



<b>SUBJECT</b>	First Nations House of Learning - Longhouse Expansion and Remodel Update
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Indigenous Engagement Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	April 7, 2021
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>REQUEST</b>	For information only - No action requested
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	Margaret Moss, Director, First Nations House of Learning Chantal Bobyn, Senior Facilities Planner, Infrastructure Development Ryenne James, Bridge Through Sport Program Coordinator

### PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has not been previously considered by the Indigenous Engagement Committee.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Introduction

A proposal was submitted in June 2020 from the FNHL Director to seek funds for the expansion of the UBC First Nations Longhouse (FNLH) to its designed footprint as it was first proposed. The FNLH was built and opened in 1993, but was never fully completed. It can be seen that the posts for the walls and roof are in place on the east side of the Longhouse and mirror the completed square footage at the opposite end of the building. This east end was to be much closer to the current position of the Xwi7xwa Library, the unique Indigenous-focused Library branch at UBC.

The west end of the FNLH was renovated in summer of 2019 to accommodate the newly established Indigenous Student Collegium for the Vancouver campus (VISC). However, the renovation meant that meetings spaces that had been available for booking of various events were no longer available. With the expansion of Indigenous programs, and the number of students, faculty and staff that have been associated with the FNHL and its programs, there is significant need for more space and thus we requested ‘expansion’ or indeed finishing of the original space for the Longhouse. The new 2020 Indigenous Strategic Plan speaks to the need for space, tools for success, safety and culturally appropriate experiences for students, faculty and staff -- the rationale for the request to expand the FNLH footprint.

#### Background/History

The FNLH was completed in 1993, tagged the ‘home away from home’ for Indigenous students, faculty and staff. The mandate of the First Nations House of Learning (FNHL), and programming housed within the FN Longhouse, is to:

*Make the University’s vast resources more accessible to First Peoples, and to improve the University’s ability to meet the needs of First Nations. To this end, the FNHL seeks direction from First Nations communities in determining priorities and approaches taken. We are dedicated to quality preparation in all fields of postsecondary study. We believe that quality education is determined by its relevance to the philosophy and values of First Nations and guided through the “voices of our ancestors” (Kirkness and Archibald, 2001, p. 89).*

Verna Kirkness, the inaugural FNHL Director brought the unfinished building state and the original plan to our attention in 2019. She stated that the project had run out of money; and thus, the project was not completed. Once she advised us of this, it was readily apparent that as one looks out of east doors, there are posts and beams overhead in place, and no walls.

### Students

In 1993, there were many fewer Indigenous students at UBCV than there are now. In 2000/01, the earliest year for which data appear to be available, there were 446 Aboriginal students at UBCV (vernacular of the day). Today there are 1,330 Indigenous students enrolled. There has been about 15% growth in the enrolment of Indigenous undergraduate and graduate students since 2016/17. This rate of growth, means that not only will there be a need for more space, supports, and increased mechanisms for building community for UBCV's Indigenous students, but there has been such a need for some time. There is anecdotal data that Indigenous students are feeling lost and disconnected within the wider UBC community and so an appropriate meeting place to host Indigenous student services, host academic programming, and provide a point of contact for Indigenous communities is as relevant today as when the FNHL was first established almost 30 years ago.

### Faculty and Staff

There are 233 self-identified, Indigenous faculty & staff at UBCV. The Longhouse was meant to also serve as a place for faculty and staff with Elders invited for many events. There is an Elder-in-Residence for the Longhouse, and shared programming for knowledge-keepers is in development between the Longhouse and the UBC Residential School History and Dialogue Centre. Additionally, there is need for seminar space for the Xwi7xwa Library, a sister unit to the Longhouse.

### Expansion Project

On August 18, 2020, the Executive approved an Executive 1 and Executive 2 report for the expansion of the First Nations Longhouse. The award winning FNHL, built in 1993, was designed by Larry MacFarland (now MacFarland Marceau Architects Ltd.). The single storey building reflects the architectural traditions of the Northwest and its shape is inspired by the typical Musqueam-style shed. It utilizes heavy timber structure construction - a great showcase for traditional wood building techniques. It was quickly recognized that any expansion would ideally retain the same architectural language, form and materials as the existing building. The area currently proposed for the expansion was once considered in the original building design explorations but never constructed. The proposed expansion would sit within the extent of the existing wooded framed structure in the area between the Longhouse and the Xwi7Xwa Library.

