

Liz Ashton, President of Camosun College announces...

I wanted to bring you up to date on some exciting news re services for First Nations students and potential forward movement on our residence initiative. Yesterday, The Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister Responsible for Housing announced \$50.9 million in funding for 292 housing units in 10 communities across the province under the Aboriginal Housing Initiative. One of the proposals, submitted by M'akola Housing with the College's input and encouragement and requesting funding to create 25 Aboriginal housing spaces at Camosun College, was approved as part of this announcement. Linda Ross, a new Board member and past member of the Camosun College Foundation Board with tremendous expertise and connections in this regard, and Colleen Kasting, also a member of the Foundation Board, led a major research project this past year to identify needs and gaps in Aboriginal housing throughout the province and off-reserve student housing was deemed one of the areas of critical need. Linda, past Executive Director of M'akola, and has worked closely with Kevin Albers, the current Executive Director and her research will have formed some of the background documentation that would have helped the M'akola proposal get funding support.

I will be keeping you apprised as we move forward with the proposed student residence initiative but wanted to let you know of this important development. The link to the Ministry news release is [HYPERLINK "HYPERLINK "http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/index.html"http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/index.html"http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/index.html"http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/index.html](http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/index.html) (third release down on this page) and the link to CFX's coverage is at [HYPERLINK "HYPERLINK "http://www.cfax1070.com/newsstory.php?newsId=3027"http://www.cfax1070.com/newsstory.php?newsId=3027"http://www.cfax1070.com/newsstory.php?newsId=3027"http://www.cfax1070.com/newsstory.php?newsId=3027"](http://www.cfax1070.com/newsstory.php?newsId=3027)

Thanks!

Liz Ashton, President, Camosun College

3100 Foul Bay Road, Victoria, BC, V8P 5J2

Ph: 250-370-3409, Fx: 250-370-3663

email: ashton@camosun.bc.ca, www.camosun.bc.ca