

JIBC HOSTS RECONCILIATION DIALOGUE

JIBC partners with Reconciliation Canada to provide a workshop for staff, faculty, students and Aboriginal partners

To further the goal of inspiring positive change, Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) partnered with Reconciliation Canada to host a Reconciliation Dialogue Workshop for staff, faculty, students and Aboriginal partners.

Held at the New Westminster campus on November 6, 2014, the workshop was organized by the JIBC Office of Indigenization to further share Indigenous culture, history and knowledge with staff, faculty, and students. It was an important milestone following JIBC's Statement of Principle supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event held last year in Vancouver.

JIBC President and CEO Dr. Michel Tarko said, "JIBC is committed to working towards reconciliation through our Indigenization efforts within the Institute, and we will continue to support this work moving forward."

"As part of JIBC's Indigenization efforts, reconciliation is seen as a fundamental building block of understanding Indian Residential School history and decolonization," said Cheryl Matthew, Associate Director of Indigenization at JIBC. "Hosting this workshop with our Elders-in-Residence, JIBC staff, faculty, students and Aboriginal Education Advisory Council members was an instrumental step in moving forward on reconciliation and understanding past injustices."

Reconciliation Canada has been conducting a series of Reconciliation Dialogue Workshops across the country to create a safe place to engage Canadians in dialogue that revitalizes relationships, increases understanding of our shared history, and explores the meaning of reconciliation. The purpose of the workshop is to inspire positive change and encourage participation in a historic movement engaging Canadians from all backgrounds in a new way forward that creates a better, stronger Canada for all.

Central to the dialogue was Dr. Chief Robert Joseph, Hereditary Chief of the Gwawaenuk First Nation and a JIBC Elder-in-Residence. Chief Joseph is also the Ambassador for Reconciliation Canada having dedicated his life to bridging the differences brought about by intolerance, lack of understanding, and racism at home and abroad.

Chief Joseph says "Being with everyone at JIBC gives me great hope - hope that reconciliation will be in the hearts and minds of the future leaders that are growing at JIBC. Justice Institute of British Columbia is a tool to create change in the world. Reconciliation is an important part of the change that will make our society a better and safer place for us and all our children."

About Justice Institute of British Columbia

Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) is Canada's leading public safety educator. Our specialized programs lead to certificates, diplomas, bachelor's degrees and graduate certificates in Policing, Investigations, Emergency Management, Firefighting, Paramedicine, Sheriffs, Corrections, Counselling, Leadership, Mediation, Conflict Resolution, and Driver Training. JIBC also provides customized contract training to domestic and international governments, agencies and organizations. Our approach to education emphasizes applied learning and realistic simulations, delivered by instructors who are experienced practitioners. Our students' work makes communities safer, and helps people in need, throughout B.C., across Canada and around the world.

About Reconciliation Canada

Born from the vision of Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, Gwawaenuk Elder, Reconciliation Canada is a charitable nonpartisan, national initiative that promotes reconciliation by engaging Canadians from every part of society in open and honest dialogue and transformative experiences that revitalize relationships among Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians. Its initiatives include reconciliation dialogue workshops, reconciliation-based leadership training, economic reconciliation dialogues, and public awareness activities. Reconciliation Canada was formed as a collaboration between Tides Canada Initiatives (TCI) Society and the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS).

Media Contacts:

Richard Chu

communications@jibc.ca

Michelle Cho

Director of Marketing, Communications and Outreach

Reconciliation Canada

michelle.cho@reconciliationcanada.ca