

*School
District 43
Coquitlam*

VANIER VOICE

**Volume 1,
Issue 1
October
2025**

A Message from the Principal – Vanier Center

As we wrap up our first month of school, I want to take a moment to share how truly inspiring it has been to begin this journey with the students and staff of both the Encompass 10–12 and CLC programs. The energy, compassion, and commitment I've witnessed in our learning spaces have been nothing short of incredible.

At Vanier Center, we believe that education should reflect the beautiful diversity of our students. Just as every individual has their own unique strengths, interests, and challenges, so too should their educational pathway be personalized to help them thrive. I am deeply passionate about inclusive education - creating environments where students feel seen, valued, and supported as they explore their identity, build confidence, and grow into the best version of themselves.

Both Encompass and CLC offer calm, warm, and caring spaces where students' needs are at the heart of everything we do. I'm proud to be

part of a team that prioritizes relationships, flexibility, and strength-based learning. These programs are evolving, and I'm excited to continue shaping them alongside our dedicated staff, students, and families.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent survey. Your words - compassionate, inclusive, encouraging, empathic, flexible, supportive, personalized, and accommodating - beautifully capture the spirit of Vanier Center. Your feedback means a great deal, and I look forward to getting to know each of you better throughout the year.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, ideas, or concerns. We know that parents and caregivers are the experts on their children, and your voice is essential in shaping their educational experience.

Warmly, Tara Marinkovic Principal, Vanier Center – CLC & Encompass 10–12

Wednesday, October 1st – Photo Day

Thursday, October 9th – Harvest Lunch

**Monday, October 13 – Thanksgiving Day
(No School)**

Thursday, October 23rd – Photo Retakes

Friday, October 24th – District Professional Day (No School)

Thursday, October 30th – Pumpkin Carving

Friday, October 31st – Halloween Spirit Day

Meet the staff

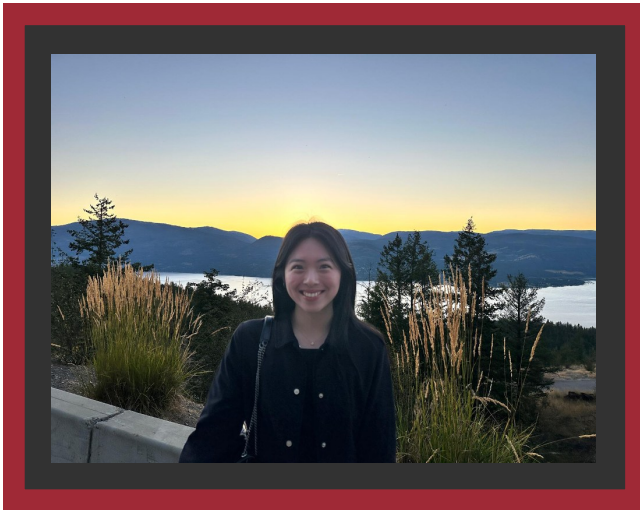
Linnea McNally

Linnea is returning to CLC part-time this year, having been elsewhere in the district for the last five years. She is excited to connect with the new cohort of students in her role as Learning Services Teacher. When not racing around with their three kids, she and her husband occasion-

ally travel to fun places whenever he has conferences to attend, like in Barcelona and Bali this past year. Linnea also loves to be out in her yard tending to and learning about her many, many, many plants. Her goal this year is to keep up with reading one book a month!



Bianca Go



Hi! My name is Bianca, and I'm teaching Science 10 and Science for Citizens 11 this semester. I have a background in early childhood development and elementary education, and I enjoy helping students connect science to real-world situations. Outside of teaching, I like going on long walks, exploring new cuisines, and travelling! I'll be visiting the Philippines and South Korea next year!

Yilin Song

Hi everyone! I teach Grades 10–12 Mathematics, Art, and AP Calculus (fingers crossed someone signs up!). I have over 15 years of teaching and administrative experience in China and Canada. I also hold three degrees in Mathematics and Education, as well as three teaching certificates from both countries.

I love exploring fun and creative ways to learn math, making it less stressful and more like a useful, exciting language you can use in everyday life.



Scott Romano

The Mischievous Monkey...



Scott loves to play boardgames on the stage, playing in the garden outside, and share stories with students to help learn. Occasionally, he will kidnap students at lunch time to go for walks around the neighborhood and catch Pokemon! If you see Scott complaining about his body being sore, it's probably because he took some bumps and bruises during his ice hockey game!

