

Sabbatical Application - 2016

I am pleased to share my sabbatical application for 2016-17. My proposal would revitalize and enrich my professional life and create exciting additional ways for the school to cultivate meaningful connections with local first nations, history, and the environment.

Burrard Inlet is the body of water East of an imaginary line from Lighthouse Park to UBC (see map). This fascinating, complex, and beautiful piece of water will be the focus of my sabbatical **over the course of Term 3 in the 2016-17 school year**. I will learn about and explore the inlet and its people with the goal of building up a body of knowledge and resources to share with students and colleagues of all grades. I will focus my attention from 3 main concerns:

1. First Nations
2. Historical/anthropological significance
3. Environmental concerns



I intend to immerse myself with the first nations in culturally significant ways. The bulk of my interactions would be in pursuits such as food collection (hunting, fishing, and gathering), learning the language, meeting with officials and elders, and taking part in ceremonies like Powwows. By working with my contacts and building shared experiences with as many First Nations people as I can, I would be able to bring back a wealth of first hand knowledge about how to continue to build meaningful engagement with local first nations people.

There is a rich history and human geography to Burrard Inlet. Once European explorers such as George Vancouver made their way here by 1792, there began a frenzied building of an urban centre focussed on logging, the fur trade, and shipping. Fast-forward to today and Burrard Inlet is western Canada's industrial and financial hub, home to modern ship building facilities, international grain terminals, a bustling port, and a major metropolitan area. I will devote significant time to gathering ideas and resources for teachers to use to help students learn about, know, and tell their own story. My goal is to visit all the local museums, arrange to meet with representatives from organizations like Seaspan, Cargill grain terminals, and Port Vancouver, and tour our local infrastructure like the Seymour water treatment plant and Cleveland Dam.

Finally, the shores of Burrard Inlet are perched on the edge of rugged and, in some places, almost pristine wilderness. I will spend time exploring the trails and natural areas of the inlet. Specifically, in order to understand the line between *the wild* and *the civilized* I will travel the main watersheds (Capilano, Seymour, and Lynn), from mouth to delta, by foot, canoe, and stand up paddleboard. Additionally, my goal will be to travel

and film the entire shoreline between UBC and Lighthouse park by stand up paddleboard. This will build on previous meetings and contacts in that I will need to get special permission from Port Metro Vancouver to travel between the bridges and make culturally significant stops along the way of this multi-day journey of almost 200 km.

I am tremendously excited to embark on this sabbatical and will gain enormous personal and professional satisfaction from these activities. But how will all this translate to something meaningful and useful for the school? Before and during my sabbatical I will create and update a blog or web resource that outlines and makes resources available to others. With more than a year to plan and develop my sabbatical, the fine details, specific curricular links, and minutia will get ironed out, but, to reiterate, the 3 *Big Ideas* are:

1. Learn language and develop relationships with first nations people through meaningful cultural interaction
2. Investigate, share, and curate meaningful resources about the anthropological history and human geography of Burrard Inlet
3. Develop a comprehensive understanding of, and relationship with, the natural rhythms and interactions of the inlet

I have a number of other moon-shot hopes and dreams as well and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss these or my other, more modest, proposals. Thank you for taking the time to review my application.

Talk soon,

Jeff Stacey