

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre exploring options for Bowen road site**

*Project aims to enhance residential options for Aboriginal VIU students*

#### **Summary**

The Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre (NAC) has proposed to develop residences for Aboriginal students attending post secondary studies at Vancouver Island University. The City owned property at 1406 Bowen Road has been identified as a potential site for student housing by NAC. Mayor and Council agreed to explore the possibility during the February 3rd regular Council meeting. City staff will provide a feasibility report back to Council, expected April 15.

*Strategic Link:* The proposed use supports the City of Nanaimo's strategic plan; the social equity pillar

#### **Key Points**

- Aboriginals under 25 represent the fastest growing demographic in the City; the provision of post secondary education and ancillary supports is a key strategic investment for the community.
- City staff and Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre staff will gather community input from the surrounding neighbourhood.

#### **Quotes**

"It is critically important that we support the development of our young people, especially those who face barriers to achieving success. "

John Horn  
Social Planner  
City of Nanaimo

Continued... Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre exploring options for Bowen road site

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