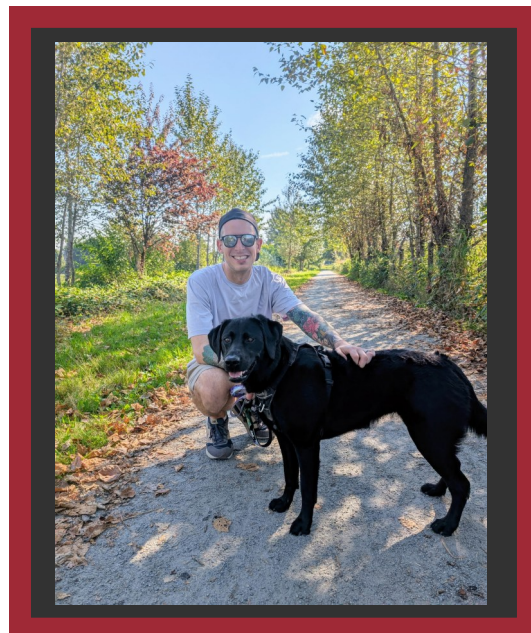
It may be hard to find him at times, because during Halloween, he loves to dress up and decorate the school halls with spooky festivities! But when you do see him, you will probably find Scott throwing dodgeballs and being chased by his students in the gym during his PE class. You will also find Scott covering his hand in flour and making handprints

on his students backs during his Foods class. You will hear Anna yelling at Scott for the pranks he plays during Math class. Lastly, you will see Scott and his students gather around the chemicals in his Science class to make things change colour, catch on fire, and smoke up the place!

I'm Kurtis, and I've been with Encompass at Vanier for seven years teaching senior English and Social Studies. As a lover of all things in the field of humanities, I enjoy reading, writing, history and music, and I especially like learning about the passions and interests of our Encompass students. I also have a special place in my

heart for animals, cold weather and unapologetically using big words in casual social conversation. You can often find me walking my dog, Freya, or playing old video games on my spare time. I'm incredibly excited for the 2025-2026 school year!

Kurtis Stangl



Lara Couto



Hi! I'm Lara, I am part of the clerical team. I have been part of SD43 for 22 years, the last 4 1/2 here at Vanier Centre working with the Alternate Ed programs. You can usually find me at the front office window, where I am happy to help our Vanier Centre

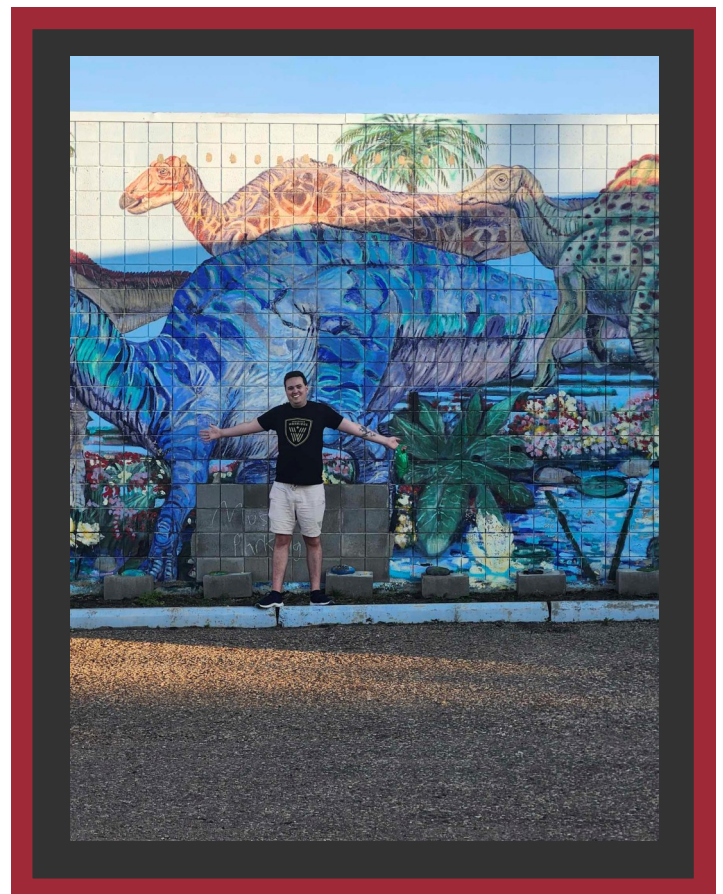
community & answer questions. Outside of work I enjoy hosting dinners, spending time with my young grandchildren and lots of camping trips...oh and I'm a Survivor fan!

