Visiting Elders to the Faculty of Education

The Office of Indigenous Education and NITEP will be launching a Faculty of Education Visiting Elders series this upcoming academic year. This is an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to engage with Elders and knowledge keepers and to advance Indigenous priorities in the field of education.

Visiting Elder activities may include:
• Visiting NITEP, BEd, and graduate classes
• Meeting with SAGE (Aboriginal Graduate) students
• Meet and greet with instructors to discuss ways to include Indigenous ways of knowing and being into curriculum

Contact indigenous.education@ubc.ca to book a time with a visiting Elder

Gerry Oleman — September 24th, 25th, 26th
Gerry Oleman is a member of the St’a’imc Nation from Tsal’alh (Shalalth B.C.) and has been involved as a change agent for First Nations communities and agencies since 1976. His experiences include providing counseling for individuals, families, and groups, and providing leadership politically and administratively to his community and Nation. Gerry came to the realization that all First Nations in Canada have the same suffering and challenges; all challenges are man-made therefore they can be healed and fixed using our traditions and laws that worked for us for thousands of years. Over the past 34 years, Gerry has facilitated over 645 workshops across Canada and in the United States.

Mary Jane Joe — October 9th, 29th
Mary Jane Joe is from the Ntle’kepmx Nation with a B.Ed (NITEP) and M.A. in Educational Studies. She has taught First Nations Studies and Aboriginal Studies for a total of 18 years with NITEP/UBC and at Langara College in Vancouver. Mary Jane is from the Joeyaska Indian Reserve, in Merritt, B.C. and is presently married and living in the Musqueam Reserve. Her family are the Sterlings. She has retired from teaching but is an Elder-in-Residence at Langara College and works with Indigenous Artists and educators (LTTC.A) within public schools to bring Indigenous peoples history, traditional teachings and perspectives into the classrooms.

Larry Grant— November 5th, 21st
Larry Grant, Musqueam Elder, was born and raised in Musqueam traditional territory by a traditional hańq̓amíinəm speaking Musqueam family. After 4 decades as a tradesman, Larry enrolled in the First Nations Languages Program, which awoke his memory of the embedded value that the hańq̓amíinəm language has to self-identity, kinship, culture, territory, and history prior to European contact. He is presently assisting in revitalizing hańq̓amíinəm in the Musqueam Language and Culture Department, and co-teaching the introductory hańq̓amíinəm course through UBC. In 2010, he received the Alumni Award of Distinction from Vancouver Community College, and in 2014, he became an Honorary NITEP Graduate.