



St. John's College UBC

聖 約 翰 學 院

MEDIA RELEASE | October 10, 2013

"An Evening with Elder Larry Grant"

*Vancouver, BC* – Larry Grant, Elder-in-Residence for the First Nations House of Learning at the University of British Columbia since 2000, is the 2013 Grant Ingram Distinguished Speaker at St. John's College, UBC. On the evening of Friday, October 25, a unique dinner conversation with Elder Grant will be held at the van der Linden Dining Hall in St. John's College. Exploring his life and how it reflects the intersection between Musqueam history and that of Chinese Canadian immigration, this special event honours the wide-ranging impact that Elder Grant has had in re-shaping our understandings of BC and Canadian history.

Born premature in a hop field in the Fraser Valley, the son of a Musqueam mother and a Chinese farmer, Elder Grant struggled for much of his life to find a sense of belonging in a world where discrimination against both Chinese and aboriginal peoples was commonplace. Working for over 40 years as a longshoreman, he went back to school later in his life to relearn hən'q'əmin'əm' the ancestral tongue of his people, regaining for himself and his community an invaluable link to his own culture and history. For over a decade, Elder Grant has been a pivotal figure at UBC and within the Lower Mainland for helping teach a new generation the Musqueam language, at the same time instilling in generations of Canadians the importance of recognizing and acknowledging the importance of the history of indigenous peoples in Canada.

A prominent voice in the City of Vancouver's "Dialogues between First Nations, Urban Aboriginal, and Immigrant Communities" Project, Elder Grant has been key in creating a wider awareness of the long engagements between Chinese Canadians and First Nations in Canada. Through his own story and by helping bring attention to that of many other descendants of Chinese-Aboriginal families, Elder Grant has highlighted the importance of remembering these ignored and forgotten histories, providing at the same time an example of an alternative model for how relations between aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples might have developed.

St. John's College is honoured to have our Faculty Fellow, Elder Larry Grant, as our Distinguished Grant Ingram Speaker and invites you to join us for this special event. Seating is limited. If you are interested in attending, please register at: <http://stjohns.ubc.ca/larry-grant-oct-25-2013/>.

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UBC's International Graduate College

Project Lead, Chinese Canadian Stories

[chinesecanadian.ubc.ca](http://chinesecanadian.ubc.ca) (*click for video trailer*)

## Event Contact

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Communications & Events

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## Links

<http://aboriginal.ubc.ca/2012/04/27/elder-larry-grant-featured-by-ubc-chinese-canadian-stories-project/>

<http://aboriginal.ubc.ca/2010/08/09/elder-larry-grant-welcomes-students-to-new-aboriginal-portal/>

## Photo

<http://stjohns.ubc.ca/2013/08/an-evening-with-larry-grant/>