Coming Soon...CLC & ENCOMPASS

INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

Josh Holbrook

My name is Josh, and I am a teacher and case manager at Encompass 10-12. I am in my fourth year of teaching, and this year I am teaching Literary Studies and Composition 10, English First Peoples 11, Career Life Education 10, Career Life Connections 12, Art Studio 11 and 12, Tourism 12, and Creative Writing 12. I have always wanted to work in an alternative education setting in order to support students in as many ways as possible, so I am thrilled to be back working here at Encompass after over a year away! My favourite hobbies would be reading (of course), seeing live music, and spending time with friends and family. I am also a lifelong Vancouver Canucks fan, a fate I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy.



Mike Brkic

Hi there! I have been teaching at the CLC for a few years now. I help to facilitate Social Studies, Physical Education, Careers, and inquiry-based learning. I possess a passion for expanding learning beyond the classroom—empowering students, fostering personal growth, and inspiring independence. As co-facilitator of the **CLC Service Club**, I provide opportunities for students to engage in meaningful service learning within our school and with our community partners. Through these experiences, students develop and refine valuable transferable skills, strengthen their resilience, and cultivate adaptable mindsets that better prepare them for the sometimes daunting transition to adulthood. In the process, they also experience the joy of making a positive impact; a comforting sense of belonging; and meaningfully connecting with others. Come to our next monthly meeting and check us out!

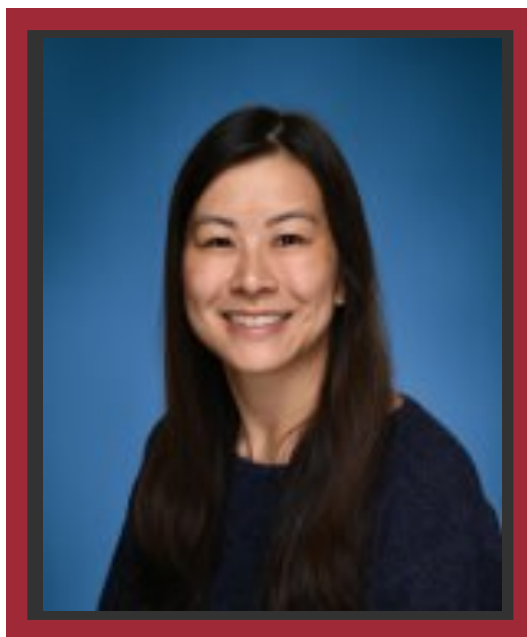


Anna Katz

Hello friends! My name is Anna, and I'm the "mostly" Math teacher at Encompass 10-12 along side Film and TV 12 and Work Experience 12. This is my 4th year at Encompass, and before this I worked in Japan for 3 years at the BC International School in Tokyo. I also teach Guitar 11/12 (where I just started to learn how to play last year). I enjoy watching anime and various variety/comedy/late night tv shows. I love chatting so come say hi at the lounge at any time!

Courtney McLeod

I joined the team at Vanier Centre just over a year ago, doing all things Student Records for Encompass and CLC. Outside of work, I spend my time supporting my kid's sports and activities, as well as volunteering on PAC and on the Board of Directors for my kid's daycare. I enjoy camping, crafting, entertaining, and planning the next vacation.



Dannielle Naidu

Hello! This is my 9th year with the CLC program and my 2nd year with Encompass as the Youth Worker. Everyday I enjoy coming to Vanier Centre to support the incredible students in both of these programs. I wear a lot of different hats from day to day but, if your ever looking to chat, need a snack, want to visit with my four legged friend Tony, or need connection to community resources come and stop by room #106.

When I am not at Vanier Centre, you can find me hanging out with my 6 year old Mylo. Together we love to play Pokémon Go, hang on the monkey bars at the park and do crafts.



Sarah Reed

Hi! My name is Sarah Reed, and I'm proud to be a teacher at CLC, where I teach Humanities, English, English First Peoples, and a variety of electives. I truly love this school and the incredible community we've built here — it's a place where students and staff support one another, grow together, and celebrate learning in meaningful ways.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time outdoors with my dog, Gracie, who keeps me active and smiling. I also love relaxing and connecting with my family and friends, whether it's sharing a meal, going for a walk, or just catching up.