The expansion will provide 1,830 sf (170 sm) of additional area for offices, a meeting room, a multi-purpose room and support spaces required to support current and anticipated growth. The intent is to also share this new space with the Xwi7Xwa Library which needs support space. This will allow for a stronger physical and spiritual connection between the Longhouse and the Xwi7Xwa Library. The estimated cost to design and construct the First Nations Longhouse expansion is \$3.634 million based on a Class D estimate prepared by Project Services, accurate to within +/- 20%. The Executive approved the request with an allocation from the Academic Capital Fund to successfully bring this project to life. Project completion is targeted for November 2021. Financing will be provided from the ACF to repay an internal loan over 10 years.

### Benefits

- More events such as seminars, conferences and workshops both small and large can occur simultaneously.
- Space for additional staff.
- Appropriate space to conduct confidential meetings and counselling.
- Strengthening of the relationship between the First Nations House of Learning and the Xwi7wa Library by increasing accessibility and offering opportunities to share space.
- A dedicated area to display temporary or gifted permanent art work.
- Space to develop programs during an important period of growth.

### VISC

In a separate project planned for the east end of the Longhouse, the Collegium is set to be remodelled to bring it up to the design standards of the other UBC Collegia. It is in very preliminary stages. Monies have been set aside to remodel this student specific space. Both projects speak to goals 5-8 of the Indigenous Strategic Plan.

### Consultation

FNHL's Elder-in Residence, Larry Grant; Musqueam/UBC Liaison, Leona Sparrow; & FNHL's 1<sup>st</sup> Director, Verna Kirkness; and, the McFarland Marceau Architects (MMA) firm as peer reviewer on the project. MMA was the original firm to design this award-winning building in 1993.

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## **PRESENTATIONS**

1. *FNHL Programming and Supportive Building Upgrades*



# **FNHL Programming and Supportive Building Upgrades**

April 7, 2021

**Dr. Margaret P. Moss- FNHL Director**



# Introduction



## **FNHL is preparing to return to in-person Service and Supports 2021, Term I with:**

- Revamped Collegium
- Building Expansion
- Continuing/Added/ & Improved Services
- Attention to First Year Retention

# Indigenous Strategic Plan Alignment



## Goals:

- 5 Enriching our spaces
- 6 Recruiting Indigenous people
- 7 Providing tools for success
- 8 Creating a holistic system of support

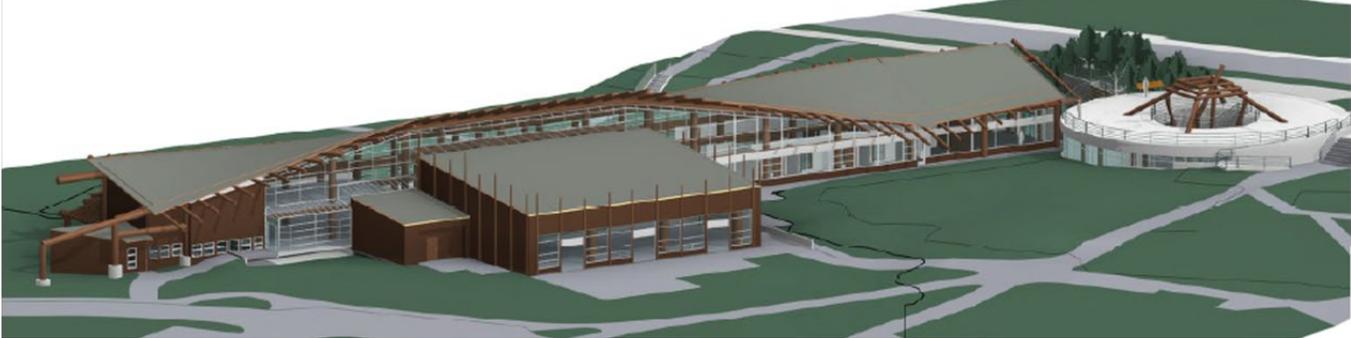
# Enriching our spaces



## FIRST NATIONS LONGHOUSE



① OVERALL VIEW OF EXISTING BUILDING



② OVERALL VIEW WITH PROPOSED EXPANSION



01 NORTH SIDE VIEW



02 EAST ELEVATION



03 VIEW OF COURTYARD AREA 1



04 VIEW OF COURTYARD AREA 2



⊕ INTERIOR OF MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM - EAST WALL



⊕ MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM - EAST WALL  
(MEETING ROOM WALL CLOSED)



⊕ MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM - NORTH WALL  
(MEETING ROOM WALL OPEN)



⊕ MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM - EAST WALL  
(MEETING ROOM WALL OPEN)

