




August 24 & 25, 2000

Kamloops, BC

1st annual
**youth
conference**

First Nations Education Steering Committee Society



Aug 24 & 25 2000

What an exciting time!

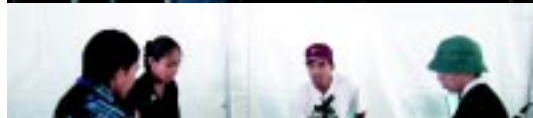
On August 24 and 25, 2000, the first annual First Nations Education Steering Committee **Youth Conference** took place in Kamloops, BC. This Conference was co-hosted by the Fountain Youth Group, the Secwepemc Cultural Education Society, the Kamloops Indian Band, and the First Nations Education Steering Committee.

Over 200 First Nations youth from across British Columbia came together for the two day event, to take part in the opportunity to learn, share, and have fun!!

The Conference agenda was packed full of interesting and enjoyable workshops and activities.

Participating Youth Groups

- Boothroyd Indian Band • Douglas First Nation • Doig River First Nation • Fountain First Nation • Heiltsuk Nation • Gingolx First Nation • Kitkatla First Nation • Lower Kootenay Band • Nazko Band • Neskonlith Indian Band • Seabird Island Band • Skwah First Nation • Saikuz First Nation • Skowkale First Nation • Sumas First Nation • Taku River Tlingit First Nation • Tl'esqox-Tsilhqotin • Wet'suwet'en First Nation •





The event began with an introduction by Chief Nathan Matthew, Chief of the North Thompson Indian Band, and member of the FNEC Strategic Action Committee. Kandace Alec also welcomed all of the participants on behalf of the Fountain Youth Group.

Clark Gaines, former running-back for the New York Jets and the Kansas City Chiefs, and Scottie Graham, former member of the Minnesota Vikings, were keynote speakers at the event. Clark and Scottie spoke to the youth participants about the importance of setting goals, and working with focus and determination to achieve those goals.

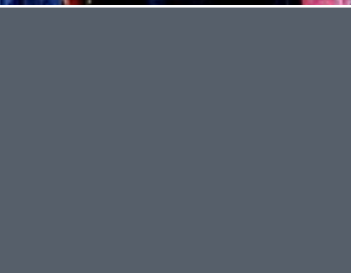
Clark and Scottie also encouraged the youth at the Conference to be leaders, not followers, and to continually “exercise their brains” while also staying healthy and physically active.

kick-off

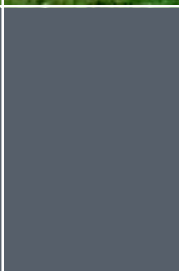


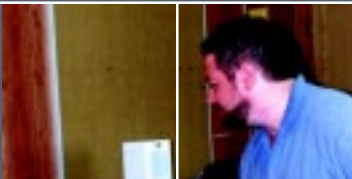
sports clinics

Following the opening comments, the youth took to the fields, and participated in a number of sports clinics.

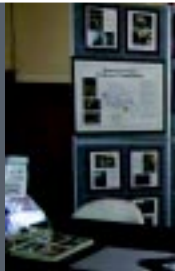


basketball
soccer
football
rugby
softball





Many youth also took part in a computer clinic, learning about web page design and a career fair was held, exposing the youth to people who work as teachers, police officers, health professionals, fisheries technicians, advertising staff, and chefs.



career fair



The Youth Conference included several workshops, focused on topics chosen by the Fountain Youth Group. The workshops all related to building self-esteem and self-confidence, and included ...

workshops

Scared Straight, a workshop that encourages young people to avoid substance abuse ...



a **Modeling Workshop**, where youth learned about ways to present themselves effectively and with pride, and participated in an impromptu fashion show at the banquet



Safeteen, which shared with young First Nations women practical skills in assertiveness and self-defense ...



a **Breakdancing Workshop**, which shared dance techniques for young people ...

a **Lahal Workshop**, which taught young people about the traditional stick game ...



Acting Tips, which shared techniques used by actors to build self-confidence and self-awareness ...



and a **Kickboxing Workshop**, which also focused on building self-confidence through a healthy form of fitness.



On the evening of August 24, the youth enjoyed a Much Music Video Dance Party, where they were able to get to know each other, share their experiences and information about their communities, and practice the skills they had learned in the Breakdancing workshop.

The workshops were all very well attended, and we would like to thank the facilitators for their thoughtful presentations.



Thanks also to... Kamloops Indian Band, for providing the facilities; Skeetchestn Indian Band for the loan of equipment; Laura Jules for the wonderful conference meals; the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police, for their assistance at the dance; William Harry, for his planning assistance; the conference presenters and speakers, for their information and inspiration; the career fair presenters, for sharing their knowledge and experience; the youth chaperones, for helping to ensure that the event was safe and organized; and Lori Pilon, for her ongoing help and photography skills.



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