



EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE STUDIES

Students from Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay Secondary school in Massett travelled to Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland a few months ago to explore a variety of post-secondary schools and career paths. The four-day tour allowed students to see the campuses at Camosun College, University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, UBC, and Capilano University.

Principal Bernadette Marie said the students helped plan the schedule themselves, and learned a lot during their time off-island. "During the four days of touring they acquired a complete impression of the campuses, programs and living options," Ms Marie wrote to the Gwaii Trust after they returned. "This experience gives our senior students a chance to reflect on career paths, familiarize themselves with the requisites and lifestyles of post-secondary students and is vital to their transition into post-secondary."

Students who took part said there were many highlights of the trip and most importantly, they felt the trip helped prepare them to move onto higher education pursuits. "It was really

nice to actually step foot into the school rather than just read about it," said one student. Others said they moved from fear of the unknown to actually being excited about attending university or college. The trip also helped one student be less concerned about living on his own, while another student said the tour helped her choose the right school. When students were asked if they would like to see these trips continue, all said yes, with one student adding "yes x 1000". Others said "Yes! Yes! Yes!"

The Gwaii Trust's Post-Secondary Institution Tours Grant allocates up to \$40,000 for the islands' two high schools every year, to help with the costs of travelling off-island. We understand how challenging it can be for students



from Haida Gwaii to transition to post-secondary studies, and we know that these tours can play a big part in their success. We're always pleased when we hear from the schools and students about the positive outcomes of these educational trips.

The Post-Secondary Tour grant is one part of our suite of educational grants. We also offer bursaries to all high school students on the islands, and Continuing Education grants to all islanders who are pursuing post-secondary studies. See our website at gwaiitrust.com for complete details and application forms.