

SKIDEGATE STUDENTS AWARDED CERTIFICATES FROM UNBC IN HAIDA LANGUAGE



A remarkable achievement was celebrated last month at the Haida Heritage Centre, as 14 islanders received their certificate in First Nations Language - Haida from UNBC. Designed to prepare graduates to teach Haida Language and Culture, it was the first time this program has ever been offered in Skidegate. Instructors included fluent Haida speakers and university professors. The June 21 ceremony marked the completion of four semesters of intensive study. The program continues until Spring 2018, with students now working towards a diploma and an education certificate.

XAAYDA KIL KAAGANDA - SAVING THE HAIDA LANGUAGE

By St'aay Taaw.waay (Carla Russ)

Siing.aay 'laa (Good day!) In September 2014, I began a journey offered through UNBC, the Haida Language and Culture Certificate Program. On Aboriginal Day - June 21, 2016, after a year and a half of study - I and 13 other Jaa'adaay 'laa isis (Good women) received our Certificate in First Nations Language-Haida. Along the way we laughed, cried, cheered, rejoiced, supported each other, sang

together, went on field trips, played Haida games and recited our very own Haida skits. Class was offered two to three nights a week from 6-9 pm through the work week. Most weekends - either Friday, Saturday and Sunday or Saturday, Sunday and Monday - we went to school from 9 am to 4 pm, with different times for different teachers. All together we worked hard and accomplished our first step.

Together we will grow and succeed in speaking in our mother tongue with the guidance of our teachers.

Gam guudinaay st'iidang ad xaay nang.nga gang! Live with no regrets! Guudang.ngaay hlgaawjuu! I am excited! I will continue with my classmates in fall 2016 for the Diploma Program! Dalang 'waadluxan ga dii k'uuga ga! I love you all!

MY OWN HAIDA PRAYER

Sah 'Laana Guu Nang iidhIxaaydaGas. Ah haay.yad siing.ngaay sgaawdagii dang ga hll kil 'laa gaa.

Creator I thank you for the day.

Xaayda Kihlgii gam id sda gaaguu, sing.ga hll suu ga.
I pray that the Haida Language will never be lost from us.

Stlaay hla giijagid ad dii gii tllgad.

Hold my hand. Help me.

Xaayda kil hll sk'aadga Ga, dii gii hla tllgad.
I am wanting to learn the Haida Language.

Dii gii hla dlaayiida.

Let there be peace (calm) upon me.
Haak'wanuu Gid SGwaanang Gas ga.

Forever and ever

Haaw'a
Thank You

OUR EDUCATION GRANTS CAN HELP WITH TUITION COSTS

The students in UNBC's Haida Language & Culture Training Certificate Program received Continuing Education grants from Gwaii Trust to offset their tuition costs. Our education grants are designed to help islanders with the cost of post-secondary education,

including trades programs and online courses as well as university and college studies. Full-time students can receive up to \$3,000 a year, or up to \$750 per course. Funding is based on the actual cost of your course and materials. Find out more at gwaiitrust.com.