Teaching at CLC is more than a job — it's a passion. I feel lucky every day to be part of such a caring and creative environment.



Heng-Zi Bereczki

This is my 7th year as the Encompass 10-12 Program Counsellor! I love what I do here and see it as a privilege to support this amazing school community.

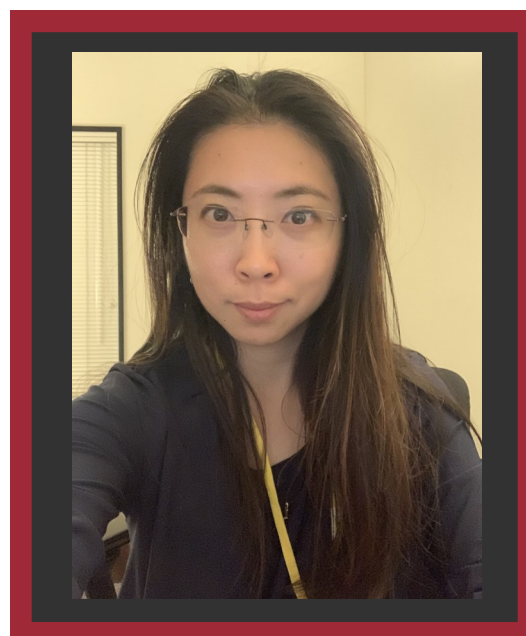
I've been working in SD43 for a long time. I started off as a French Immersion Teacher and then I moved into Student Services. I have worked at all three levels : Elementary, Middle and Secondary in various jobs (Classroom, Student Services, MACC, Marathon, Skill Development). My passion is to support all students' mental and emotional health as well as support them to build capacity as a learner towards high school graduation. I believe that the whole person has to be taken care of in order for academic success to happen.

When I'm not hanging out at Vanier Centre, I enjoy random activities : checking out a new restaurant or dessert shop with friends, learning Japanese on Duolingo, singing loudly by myself in the car, binge watching shows with my spouse, or cuddling with my sugar gliders. This year, my goal is to do a hard thing which is to get more involved in our school garden to learn how to care for the Earth better.



Vivian Hui

Hello all, I'm Vivian and I'm a learning support teacher here at CLC! This is my sixth year with the program, and I count myself very lucky to call this place home. In between supporting students with science, English, math, etc. I enjoy spending the better part of my day getting to know our lovely students and listening to their stories. Originally, I had planned to be a conservation biologist, but I switched to teaching secondary students when it became clear the snails in our lab were not interested in getting an education.



Tony—Pacific Assistance Dog

Woof— My name is Tony and I am an accredited facility dog with the Pacific Assistance Dog Society. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to meet me. I can generally be found hanging out with my handler Dannielle on Tuesdays until noon and all day Wednesday. Many of you don't know this but I actually don't belong to Dannielle. My dad's name is Murray and he used to be the Principal at CLC. When Murray retired he knew that the students would miss me so he allows me to come and spend time with you guys twice a week. Part of my formal training is to emotionally support students when they are having a hard day. If this is you, come and see Dannielle and I will be happy to spend some time with you. I love to be re-paid in belly rubs and scratches. In my spare time I love going for long walks, spending time with my family and and chewing on a good stick. Please come by anytime to say hello!



