

Invitation to
Challenging the Paradigm: 2010
THE FACE OF TRANSFORMATION
A summer gathering to decolonize post secondary education

May 5-8, 2010

Northwest Community College invites you to join us on our transformative journey to indigenize the culture and practice of post secondary education in Northwest British Columbia.

In October 2007, the College organized the first Challenging the Paradigm conference to examine how Aboriginal and mainstream pedagogical paradigms can be integrated to the benefit of the learner. Our hope for that conference was to broaden the dialogue between educators and learners that would lead to real change.

Following the success of that gathering, NWCC established the House of Learning & Applied Research (HLAR) to continue the exchange of ideas that occurred during the 2007 conference and to support the goal of indigenization. HLAR is working with Aboriginal communities and organizations to further their engagement with the College, organizing campus events that celebrate Aboriginal culture, assisting employees to meet the pedagogical challenges associated with the transformation, and hosting learning events during the teaching year.

The approach we have adopted to indigenization is based on respecting Aboriginal values and needs, acknowledging Aboriginal traditions and cultures, celebrating Aboriginal worldviews and working closely with Aboriginal communities. This process is providing the College community with tools not only for generating culturally responsive curriculum but also for re-examining deep-seated beliefs that we have, as educators, about curriculum delivery, college systems, and operating practices. We want to share our experiences and learn from others by bring aboriginal scholars and leaders together with other educators in the post secondary system.

From May 5-8, 2010 NWCC will host **Challenging the Paradigm 2010** to examine how post-secondary institutions might redress colonization. The gathering will provide a forum for college/institute educators, researchers and administrators to share ideas and innovative approaches to post secondary education. Keynote speeches from an exceptional group of prominent aboriginal speakers will stimulate the gathering and frame the discussions of the most innovative practitioners and leaders.

This year the theme of the gathering will be **The Face of Transformation**. The four-day event will focus on what is being done to transform institutions. How do institutions engage Boards, administration, and faculty? What are the lessons learned? What are the outcomes? What are the impacts?

I invite you to join others from across Canada and share your views and best practices. The Paradigm's web site will soon be available at <http://CTP.nwcc.bc.ca>.

If you have any questions please contact Anita Davis at 1-877-277-2288; extension 5265 or by email at adavis@nwcc.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Forsyth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Forsyth
President