

## **MEDIA**

## **RELEASE**

Date: Jan. 20,

2010

### **UVIC AND PAUQUACHIN NATION SIGN EXCLUSIVITY AGREEMENT FOR RIGHT TO PURCHASE DUNSMUIR LODGE**

The Pauquachin Nation and the University of Victoria have signed an agreement that gives the Pauquachin Nation the exclusive right to negotiate the purchase of Dunsmuir Lodge. Under the agreement, UVic agrees to not sell Dunsmuir to any other party for the term of this agreement.

UVic closed Dunsmuir at the end of March 2009 because the facility was not sustainable in the long term and required subsidies to operate. The Pauquachin Nation, the immediate neighbours to the property, expressed a very strong interest in the Dunsmuir lands and discussions over the summer and fall resulted in the exclusivity agreement.

“Throughout the process of considering Dunsmuir’s future, the university was very mindful of its commitment to steward its resources in support of the university’s academic mission, remain consistent with the original intent of the donor and keep the sensitivities of Dunsmuir’s immediate neighbours in mind, particularly the Pauquachin Nation,” says UVic’s Vice-President of Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrill. “We think this next step addresses all of these concerns.”

“For many years our community has felt the strong need to acquire more land on the mountain. This agreement gives us the opportunity to take that first step,” says Pauquachin Nation Chief Bruce Underwood. “Our elders have been very strong about our territory and about the mountain in particular, and it is our time now to preserve something for our children and those to come.

“Our discussions with UVic have been very good and we now have a full understanding of each other. The hard work is well underway and I think everyone is very excited,” adds Underwood.

“This agreement with the Pauquachin Nation reflects one of UVic’s strategic plan goals—to build on our commitment to and unique relationship with First Nations peoples,” adds Gorrill. “Also, the Pauquachin are Dunsmuir’s neighbours and a logical choice to take over the property.”

Under the agreement, UVic and the Pauquachin Nation will work together on this sale and purchase until May 2011.

**Media contacts:**

Patty Pitts (UVic Communications) at 250-721-7656 or [ppitts@uvic.ca](mailto:ppitts@uvic.ca)  
Gayle Gorrill (Vice-President Finance and Operations) at 250-721-7018 or [vpfo@uvic.ca](mailto:vpfo@uvic.ca)  
Bruce Underwood (Chief, Pauquachin Nation) at 250-656-0191

**Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/uvicnews>**

**UVic media releases and other resources for journalists are available at [communications.uvic.ca/media](http://communications.uvic.ca/media)**