

KITSUMKALUM INDIAN BAND



• AN ORIGINAL TRIBE OF THE TSIMSHIAN •

REPORT TO: Community from the Education Administrator

POST SECONDARY:

The budget for 2014 – 2015 is 275,556.00

This fiscal period we have 11 students continuing, 6 new students and 2 part time students.

Potential students need to carefully plan their educational goal. Please submit your application in May to begin in September. Reason being our fiscal period is April 1, to March 31. I complete a Post-Secondary report as at the first week of June – if all applications are accounted for and I require more funding this is when I get to request funding for 2 or 3 more students.

Students are in: Bachelor of Arts programs, Accounting, Bachelor of Commerce, University Transfers (all 6 new students) and Bio Chemistry.

This fiscal period we have two band members on post-secondary half time which means the Bands pay for tuition and books only.

Changes are:

Applicants are entitled to one school term of prerequisites (Sept to April)

Applicants are entitled to five more years of funding to acquire their education goal. Students must complete each school semester successfully before moving on to the next year funding.

Applicants living at home receive half of the single applicant.

Please remember if you are working from May to August, save your money so you can assist with your living while at College or University.

Please keep in mind the funding provided to students is barely enough to pay for rent while achieving your education away from home.

I support obtaining your education while living at home as councilor Tracy Sam-Stephens can attest to that.

Prince George has a wonderful University and College, and Prince George is only 6 hours away.

KitsumKalum partners with Tricorp for students wishing to enter a trades program.

Students working and wish to attend college or university – that student shall be deemed part time and Kitsumkalum shall pay tuition & books.

Kitsumkalum follows the AANDC's Post-Secondary policy.

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Each fiscal year the total of students funded is approximately 15 – 17.

COAST MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT:

We have 42 students in Coast Mountain School District.

The Inter-tribal committee (which includes KitsumKalum) has a signed Local Education Agreement and the LEA Committee is presently working on a revised agreement.

I sit on the Enhancement Committee also known as Targeted 1.31 Committee; presently CMSD does not have an Enhancement Agreement.

At the school district level I sit on: Local Education Agreement committee, 1.31 Targeted committee, Education Committee, Regional Advisory Committee.

Nominal roll is compiled as at September 30 and forwarded to AANDC by October 15,

Councilor Cynthia Bohn sits on the Local Education Agreement committee, 1.31 Targeted dollars committee and the Regional Advisory Committee. Thank you Cynthia.

Coast Mountain has a new superintendent: Mrs. Katherine McIntosh and a new District Principal of Aboriginal Education: Agnes Casgrain.

To date Katherine/Agnes has visited the first nation communities that lie within the School District. Both were at Kitsumkalum. Our conversation was sincere, respectful and honest. I feel the sincerity in both Katherine and Agnes.

Coast Mountain School District has hired Dr. Lorna Williams to assist the school district in regaining the Aboriginal peoples' trust. I have attended two meetings and I have come away exhausted but hopeful.

CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:

Kitsumkalum has six students attending Centennial and Kitsumkalum has a local education agreement which is strictly a funding agreement. While living at Kitsumkalum – Kitsumkalum pays for the full tuition. Living in Terrace the parents are responsible for the parent share of tuition.

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NA AKSA GILA KYEW LEARNING CENTER:

We presently have 31 students attending NaAksa. This is our second year with grades level K4 – 12. I am no longer the Principal, I have given the principal ship to Colleen Austin. Colleen has achieved her Master's Degree in Language Revitalization. Colleen is principal and Smalgyax teacher.

Nominal roll is compiled as at September 30, and forwarded to AANDC by October 15.

It is our dream and hope that we will begin building a new school for the school term 15/16. Many things have to fall into place for this to happen but god willing they will fall into place.

I believe that the students and staff of NaAksa would perform 100% in a new school. New school to have a limit of 60 students.

After school programming shall begin upon the completion of our new school. Programs such as: homework club, evening on line correspondence program, Smalgyax program, Parent club, Boys and Girls Club, and a Culture Club.

Our school has been vandalized many times. I ask this community to be mindful and keep an eye on Kitsumkalum property. Do not maintain your silence when witnessing vandalism, our van has been vandalized twice and it costs money to repair. Keep in mind this is your, our community.

Our students have been tempted by drugs, and I can assure you that the staff and I are working on ending drug sales to our students.

NaAksa is growing and I am extremely proud of my staff. NaAksa is reviewing school policy already developed for First Nation Schools and making it our own. A big thanks to Keri Blacker for the support she gives to Colleen while setting up our new culturally responsive school.

A huge thank you to Cynthia Bohn for her interest in NaAksa. Cynthia attends all events sponsored by NaAksa. Cynthia sits on the interview committee.

I will end my part on NaAksa by saying, "NaAksa is a real school".

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SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM:

For six weeks between July 7 to August 15, 2014 we had a "Smalgyax Learning and Reading Program. All the students who attended thoroughly enjoyed learning the Tsimshian language while maintaining their reading skills. Had three students working in the program.

Two students worked on beautifying Kitsumkalum. Painting and doing some construction work.

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

I sit on the First Nation Council. First Nation Council's main mandate is to ensure that the college is Aboriginal friendly.

The Education Department has been very successful in obtaining three programs delivered to our community. Essential Skills for Office Workers (completed) Smalgyax level 1 (completed) and Smalgyax level 2 which is beginning November 17.

Individuals who wish to take the course please contact myself or Colleen. Only criteria is: Dedicated to learning and consistent attendance.

FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE (FNESC):

FNESC is an independent society led by a board of 100 first nations. FNESC is committed to improving education for all First Nation in the province of British Columbia. I sit on the board of the FNESC.

FNESC is proud of their contribution to the development of English First Peoples 10, 11, 12 which is being used in classrooms in British Columbia.

Last year I gave up my seat on the First Nation School Association – Colleen is on the board and has since been elected to the position of Vice President. Colleen represents: Haida/Tsimshian/Haisla and Nisga'a Region.

FNESC provides Pro D's for all educators, the Pro D's are held throughout the year and also at the Annual General Assembly. FNESC holds regional sessions in all regions of B.C. FNESC has developed the following templates for:

Local Education Agreements, Enhancement Agreements, Post-Secondary Policy, Parent Club handbook, Seventh Generation Club, Teaching in a First Nation School (only to name a few) and provides funding to assist our Special Needs students in First Nation Schools.

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FNESC has worked many years on a document called, "Jurisdiction" It is a document that will allow first nations to: Development and manage our own culturally relevant education system. I personally believe only we first nation can do this. First Nations require a system that understands who we are and how we learn. While obtaining your educational goal you will also come out knowing who you are, a proud first nation,

GENERAL:

The education department provides to the students of Kitsumkalum:

- School supplies monies
- Report Card, honor roll, best improvement, good volunteer incentives
- Tutors upon request and student has access to a tutor
- School trips
- Band trips
- Locker fees
- Pay for on line correspondence from Distant Education
- Upon request from a student we shall pay for recreation fees

I encourage students to visit me in my office to discuss their success and/or their difficulties. Almost anything can be done to assist a student in their learning.

As the Band representative for public, private and first nation school I can attend meetings with a parent upon request of the parent. If the school fails to connect and is unable to reach the parent then it is I who they call and I will then represent the student without the parent.

Kitsumkalum partnered with the Justice Institute of B.C. to bring the Associate Certificate in Security & Conflict Management Program to the community. It began mid-September and will be completed February 1, 2015. Presently we have 10 dedicated students.

*Charlotte Guno
Education Administrator*

November 13, 2014