

# OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

## Aboriginal Community Economic Development: Student Outreach Assists Aboriginal Businesses

Following the December NAEDC 2010 planning and advisory session, the Aboriginal Community Economic Development program is officially underway for the summer of 2011. This program is a significant undertaking, with regard to providing student driven-support for local Aboriginal community economic development projects.

Our first partnership is with Aboriginal owned Kitchens of Distinction, the Victoria-based vision of Shirley Lang. This is a two-step development program that will have students prepare business and marketing plans.

We are currently working with Shirley Lang through a series of meetings both on and off campus. The student experience emphasizes the cross-cultural aspects that inform Aboriginal businesses, their objectives and organizational structures.



*Professor Hopkins, Shirley Lang and UVic Business & Law students*

## International Indigenous Leadership Gathering

On June 4, 2011, NAEDC Research Assistant Jeanette Gevikoglu attended the third annual International Indigenous Leadership Gathering in Xaxl'ip, St'át'imc Territory near Lillooet, BC. The theme of this year's gathering was "Protecting the Sacred" and brought together elders, ceremony-keepers and mandated leaders from around the globe.

The speakers addressed how Indigenous teachings can guide Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians as they face modern environmental, social and political challenges. Jeanette heard remarks from Maurice Little Wolf, an Alberta Blackfoot elder, and Dave Courchenne, an Anishnabe elder of the Eagle clan.

"I was fortunate to take part in ceremonies and a drumming circle at the gathering," says Jeanette. "The speakers were excellent and hearing their vision for how Indigenous teachings can improve our country gave me hope for a renewed relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada."

For more information on the International Indigenous Leadership Gathering, please visit the website at: [www.iilg.ca](http://www.iilg.ca).