Will Cullen

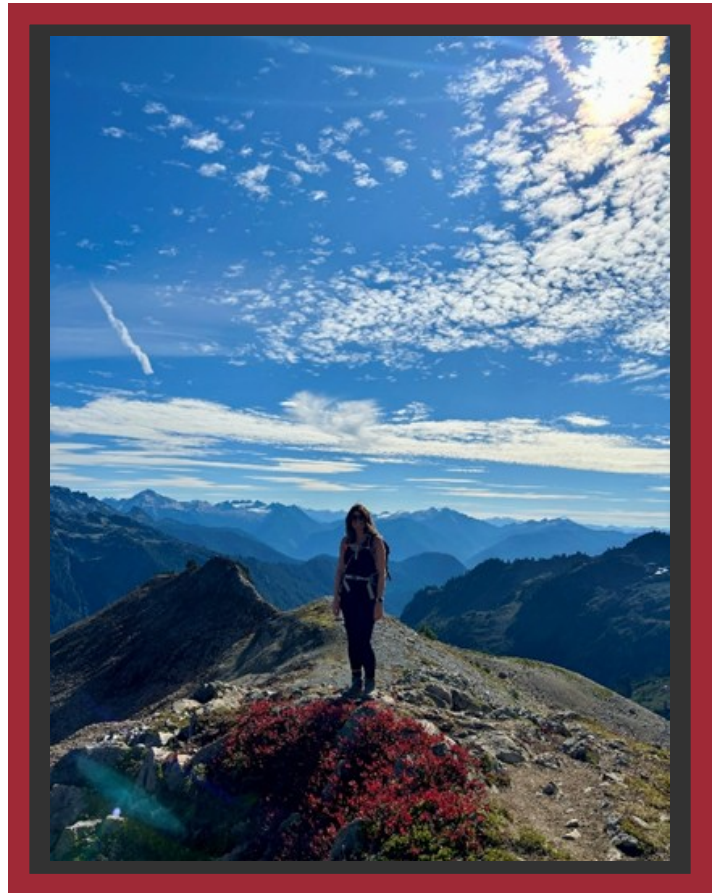
Hey everyone! So, I've been in one form of alternative education or another for almost 20 years. I've been the counsellor at CLC for 7 years this year. I spend a lot of my time on the water kayaking all seasons and all weather. I tend to travel as often as I can; but, most days you'll find me reading with my cats (if it was up to me, I'd have dogs, more cats, llamas, possibly an alpaca cause animals are my safe space!. I spend a lot of time listening to — and finding new — music, especially vinyl. I love cooking exotic recipes and shopping the farmers markets with my wife, Allana.



I'm thrilled to be stepping into the role of Principal at Vanier Center, where I lead both the Encompass 10–12 and CLC programs. Prior to this, I spent three wonderful years as Vice Principal at Port Moody Secondary School, and before that, I supported inclusive education across the district as an Inclusion Support Worker. My journey in education began as a science and math teacher, followed by several years as a school counsellor - roles that deeply shaped my passion for student-centered learning. I'm committed to creating inclusive, strength-based environments where students can discover their identity, build confidence, and thrive. Outside of school, you'll find me exploring the outdoors. Whether it's hiking, biking, paddleboarding, golfing, or walking my dog – I love it all! I also enjoy traveling and discovering new places around the world. I'm excited to get to know our students, families, and staff, and to continue growing our programs together.

Tara Marinkovic

Meet the Principal – Vanier Center

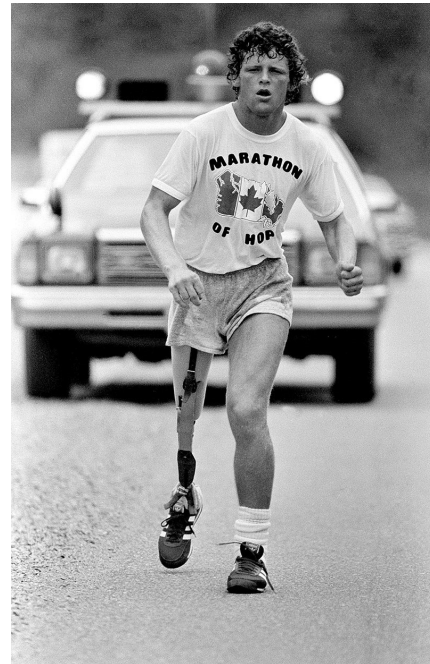


Ainsley Trainner

Hello! I'm Ainsley, the Indigenous Youth Worker at Encompass and CLC. You'll find me in the building on Wednesday's. When I'm not working, I love being outdoors, especially by the ocean. I spend a lot of time exploring the islands, just a quick ferry ride away! I also enjoy hiking, playing and watching soccer. I've been on the field since I was four years old. I get a lot of joy from going to concerts and listening to live music! I like talking about music, and am a big fan of folk/indie! One of my rainy day goals is to learn how to play the harmonica!



Terry Fox Run



Action Plan for Learning 2025–26:

Goal 1: Expanding Hands-On

This year, one of the goals of our Action Plan for Learning speaks directly to the heart of our programs: the development and offering of additional hands-on and experiential learning opportunities. We know that our students bring a wide range of interests, strengths, and learning styles to the classroom. To deepen their intellectual engagement, foster curiosity, and help them build transferable skills, we're committed to expanding learning experiences that are active, meaningful, and personalized.

Across both Encompass and the CLC, we're excited to introduce new initiatives that reflect this commitment. Encompass has launched a Photography class with newly purchased cameras, giving students a creative outlet to explore visual storytelling and

technical skills. Meanwhile, the CLC is offering Foods Studies for the first time, allowing students to engage with nutrition, culinary arts, and practical life skills in a hands-on environment.

