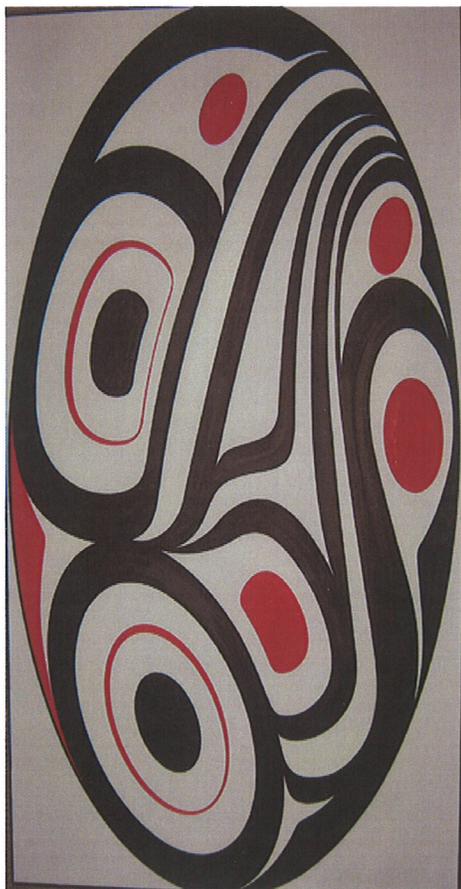


First Nations/Aboriginal Outreach Programs in BC

Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences

October 2010



The Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (see www.pims.math.ca), is a consortium of eight universities in Western Canada and the United States:

Simon Fraser University
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan
University of Victoria
University of Washington
University of Northern British Columbia

The main objectives of PIMS are:

- To sponsor high quality collaborative research projects in the mathematical sciences
- To train highly qualified personnel
- To develop industrial and interdisciplinary mathematics
- To promote international collaboration
- To foster educational activities for students in K-12, as well as for undergraduate and graduate students.

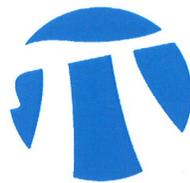
PIMS is committed to increasing diversity in the mathematical sciences.

Partnerships:

PIMS has established a working relationship with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (see <http://www.fnesc.ca/>) in looking for strategies to improve their math programs and to promote interest in mathematics among their communities.

PIMS has developed a Partnership Program with First Nations schools, seeking to serve as a resource for enhancing their teaching of mathematics.

PIMS has been working with the Vancouver School Board in looking for ways to improve the math and science education of the aboriginal urban population in the Lower Mainland.



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The main components of our activities are the following:

- Teacher-training sessions
- Developing mentorship programs
- Organizing mathematical outreach events:
 - ❖ *Math Mania*
 - ❖ *Parent Nights*
- Math Summer Camps

Education Coordinator:

Dedicated coordinators for education programs have allowed PIMS to seek new ways of working with various communities on improving math education. Our education coordinators are personally involved in most of the activities mentioned.

Partnership with Science World:

PIMS has developed an exciting collaboration with *Science World*, the premier science outreach venue in Western Canada. We have been sponsoring their *Engaging Science* workshops for teachers in First Nations Schools.



Teacher training workshop at the Sk'elep School of Excellence.

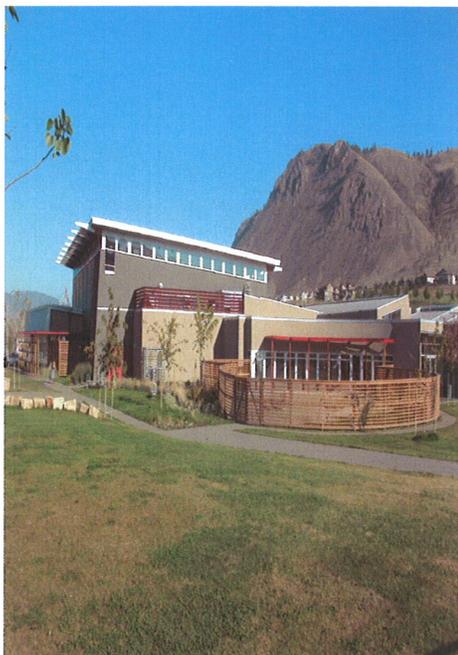
Thanks to our funding institutions:

Thanks to the support received from the BC Government, FNEC, private donors, the Federal Government and the Vancouver Foundation our activities have been able to reach out to approximately 500 First Nations/Aboriginal students, and 60 teachers working at First Nations schools as well as schools with a substantial percentage of aboriginal students.

With these funds, PIMS was able to develop programs with various aboriginal communities according to their needs. What follows is a summary of the main activities that were developed around the province.

