

Students complete unique course

A group of native Indian students from bands throughout B.C. attended graduation ceremonies on November 19 to mark the end of a unique two and one-half year band social service worker program at Capilano College. The students have been travelling from their homes to the college monthly to attend a total of 14 intensive one-week courses in the principles and practices of social service work, psychology, sociology and English composition.

"We are very proud of these students," said program coordinator Paul Avery, pointing out that it was not easy for the students to adjust to an educational institution and academic courses. "They have learned a lot, sacrificed a great deal to become better social service workers to

their bands and have shared an exciting learning process with the instructors in the program at the college."

The students organized their own graduation ceremonies with some assistance from Avery and, as well as presentations from the college principal, dean of career/vocational programs and registrar, there was a distinct native Indian flair to the proceedings. The ceremonies opened with traditional dancing performed by school children from Chilliwack and the master of ceremonies was a band representative, Glen Newman.

The following students have completed and passed all modules of the social service worker program:

Glenda Campbell, Tzeachten Band; Dorothy Francis, Chehalis

Band; Linda George, Squamish Band; Carol McIntyre, Seabird Island Band; Barbara Joe, Sechelt Band; Rose Point, Musqueam Band; and Shirley Wallace, Mount Currie Band.

In addition, two students received a certificate for attending all of the program: Vera Edmonds, Mount Currie Band and Mary Hall, Heiltsuk Band.

Finally, some students will receive a certificate from the department of Indian affairs, for completing a significant amount of the program.

College principal Paul Gallagher also expressed his pleasure with the results of the program. "We are certain that these graduates will continue to make an important contribution both to native people and the province as a whole," he said.