Proposed

Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre

Located between the IK Barber Learning Centre and the Koerner Library to which it will be attached, the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre will be located in the centre of the campus and seen by thousands of people who pass it every day. It will:

• Provide electronic access to survivors, families, community members, and researchers, to the records of the Truth and Reconciliation’s National Research Centre in Winnipeg and records located here at UBC.

• Provide public programming fully using interactive technology for communities, visitors, K-12 students and students from other universities, and UBC students and faculty members, to explore information about the residential schools and other historical developments that have shaped Canadian-Aboriginal relations and the present.

• Serve as a Centre for ongoing dialogue for Aboriginal and academic communities about the representation of our shared history, the rebuilding of resilient and healthy communities, and the possibilities of community-university partnerships.

• Stand as a physical and symbolic recognition of the importance of Aboriginal history in our shared national history and its inclusion in the university’s structures of knowledge, along with other significant records of Aboriginal history that UBC will be hosting.

Our work with Indian residential school history at UBC over the past several years has shown us that, while many people have had little or no information about the Indian residential schools or any other important aspects of Aboriginal history, the history of the residential schools provides a very effective window through which they can begin to understand the larger history of Canadian-Aboriginal relations and the possibilities of the very different conversations that are possible with this knowledge. The Centre will support curriculum in many disciplines, including the health sciences, engineering and resources, and arts and social sciences. Conversations in classes and other venues can progress at a far more informed and advanced level, and the skills developed in them travel with people into their professional lives and personal interactions.

Currently, over $5M in UBC development funds have been committed to build the Centre, but we are still working to establish stable funding to support ongoing operations.

For further information, please visit http://aboriginal.ubc.ca/indian-residential-school-centre/