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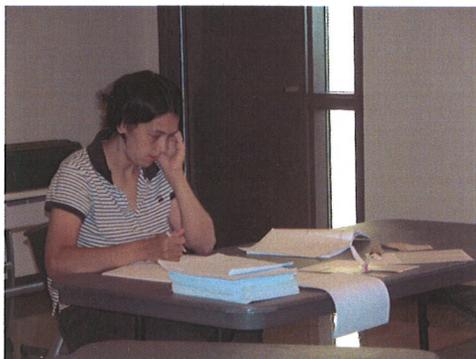
A list of activities PIMS has organized at different locations and schools around British Columbia since 2007:

1) Haahuupayak School in Port Alberni:

- Math teacher training workshops: Eight 1-2 day sessions were organized from August 2007 to February 2010. On average 8 teachers participated in these sessions and 4 teaching assistants attended the sessions.
- Engaging Science: One session on March 1, 2008. Ten teachers participated in this session.

2) Sk'elep School of Excellence in Kamloops:

- Math teacher training workshops: Four 2 days sessions were organized between September 2006 to June 2008 (Training sessions at Sk'elep started in August 2005). On average 7 teachers and 5 teacher assistants attended the sessions.
- Mentorship programs: Three undergraduate students from Thompson Rivers University went regularly to Sk'elep from August 2005 through June 2009 and helped teachers during the regular school hours.
- Homework Club: Two undergraduate students from Thompson Rivers University helped with the after school math homework club. The homework club ran from October 2007 to June 2009. On average 23 kids attended the club.
- Math Family Night: A math family night was held on May 2008. Parents and students were invited for dinner and an evening of math games and entertainment. Parents were provided with math care packages to continue the math fun at home. Twenty seven families attended the event.
- Summer camp: In 2008 a six week summer camp for children transitioning from elementary school to high school was held, in which children had 75 minutes of math and 75 minutes of English every day as well as two hours of sports activity. Ten children attended the camp.
- Engaging Science: A one day session was held on May 8, 2009 with the participation of fifteen teachers.

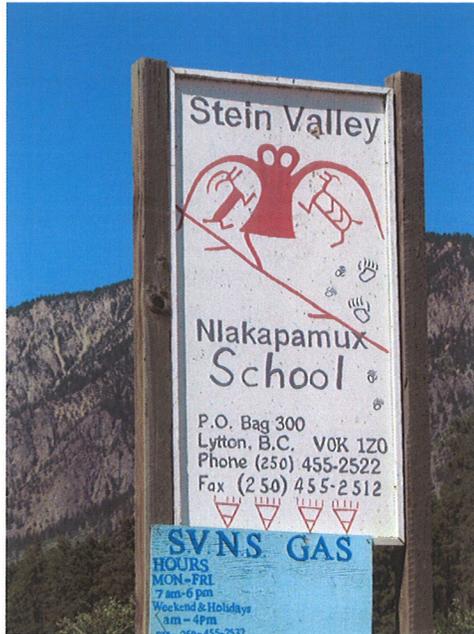


Teacher training session at the Sk'elep School of Excellence in Kamloops

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3) Stein Valley- Nlakapamux School in Lytton:



- Math teacher training workshops: Nine 2-3 days sessions were organized from August 2007 to August 2010. On average 7 teachers and 5 teacher assistants participated in these sessions.
- Engaging Science: Two sessions were held: one in August 2007 and another in August 2008.
- Summer Camps: In the summers of 2007 and 2008, 4-week summer camps were held at the school. The students had one and a half hours of math every day and one and a half hours of another activity (In 2007 it was film studies and in 2008 it was drama class). 26 children attended the camp in 2007 and 23 children attended the camp in 2008.

4) The Simpcw First Nation School in Barriere:



- Math teacher training workshops: Three 1-2 day training sessions were organized from August 2006 to August 2008. On average 4 teachers from the school attended the sessions. Seven teachers came from 100 Mile House to attend one of the 2 day sessions at this school.
- Math Family Night: A math family night was held in March 2008. Parents and students were invited for dinner and an evening of math games and entertainment. Parents were provided with math care packages to continue the math fun at home. Twelve families attended the event.

5) Lower Nicola Band:



- Math teacher training workshops: Three 1-2 day training sessions were organized from August 2006 to August 2008. On average 6 teachers attended the sessions.
- Summer Camps: In the summer of 2007 and 2009, 3-week summer camps were held at the school. The students had one and a half hours of math every day and one and a half hours of English. 29 children attended the camp in 2007 and 27 children attended the camp in 2009.

6) Xit'olacw School at Mount Currie:

- Summer Camp: The Soup and Math summer camp ran for 4 weeks in 2007. Children came to the camp at 12 every day and after a hearty bowl of soup they played math games for an hour and a half. On average 18 kids attended the camp.

Teacher training session at Stein Valley Nlakapamux in Lytton