line offers 24 hour immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention to all Indigenous peoples across Canada. Toll Free 1-855-242-3310  Chat line: <a href="https://chat.fn-i-hopeforwellness.ca/">https://chat.fn-i-hopeforwellness.ca/</a>
 <b>Indian Residential School Survivors Society:</b> We are a provincial organization with a 20-Year history of providing services to Indian Residential School Survivors. 1-604-985-4465 1-800-721-0066 <a href="http://www.irsss.ca">http://www.irsss.ca</a>	 <b>Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society:</b> We provide programs that address the issues of addictions and substance abuse, and support survivors of trauma and residential schools 1-250-268-2463  FB TTL RHSHW Support email: <a href="mailto:rhswcoor@Tsowtunlelum.org">rhswcoor@Tsowtunlelum.org</a>

## JIBC COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

JIBC has formed an Emergency Operations Centre Group since the onset of this health pandemic. This team actively monitors the quickly evolving circumstances within and outside of JIBC, so to best make informed decisions and implement an institutional response with the safety of students, employees and community members as its foremost priority.

For further updates and a FAQ about JIBC's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit [jibc.ca/covid19](http://jibc.ca/covid19).

## WATER IS OUR FIRST MEDICINE



Our Indigenous Ancestors have known since time immemorial the significance of water.

Today as we fight an invisible attacker, our best defense is to use our first medicine, water, with soap, to hand wash for a minimum of twenty-seconds to prevent the transmission of the corona virus.

Please stay safe and well ❖ All our relations

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