



Project Title: Decolonizing planning: an introduction to theories, epistemologies and practices of working with/in indigenous communities... implementation of a new course and curriculum

Project Summary *(150 words maximum)*

In the past year we have designed a new specialization in Indigenous Community Planning as part of our Masters degree. This comprises four courses (two new, two existing) and a Practicum. The new course that I have just finished designing (TLEF year 1) will be co-taught with the assistance of a First Nations doctoral student and an Elder. We are running a pilot seminar Jan-April 2012 in order to refine the course before adding it to the new curriculum in Fall 2012. This application seeks support for making this foundation course, and our new curriculum initiative, an enhanced learning experience, through the funding of the doctoral student as a teaching assistant and co-teaching by the Elder, (Gerry Oldman), to accompany us on the learning journey throughout the semester. The Elder would be present both in class, as a co-teacher, and outside class as a counselor and mentor for Native and non-Native students. We also seek support for other aspects of the implementation of the new curriculum, such as travel costs for students engaged in a Practicum in a First Nations community beyond the Lower Mainland; organizing a second Teach-in for Fall 2012; placing students in internships with Lower Mainland First Nations; 4 meetings with Advisory Committee; and establishing a website to host presentations and participant responses from Teach-ins.