



INDIGENOUS SELF-DETERMINATION



Modern education
rooted in tradition

five programs, one location
unlimited opportunities



We believe that all education must have as its two main goals the stimulation of pride in one's culture and knowledge to successfully compete in today's world.

Chief Elijah Smith
Together Today for our Children Tomorrow

At Yukon College we believe in linking the past to the present, as we prepare students for the future. That's why we've developed our Indigenous Self-Determination programs in partnership with Yukon First Nations. Our programs are relevant and impactful. We teach students how to ground their leadership skills and professional goals in a culturally meaningful context, as they learn from and with indigenous leaders and professionals. We know that self-determination for indigenous peoples is a journey, and want to travel part of the way with you.



We offer five programs designed for people pursuing careers in indigenous governance.

FIRST NATIONS GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION*	Three years part-time, option of on-site or distance education	Academic Certificate
HERITAGE AND CULTURE*	One year full-time (part-time option)	Academic Certificate
FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	Online, 12 courses. One course = 20 hours over five weeks	Completion Certificate
HERITAGE AND CULTURE ESSENTIAL SKILLS	10 weeks, community-based	Completion Certificate
FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP TRAINING	One week, delivered in Whitehorse or elsewhere	Completion Certificate

*Selected courses in this program may be recognized by other institutions for transfer credits.

Yukon College would like to acknowledge our partners, the 14 Yukon First Nations and the Government of Yukon.





Yukon College's Ayamdigt Campus is housed in a modern facility that overlooks Whitehorse and the Yukon River valley. Our backyard is a network of trails that are ideal for skiing, walking, snowshoeing and orienteering. The college itself is a complex, with student residences, cafeteria, laboratories, gym with weight room and climbing wall, child care centre...the list goes on. Students love our campus because it is close to downtown, but removed enough to have its own ambiance.

Whitehorse itself is an attractive city of 28,000. Blending a west coast feel with a northern sensibility, Whitehorse boasts a vibrant arts community, world-class athletic facilities, unique shopping options and a mix of local and national restaurants. It is known as “The Wilderness City” – the vast Yukon backcountry, with its pristine lakes and rugged mountains, is at its doorstep.



At the heart of downtown on the bank of the Yukon River, the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre showcases the culture, values, language and way of life of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation. The centre hosts exhibits and events such as the Adäka Cultural Festival and is a meeting space for people of all cultures.

Not quite downtown, and close to campus, is the Canada Games Centre. It's where Whitehorse goes to play. Two hockey arenas, an eight-lane, 25-metre pool, hot tub, sauna, steam room, weight room, children's indoor playground, running track and a soccer field will keep you busy. Regular programming offers workshops and short courses on everything from gardening to caribou hair tufting, basket-making and fly-tying.

FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Front-line workers for indigenous governments need practical skills to get the job done. This program provides useful skills that students can immediately apply in their work. Short, practical courses are delivered online to make the program accessible for people already working in their field, and to students aspiring to a career in their community.

PROGRAM THEMES

- Time management
- Conducting research
- Contracts and agreements
- Problem solving and conflict management
- Partnerships and proposals
- Evaluation of projects
- Developing and monitoring budgets

Connect from anywhere, at a time that suits you.
Receive a Completion Certificate.

The course was excellent and the structure worked. It allowed me to continue to do my job, get the course done, and still have time for family at home.

Former student





FIRST NATIONS GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Respect. Responsibility. Accountability. Integrity. There are high standards for leaders. Learn the practical tools you need as a senior manager to be an effective and strategic leader in an indigenous or non-indigenous government.

This program explores the unique considerations of working in an indigenous governance context and builds managerial skills to transform vision into action. It is designed to be accessible to working professionals and to students aspiring to work as executive or senior government managers.

The program is comprised of ten courses offered part-time over three years, either in class or through distance education. Learn through a combination of lectures, seminars, group discussions, presentations and guest speakers

- COURSES**
- Governance and Land Claims
 - Community and Economic Development
 - Intergovernmental Relations
 - Communications
 - Management and Strategic Planning
 - Public Administration
 - Power and Influence
 - Accountability and Financial Management
 - Human Resource Management
 - Policy

Earn your First Nations Governance and Public Administration certificate in most cases, after three years of part-time study.

Some courses may transfer towards diplomas and degrees granted through BC and Alberta institutions. See www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/transfer for more information.

I have enjoyed taking part in this program since it started and have found that it has greatly improved how I do my job and also my outlook in regards to managing a department.

Recent graduate





HERITAGE AND CULTURE

An effective heritage department can be a tremendous asset to an indigenous government. Such a department roots the entire government in its past, and uses that knowledge to inform its future. Combining theory and practice, the First Nations Heritage and Culture certificate prepares students for work in the heritage and culture management field, with a specific focus on indigenous heritage and culture management.

Topics covered in the program include the history of Yukon First Nations; public administration; archives and collections management; the preservation of traditional knowledge, language and culture; and anthropology. Students develop a foundation of professional ethics and values, self-awareness and critical thinking, and an understanding of heritage issues within their communities. Although the focus is on Yukon First Nations heritage and culture management, students are also encouraged to draw on indigenous experiences and issues from elsewhere.

Graduate from this one-year program with an Academic Certificate in Heritage and Culture.

We know we cannot live in the past but the past lives in us.

Charles Perkins

HERITAGE AND CULTURE ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Be a part of a team that celebrates indigenous heritage through the management of traditional cultural knowledge, indigenous languages, land-based heritage and oral histories. This program encourages personal development and offers students opportunities to learn how to help their communities manage and protect heritage resources.

CORE COURSES **Introduction to Heritage Management**
Traditional Knowledge Management
Research Skills
Heritage Field Skills
Heritage Communications
Caring for Heritage Resources

Students can select electives from a variety of courses, including Language Management, Digital Photography, and Interpretation Skills.

Students receive a Completion Certificate when they complete this program.





FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Some people are natural leaders, but all leaders need training, even the naturals. This course is ideal for newly elected and appointed officials or those who are considering a leadership role within their government. It is designed to provide community leaders with a basic grounding in governance and public administration, as well as the tools to apply leadership skills in their work.

Turn a vision into action.

Evaluate alternatives when confronted with obstacles.

First Nations Leadership Training delivers five integrated courses over one week, and is open to elected and appointed officials who work in and for indigenous governments. It is offered in Whitehorse to those interested in taking on a leadership role of any sort, within their indigenous government.

THE PROGRAM COVERS FIVE THEMATIC AREAS

Fundamentals of governance and public administration

Roles and responsibilities of elected and appointed officials

Leadership essentials

Strategic planning and policy-making

Personal challenges of leadership

Want this program for your workplace?

We'll bring it to you.

Want to spend a week immersed in your own career development?

We're waiting for you.

Receive a Completion Certificate.

I will be strongly encouraging others to take this training. The instructors and guest speakers are very knowledgeable and inspirational. They have kept me intrigued throughout the training. They have definitely helped to reassure my empowerment and my sense of worth, helping me be a leader for my community. It's very positive training and that's what I want to bring back to my community because that's what will help us move forward.

Recent graduate



Who should take these courses?

- students who are pursuing careers in indigenous governance
- mid-career professionals, as part of their skill development and continuing education
- elected officials and new managers
- indigenous and non-indigenous students

The programs described here have various admissions requirements.
Call us or check out our website for more information – www.yukoncollege.yk.ca



Yukon College is at the forefront of indigenous governance education because Yukoners have been implementing land claims for over 25 years, and learning from our experiences. The Chiefs and others say it is time we share our knowledge and experience beyond the territory. I'm proud to present these programs, and am confident that no matter where you are in developing your knowledge of indigenous governance, we've got something for you.

*Karen Barnes
Yukon College President*

Frequently Asked Questions about Yukon

Isn't it really cold there?

Whitehorse enjoys summer temperatures in the 18–20°C range, although higher temperatures are common and winter temperatures average minus 20, with the occasional week of minus 30-40. Unlike places in southern Canada, our summer days include up to 20 hours of daylight. Don't pack your flashlight. In the winter, long nights come alive with the unforgettable Northern Lights.

I thought it was expensive to get there?

Once upon a time this was the case, but these days a direct flight from Yellowknife, Vancouver, Kelowna, Edmonton or Calgary is reasonably priced. There are also direct flights from Frankfurt, Germany for six months of the year.

What is there to do when I am not in school?

Hiking or snowshoeing, cross country and down-hill skiing, soaking in the hot springs, berry picking in summer, enjoying a coffee from one of the local roasters, shopping, a workout or a game at the Canada Games Centre — you won't be bored.

How do I connect with other First Nations students?

If you are an indigenous student, or if you are a non-indigenous student and are wondering how you can learn more about the various First Nations' cultures of the Yukon, we have great options for you.

First Nations lunches

Snowshoeing taught by our resident elder

Sweats

Aboriginal drumming and singing

Traditional beading

Hanging out in the Samay Thia Harry Allen lounge

...and that's just on campus.

I won't have a car. How do I get around in Whitehorse?

Whitehorse's transit system will get you where you need to be. But don't rule out your feet — Whitehorse is a very walkable city.



Big ideas and big wilderness. We've got a place for you here.

Our Indigenous Self-Determination Studies programs offer students the opportunity to learn with and from indigenous leaders and professionals. We invite you to explore our online academic calendar for more information, and then call us to discuss your eligibility. Application forms and admissions information is available online.

start here. go anywhere.

Contact Us:

Toll free: 1-800-661-0504,
ask for First Nations Initiative

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Find us on social media!  

