

NEWS RELEASE

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NIC Presents Gwa'Yi Rising

North Island College's Global Learning Initiative is pleased to welcome representatives from NIC's Nursing Department who will share their personal experiences in **Gwa'Yi Rising: Evolving Relationships, NIC Nursing and First Nation Communities** on Thursday, Nov. 18 at 7 pm in the Stan Hagen Theatre, located at NIC's Comox Valley campus.

As North Island College Nursing students and faculty share their first-hand experiences, guests will hear about the times they spent living and learning from the First Nations community in the Village of Gwa'Yi in Kingcome Inlet. The presentations will introduce the audience to the journey, the village and the people in the days leading up to the flood.

The experience of spiritual cleansing, a cultural practice of the Dzawada'enuxw people, building relationships and learning from the elders will be explored. The speakers will reflect on the greater questions of the relationship between health, history, community and environment within remote First Nations communities.

As an accent to the speeches, a slideshow of pictures showcasing the students' journey will run throughout the presentations, and three short films will highlight the people of the Kingcome Inlet and their concerns for their land.

Formerly known as the Global Nursing Project, NIC's Global Learning Initiative looks at all relationships with other cultures and cultural safety from a health and wellness perspective, examining social determinants of health such as environment and economic influences.

In 2009, NIC nursing students and faculty travelled to Uganda, Nepal and Mozambique and plans are in place for students to return to Nepal in 2011. Global Learning has partnered with organizations such as World Community and Africa Community Technical Service (ACTS) to realize these goals.

Doors open at 6:30 pm and admission is by donation to the NIC Global Learning Initiative. For further information please contact Susan Auchterlonie at 250-334-5271 or visit www.nic.bc.ca.

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