

FURTHER EXPLOITS IN VANCOUVER

SUNDAY 14th FEBRUARY

Having had such an amazing time working with the aboriginal students at Vancouver Community College our students were asked if they would like to do the same for today. They have leapt at the chance and have built strong friendships in a very short time. Emails have been swapped and tonight the two groups of college students re off for a few drinks and to play pool.

The two tutors use the time to explore Vancouver further by Sky train and sea bus. The Sky train system is very like London underground but with no ticket barriers or ticket inspectors. Apparently very few people try to cheat the system and there is some debate as to whether it would cost more to put barriers and staff in place than the revenue that would be made.

The Sky train system is very quick and efficient and a great way to see more of Vancouver particularly the residential parts. We're amazed at the size of the roads and how underused they are.

The view from the North shore really gives some idea of the size of Vancouver. The place is huge. There is so much to do here that it would take months, perhaps longer to do everything. Imagine somewhere where you can sail near the city in the morning and then ski in the mountains in the afternoon! On the return journey on the sea bus we break into spontaneous happy birthday for a Scottish lady lead by the Canadian they were talking to. Everyone joins in. Something tells me she was a little embarrassed, but I bet she never forgets that birthday.

Back to the college to check on how our students are doing serving the guests alongside the VCC students. Everyone is very happy and proud.



More shopping in the aboriginal showcase exhibition.

Drinks, pool and each doing their own thing for the evening. Vancouver is heaving. There are people from all over the world filling every street.

Alexandre Bilodeau wins gold, the first for Canada. The whole place goes mad and again and again with the replays. This is an amazing story as Alexander Bilodeau's brother has cerebral palsy and has been the main inspiration for him to continue and succeed.

MONDAY 15th FEBRUARY

9.30am and we're off to ride on the trolleybus. The tickets are valid for 2 days and we can get on and off as we please. We are also given a running commentary on the sights of the city, from the library, Chinatown (the 2nd largest Chinatown in the world); the police museum and Prospect point up in Stanley Park to Granville Island by the smallest boat ever, where we have lunch and then back on the trolley bus to the city again.