We're also looking beyond the classroom. Our team recently spent a day in Squamish exploring the Britannia Mine Museum, Shannon Falls, and the Squamish Estuary system - all rich with potential for future field trips that connect curriculum to real-world experiences. This professional development day was designed to help staff build field trip opportunities that align with curricular competencies and foster cross-curricular learning.



Friday, September 19th, 2025 -Professional Development Day

Community engagement continues to be a cornerstone of our programs. The CLC Service Club remains strong, offering students meaningful ways to contribute to their community. Encompass is leading the way with the Garden Club, which had a bountiful harvest this year and even added a new garden shed that students are assembling themselves. These activities not only build skills but also nurture a sense of responsibility, teamwork, and pride.

We're also thrilled to announce that this year, STEAM Ambassadors from both programs will participate in district-wide initiatives,

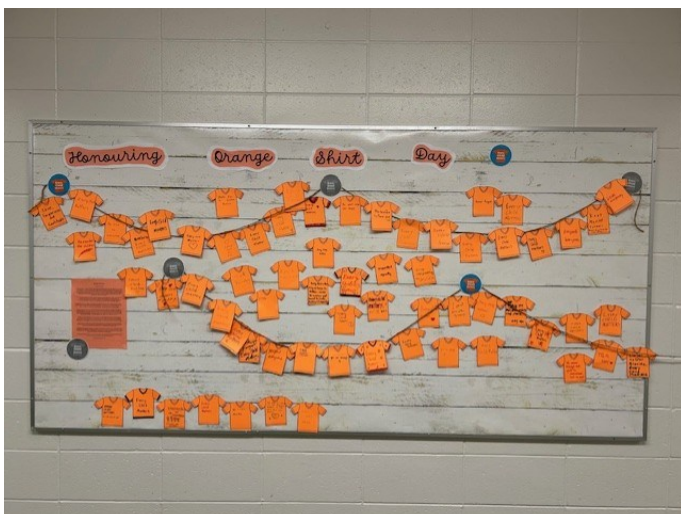
representing Vanier Center and contributing to innovative, interdisciplinary learning.

This goal will remain a priority throughout the school year, and we look forward to seeing how these opportunities help our students grow intellectually, creatively, and personally. At Vanier Center, we believe that when students are given the chance to learn in ways that reflect who they are, they flourish and we're proud to be part of that journey.



**Gardening
Club**

Truth and Reconciliation Day at Vanier Centre



FRESH TO YOU FUNDRAISER



The Fresh to You Fundraiser is a great way to fundraise with healthy food choices while making a 40% profit for your school.

Here's
What's in
the Bundles



We love to eat fresh
fruits and vegetables!

Basic bundle \$25

3lb Carrots
3lb Yellow Onions
3lb Apples
5lb Russet Potatoes

Seasonal Bundle \$30

3lb Carrots
1lb Parsnips
5lb Russet Potatoes
283g Shallots
3 Pack Loveable Little
Squash

Our school is making a healthy choice in fundraising by selling top quality fruits and vegetables from BC.

Help us:

- 🍅 meet our school's fundraising goals
- 🍅 support healthy choices
- 🍅 support local growers and producers

Fundraising Dates: Orders are due Thursday, October 30th

Fundraising Coordinator: Dannielle Naidu (dnaidu@sd43.bc.ca)

Revised June 2025



Please bring cash or cheque to Dannielle and make sure you indicate which bundle you would like!

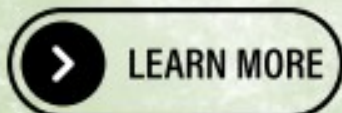


Strengthening Connections

Empowering Indigenous Futures:
Explore, Connect, and Thrive!

**Date: Wednesday, October 22 Time:
3:30pm-7:00pm Location: Coquitlam
Education Learning Centre (1080
Winslow Avenue)**

Connect with Indigenous
Recruiters from post-
secondary institutions across
BC at the Coquitlam
Education Learning Centre!



<https://strengthening-connections.ca>



Door Prizes

Schools Attending

- UBC
- SFU
- UVic
- Inspire
- NVIT
- Langara College
- Douglas College
- Emily Carr University
- Native Education College
- JIBC
- Squamish Nation
Trades

Plus others

Please see your Indigenous Youth Worker for more information