

## President's Message

Our Board is comprised of parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts. Collectively we recognize the importance of providing a positive space for our children and youth to develop mentally, spiritually, emotionally and physically.

We bring our wisdom and expertise to the table through our experiences (trials and tribulations) as urban Native people. On a daily basis we are reminded of how little physical space we have as urban Native people. We believe the NYC will increase the quality of life for our youth by addressing their growing and diverse needs and desires.

We invite you to think about the Native Youth Centre in practical terms. We invite you to endorse our vision by getting involved by visiting our website at least once, taking a virtual tour, telling a friend about what this initiative will mean for the Eastside, envisioning what a difference this centre will make in the lives of our future generation, and, if feasible, to donate to our Capital Campaign. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our champions who work tirelessly to ensure that this initiative keeps moving forward, you know who you are! T'ooyaksiy\_isim

Melanie Mark  
Warrior Princess

## Ministers Owen & Hagen confident NYC will be built by 2008\*



From left: Counselor Raymond Louie, Mayor Larry Campbell, Counselor Jim Green, MCFD Minister Stan Hagen, UNYA President Melanie Mark, Vancouver East MP Libby Davies, WED Minister Stephen Owen

On November 7<sup>th</sup> Native youth and representatives from the municipal, provincial, and federal governments gathered in the Native Youth Drop-in Centre to hold a press conference to announce a joint purchase of land for the Native Youth Centre.

The room was packed with youth, Elders, the private sector, government, and reps from local community organizations. UNYA's Young Women's and Young Bear's drum groups set the tone of the event by opening the event with some traditional songs.

All three levels of government echoed the same messages: that the project is youth driven, will be a community asset & landmark, will improve opportunities for Native youth, and is a unique partnership between community & government. Speakers also noted the strong support of the private sector who have already donated over \$2 million.

This announcement was an important milestone for the project as all three levels of government have now made formal commitments to the Native Youth Centre.

This brings our fundraising total to \$6 million.

The Province of BC and the Government of Canada are processing requests for \$5 million and \$9 million respectively. These commitments will bring us to 2/3 of our \$30 million goal. Our Capital Campaign Committee is working hard to secure the remaining \$10 million from businesses, individuals, and foundations.

\* Quoted in the Vancouver Sun November 7, 2005

### Project Patrons

We are proud to have ten distinguished individuals who have endorsed the NYC Project by becoming Project Patrons. Our patrons include Dr. Evan Adams, Adam Beach, Thomas Berger, Dr. Martin Brokenleg, Chief Leonard George, Peter Mansbridge, Lee Maracle, Terry-David Mulligan, James Taras, and Honorary Patron Senator Landon Pearson. Thanks for your continued support!

### Responsible Design

The Native Youth Centre is being designed to be as energy efficient as possible in order to fit with Aboriginal values of protecting the environment, and to reduce energy costs for the building. Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) is the standard used for rating energy efficient buildings. Ratings include basic certification, silver, gold, and platinum. We will be striving to become the first Platinum LEED building in North America.

### Celebrating our Accomplishments

The Native Youth Centre team is planning an event that will bring together all those involved in the NYC Project. Youth, UNYA Board members, staff, NYC committee members, community members, government reps, and corporate donors will have a chance to meet each other, and be updated on progress and our next steps. We are planning a December date, so please check out the project website at for the time and location.

[www.nativeyouthcentre.ca](http://www.nativeyouthcentre.ca)

## Outstanding Support for Native Youth

The Native Youth Centre Project has received overwhelming support from a very diverse group of individuals and groups. Of course our main supporters are Native youth themselves, but the list goes on to include , BC First Nations, community centres, Assembly of First Nations, all three levels of government, the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, parents, community workers, local colleges and universities, foundations, the private sector including local small businesses, celebrities, and our Project Patrons.

This overwhelming support fuels our commitment to make this dream a reality.

Support has come in many forms: youth have participated at all levels of development, community members attend events, community centres and other stakeholders have lent their support through a benefits analysis, the Friendship Centre hosted a community meeting, organizations have provided letters of support, Patrons lend their name and speak for the project, three BC First Nations provided

letters of support, individual community members have made contributions from \$5 to \$250, the private sector has donated from \$5,000 to \$200,000 as well as land worth over \$1.2 million.

We are now at \$6 million; further provincial and federal contributions will bring us to over \$20 million. We are happy to now be concentrating on our final 1/3 of our overall goal.

Please join us in reaching our goal.



Individual community members & organizations contribute at the Community Launch in April

### Ways To Get Involved

- Attend our events
- Spread the word
- Refer people to our website
- Volunteer at events
- Donate what you can (roll your pennies, sell you empty cans, send in a cheque)

### Letters of Support Received

- Many community organizations
- Three B.C. First Nations
- Assembly of First Nations
- Vancouver Aboriginal Council
- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre