

## Youth and elders share knowledge with federal grant

Aboriginal elders are sharing what they know with Nanaimo's next generation thanks to a project supported by the federal government.

Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre has won more than \$20,000 from the federal government's New Horizons for Seniors Program to run its Passing on Knowledge project. The initiative, launched in April, sees elders share knowledge, skills, tradition and culture with youth just by having the two generations spend time together.

Executive director Grace Elliott-Nielsen calls it very important, with positive outcomes. Approximately 100 youth and 20 elders are involved in the project through different programs.

"All the issues that are experienced today by residential school and colonization is around the fact that identity has been lost and a sense of belonging. This is an opportunity for elders to replace that sense of belonging," Elliott-Nielsen said. "That really needs to happen for our youth."

Close to \$142,000 was distributed through the New Horizons programs to Central Vancouver Island organizations for initiatives led and inspired by seniors. The dollars are aimed at encouraging seniors to share their knowledge, skills and experiences to the benefit of others and the community.



KARL YU/THE NEWS BULLETIN

## Ready to rally

Sue Creba, one of the organizers of a rally at Maffeo Sutton Park on Saturday, signs one of three banners available for attendees to leave messages standing up for clean air, water and climate. A group of Nanaimo residents gathered at the park to protest the tar sands and raise awareness about voting in the upcoming federal election.

## Economic development CEO resigns

Sasha Angus, Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation chief executive officer, is stepping down.

The corporation announced Tuesday that Angus will leave his position Oct. 1 and that he and his family will move to Victoria.

The decision to step down was difficult, but family and health considerations are

a priority, said Angus, in a press release.

The corporation's board of directors will strike a search committee and work with a recruitment firm to help find a new CEO by November. The board and senior staff will manage day-to-day operations during the transition.

Angus has held the CEO position since 2012.

# Trustees divide up annual facilities grant

**NEW ROOFS** where bulk of improvement money will go.

BY KARL YU  
THE NEWS BULLETIN

The Nanaimo school district approved a spending bylaw for about \$2.27 million in provincial government annual facilities grant money for the 2015-16 school year.

School trustees approved the bylaw at the June 24 regular meeting. A majority of the money will go toward school re-roofing at a cost of \$559,058, while \$500,000 will go toward converting Cedar back to a high school.

Another \$500,000 is currently unallocated. It had been set aside for Cedar elementary school conversion, but trustees previously voted to release money for other projects, according to Dale Burgos, school district spokesman, adding that there is no requirement for the money to be distributed in 2015-16.

Additionally, \$100,044 is allocated for exterior painting, \$52,965 for information systems upgrades, \$294,239

for a strategic energy management plan, \$29,424 for exterior pre-painting repairs and \$58,850 for floor replacement.

Money totalling \$294,242 is allocated for priority boiler replacement and \$176,965 will be left in contingency.

In all, the province granted approximately \$2.87 million in annual facilities grant money.

"The annual facilities grant from government, from their perspective, is funded through a portion that's capital and a portion that's operating, so the portion that's capital is what we pass in the bylaw, which is [\$2.27 million]. The other part is, from the ministry's perspective, their operating portion of the AFG, so that's another \$600,000. The [\$2.27 million] plus the \$600,000 gives you the total," said Graham Roberts, secretary-treasurer.

The school district will see two operating portion amounts withheld by the province - \$47,298 will go to Capital Asset Management Services and \$257,535 to fund the costs of Next Generation Network Internet upgrades.

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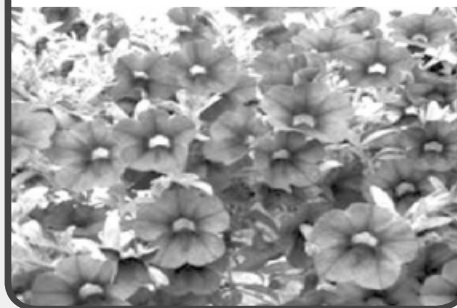
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