

Honoring What They Say: The Logos

Of the four logos found in this report three are from the University of British Columbia and the other from the Native Education Centre (Vancouver).

The logo of the First Nations House of Learning at UBC may be found on the first page of Part I, Developing the Process Model, and on the first page of Part V, Issues, Reflections, and Recommendations. It was created by Tsimshian artist Glen Wood. It consists of a human face flanked by two ravens, which also form the frame of a longhouse. The face is a humanoid with frog-like features and represents First Nations peoples. The house design represents the university or *House of Learning*, which is the way some aboriginal languages refer to schools. The Raven, a symbol of creativity and learning, is also known as a trickster or transformer in many First Nations cultures. As represented here, Raven is transforming the university to reflect First Nations cultures and philosophies, linking the university to First Nations communities.

The Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP) logo may be found on the first page of Part II, The UBC Experience. It is based on a legend that comes from the Northwest Coast of BC and is found in one form or another in a number of First Nations cultures. The logo shows Raven with the sun in his beak, superimposed over a circle that represents a Hole in the Sky. The legend is of the time when the earth was in complete darkness. Raven flew through a Hole in the Sky where he took the sun in his beak and brought it back through the Hole in the Sky to give light to the earth. The NITEP Advisory Committee thought this would be a fitting symbol because NITEP hopes to bring the light of education to First Nations children in a much more effective way than has happened in the past. The logo was designed by Phillip (Oppie) Oppenheim, a Thompson First Nation artist.

The logo of the Native Education Centre may be found on the first page of Part III, The NEC Experience. It was designed by the artist Mark Henderson while he was a student at the Centre and depicts a Northwest Coast Sun Mask. He adapted the Sun Mask to represent the rising sun to symbolize the rebirth or emergence of individual learners' lifelong educational goals and aspirations. The Sun is important to many First Nations peoples across North America and often is a symbol of life itself.

The logo of the Ts'kel graduate program may be found on the first page of Part IV, Sharing the Research Process. It was created by the artist Vern Brown, who is a member of the Tsimshian Nation and whose home community is Kitkatla, BC. Ts'kel is a Halq'emeylem word meaning Golden Eagle. To many First Nations, the Eagle symbolizes great achievements and accomplishments. It is thus a fitting symbol of the program, symbolizing both the aspirations and the accomplishments of the people involved with the program, be they Elders, students, advisors or faculty/staff.