



First Nations Tax Administrators Association

c/o Westbank First Nation 101-515 Highway 97 South, Kelowna BC, V1Z 3J2



APRIL 2008

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 NO. 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Tax Administrator,

The time is now for First Nations Tax Administrators to solidify your profession. Thompson Rivers University and the Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics are putting your future in your hands by offering a Certificate in Public Administration - First Nation Taxation.

Ever since I entered the First Nation Property Tax field almost seventeen years ago, I struggled with validation from Chief and Council that my job was not just a spin off from the Finance Department. First Nation Tax Administration is now being recognized as a legitimate profession. Tax Administrators can now claim with confidence their rightful professional designation. I and nineteen other First Nation Tax Administrators have set off on this voyage to obtain our Certificates in Public Administration - First Nation Taxation. We invite our colleagues throughout Canada to join us on this exciting adventure.

Sincerely,

First Nations Tax Administrators Association
President Ernest M Jack



SALARY SURVEY

We want to help you get paid the salary you deserve!

Please complete the enclosed confidential Salary Survey.

This information will help us form a baseline of the current salary range for First Nations Tax Administrators.

We will compare this with Salary Ranges for Tax Administrators in the public sector.

We will use this information to develop a Salary Range which reflects the unique skill set and professional expertise of First Nations Tax Administrators.

We will seek to inform Chief and Council and Administrators Nationwide of the true value of their employees.

\$\$ Free Money \$\$

Now that we have your attention, we'd like to inform you about the **Excess Homeowner Grant for Self Taxing First Nations** in the Province of British Columbia.

Under Section 14 of the *Indian Self Government Enabling Act* a band that has elected for self-taxation can receive a grant in place of the benefits that are payable under the *Home Owner Grant Act*. In order to receive the grant, the program you administer should mirror that of the provincial homeowner grant.

We encourage you to pursue this grant. Information can be found online at http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/business/Property_Taxes/FirstNations/home_owner_grant.htm

Or contact Penny-Rae Schur, Ministry of Small Business and Revenue
250-356-0907, or toll free 1-800-663-7857, pennyrae.schur@gov.bc.ca

Certificate in Public Administration - First Nations Taxation

The Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics in partnership with Thompson Rivers University and the First Nations Tax Commission offered the first class of the Certificate Program March 25-28, 2008, in Kamloops BC.

An Introduction to First Nations Taxation was facilitated by Dr. André Le Dressay with Guest Lectures from:

First Nations Taxation Scholar, Robert Bish
FNTC Chief Commissioner, Manny Jules
FNTC CEO, Ken Scopick
FNTC Director of Policy and Law Review, Trenton Paul
FMB, Jason Calla



The course topics included: The History of First Nation Property Taxation, An Introduction to Debenture Financing by Small Governments, Taxation and Government in Canada, A Brief History of the FSMA, The Role of Government in Facilitating Investment, The Business Case for the FSMA, An Overview of the FSMA, An Introduction to Local Revenue Laws and the FNTC, and An Introduction to the FNFA, FNSI and FMB.

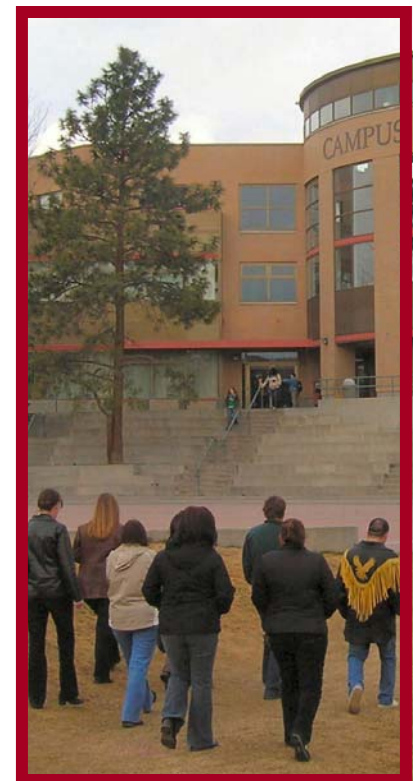


The Certificate Program Course Requirements include:

- An Introduction to First Nations Taxation
- Assessment and Assessment Appeals
- Budgeting and Tax Rate Setting
- Administration -Tax Notices, Collecting and Enforcement
- Communications and Taxpayer Relations
- Service Agreements and Joint Contracts
- Development Cost Charges
- First Nation Infrastructure, Capital Planning and Debentures (optional)

Congratulations to the participants of the first class ECON 299, An Introduction to First Nations Taxation:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lydia Archie | Skowkale First Nation |
| Cathleen Arnouse | Adams Lake Band |
| Tammy Bartz | Squiala First Nation |
| Edi Brett | Chemainus First Nation |
| Adele Chingee | McLeod Lake Indian Band |
| Christina Clarke | Songhees First Nation |
| Brian Finlay | Little Shuswap Indian Band |
| Lynn Gottfriedson | Tk'emlups Indian Band |
| Willy Hall | Leq'am:el & Kwaw Kwaw Apilt |
| Dana Henderson | Campbell River Indian Band |
| Ernest Jack | Westbank First Nation |
| Sammy-Jo Louie | Osoyoos Indian Band |
| Albert Marshall | Eskasoni First Nation |
| Melinda Nunez-Shuler | Osoyoos Indian Band |
| Stella Ostrander | T'it'q'et Administration |
| Sheila Schmidt | Tzeachten First Nation |
| Marg Shelley | Williams Lake Indian Band |
| Kathleen Smith | Squamish First Nation |
| Corinne Wolfe | Skeetchestn Indian Band |



A Message from the Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics

The Tulo Centre is currently planning for the roll-out of the classes that are included in the *Certificate in Public Administration – Tax Administration*. Each class will comprise one week of time at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. An important consideration in scheduling these one week classes is that most students are also busy Tax Administrators.

At the recent class, *An Introduction to First Nation Taxation*, the Tulo Centre distributed a questionnaire asking what months were best to schedule the classes. The results were that most people preferred that these one week classes be offered in the months:

- September
- November
- February
- April

We would like to receive feedback from the Tax Administrators on this schedule. Please email Sarah Jules at sarah@tulo.ca with your comments to help us gauge support for this schedule.

Sarah Jules

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15th Annual National Forum



FIRST NATIONS TAX ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION



Celebrating 15 Years of Professional Development

Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort & Spa
And NK'MIP Desert Cultural Centre
Osoyoos, British Columbia

September 24, 25 and 26, 2008

Mark your Calendar. Don't miss this event!



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We want to Hear from You!

What would you like to see in future editions of the FNTAA newsletter?

Please send your ideas, articles, comments and photos to
taxation1@songheesnation.com

SONGHEES FIRST NATION passed the **first** proposed local revenue laws under the First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act
January 15, 2008



Councillor Norman George, Chief Robert Sam, Councillor Gary Albany, Councillor Frank George
Tax Administrator Christina Clarke, Legal Council Kathryn Deo of Cedar Law and Administrative Assistant Renee Albany