# Collegium Remodel and Programming/ Key Criteria for Success



- Engaged student leaders in a safe space
- Sees their culture in comfortable/homey area
- Include generous space for food preparation
- Indoor/outdoor connectivity
- Tailored to the needs of commuter students
- Access to technology/ print center

# Current Space

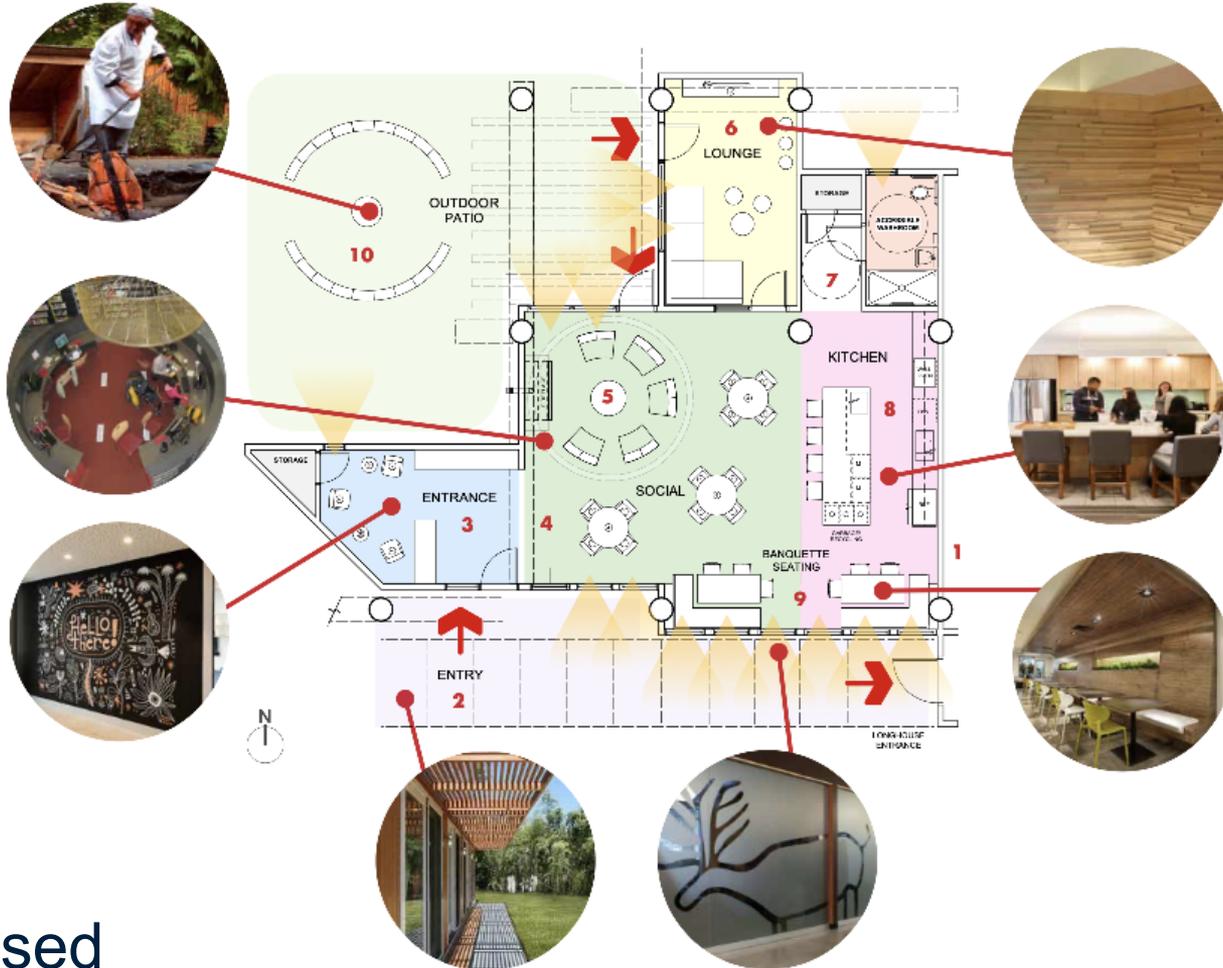


## Collegia Design Issues:

- Small Kitchen Area
- 1 small 'fridge'
- No oven(s)
- Temp 'island'
- No Storage

# Proposed Space





Proposed

# Services & First Year Retention



**Continue-**Student weekly lunches, tutoring and counseling available in the space, FNHL student programming

**Added-**online counseling/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Lunch/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Grad/ Counseling/Seminar Rooms to be built

**First Year-** Targeted Programming/Time in the Collegia being developed