

# Terrace School of Education Terrace Campus December 2016 Newsletter



School of Education, NW Region  
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## *School of Education approaching 10 year celebration cont...!*

**WOW! Has it really been 10 years for our northwest B. Ed. program?  
Dr. Verna McDonald**

With every new cohort I am so glad I **came home to BC to support the new teachers who want to serve their communities as teachers.** I hope the original NW B Ed planners, Colin Chasteauneuf, Judith Lapadat, and Christine Eide see the impact of their foundational work in writing course descriptions, rubrics and practicum goals with the BC College of Teachers input (now Teacher Regulation Branch); and are as proud of our 85+ graduates as I am!

There are **many challenges in obtaining a degree while remaining in the northwest** and serving families, elders, and our own children, all the while working to balance out factors like the high cost of living, the need for distant medical care, family members following jobs to different communities, or being a long way from friends and family when taking the needed prerequisite academic work. I remember having pneumonia one spring in my first school in Telegraph Creek. I had the public health nurse to help me with it – or drive 1200 miles, half on gravel, to Vancouver. (The pneumonia came about from a local rancher's agreement for tracking and training the horses used in the summer. An incredible experience, those rides under the northern lights, but sometimes the young Tahltan trackers and I did not catch any horses until midnight!)

**The north is unique** - we have shoveled out vehicles in the dark after classes, created car pools when someone's car broke down, done a 180 to avoid moose on the highway, and hastened out the door to drive home 150 km, to children wanting a bedtime story. I applaud every student who worked through all the challenges and adventures in three to four years of coursework and field experiences - and then applied to our B. Ed.

In a different kind of challenge at my second school, in Pavilion, west of Lillooett, I needed to connect with some key social leaders in my class. I decided to say "yes" to riding lessons. The first Saturday I opened the gate for a very happy 10 year old, and her very unhappy old mare. She (the mare) proceeded to grab my leg in her teeth and pick me up. I think in protest of being saddled and made to obey a 10 year old. **Challenges abound in rural BC - as do solutions.** Safety - personal, social and cultural is always an important consideration!

*Continued on next page...*

## Linda's Links

<http://www.ascd.org/news-media/ascd-learn-teach-lead-radio.aspx>

ASCD is a community of educators (USA focused) providing a forum for excellence in learning, teaching and leading. This particular link will take you to ASCD radio. Check out the 8 minute discussion "Five Steps to Stimulating Thoughtful Classroom Discussions"

<http://www.accessola.com/osla/bethechange/home.html>

The Ontario School Library Association has a bucket full of resources and lesson ideas under the theme "Be The Change" for K to 12. Be intrigued and check it out!  
*Linda Lee*

**Come Join Us On  
Campus!**

## **Public Presentation**

Watch for our Winter Line-up!

## **Bachelor of Education 2017 Intake**

If you are interested in taking the B.Ed program, it is strongly recommended that you meet with Cathy Lambricht (Macintosh).

Please contact:  
[catherine.macintosh@unbc.ca](mailto:catherine.macintosh@unbc.ca)  
or phone: 250-615-5578

## **Important Dates!**

January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
B.Ed 1<sup>st</sup> day of classes

January 4<sup>th</sup>  
Semester Fees Due

January 6<sup>th</sup>  
M.Ed Counselling 1<sup>st</sup> day  
of classes

January 18<sup>th</sup>  
Last day to add/drop  
without financial penalty





## WOW! Has it really been 10 years for our northwest B. Ed. program? cont...

When I was first home to BC, and teaching education classes in one of the small regional communities, a whole class of students told me they had received no comments from their last instructor - ever. A whole course had gone by with no returned assignments and no comments, only grades at the end. I looked into that situation as Acting Regional Chair and found out it was an educator teaching, with a very full school week, a family member in hospital in Vancouver, and renovations to do to accommodate the needed equipment when the patient returned home. The students had really enjoyed the course, but remained puzzled over the lack of comments. I committed to respond to the students requests for comments! The beginnings of **so many learning conversations** have come from those green comments. I thank each and every student who followed up with the thread of the question, resource, comment, or request for more context. You have all contributed to my learning and it seems each cohort the exchanges add more to the northwest B Ed process. Whether looking at your own cognitive, cultural, emotional, language, physical and social development K-12; looking at theories of human development through our own community examples (dynamics, not people!); traveling to local learning sites; or teaching language and literacy micro lessons with adult level materials in preparation for the literacy fair or a practicum – **you have each brought BC curriculum alive with northwest examples, resourcefulness, indigenous peoples and stories, and your own creativity.**

In this current cohort, we are **navigating the new BC curriculum, now mandated.** I have been reminded of my third school in Chu Chua, where a new curriculum had been requested by the band chief, Nathan Matthew. The band wanted an active, experiential and territory based program for K-1, with pre-schoolers joining us for 2 hours in the afternoon. Marie Matthew was later available to help film the room, equipment, activities, daily plan, family involvement, student projects, field trips, and so on (all elements encouraged in new BC curriculum, 2016). I had never dreamed of the depth of learning 2 women could engender in 3-6 year olds when motivated by shifting a community's post-residential school perception of schooling. We wanted a clear example of school as culturally and developmentally safe - in a film of their own children. At that time there were still residential schools in operation and so many families were experiencing the PTSD common to that experience. There was one place in Kamloops available to us with film editing equipment. I can still feel all the hairs stand up on my neck and arms as I walked up the stairs of the Kamloops Residential School.

Last week we had a B Ed graduate return to class with an exceptional photo slideshow of her kindergarten as she has adapted it for her students to reduce their stress and "hyper" activity levels. She illustrated the family engagement and developmental caring for children that connect kindergartners to schooling.

My commitment to the **four pillars of successful schools** was formed in BC classrooms:

- Involvement with families, authentic and synergistic levels of connection
- Caring enough for each child to feel that care, and persist as they grow and learn
- Cultural safety, culturally responsive pedagogy and culturally relevant curriculum.
- High expectations, with instructional steps planned to meet them, and specific feedback

I have really enjoyed learning with each of you about **how to build on those pillars in the northwest.**

I so enjoy the up-dates when meeting you out in the schools and communities – keep those stories coming and we will continue learning together! Enjoy your students, Verna



## Bachelor of Education K-7 Terrace September 2017 Intake

Applications are now being accepted at the Terrace campus, please contact:

Cathy Lambricht: [catherine.macintosh@unbc.ca](mailto:catherine.macintosh@unbc.ca)

Or

Teresa Bartel: [teresa.bartel@unbc.ca](mailto:teresa.bartel@unbc.ca)



or call the Terrace campus at 250-615-5578