

THE EDGE IS HERE



BOTTOMS: LOCATION COURTESY OF THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Driving change across Canada and around the world.

UVic law scholars are leading a quiet revolution in Canadian history

Working closely with Indigenous communities across the country, researchers at the University of Victoria are helping to re-establish Indigenous legal traditions and give them equal footing with Canadian common law.

“Law is the way people make decisions in their communities,” says University of Victoria law scholar John Borrows. “One difference is that Indigenous peoples look to the land to find their principles for judgement, whereas common law looks to old cases to decide how to act in the future.”

Reconciling these different cultures preoccupies Borrows, who is one of Canada’s leading Indigenous law scholars. He’s also the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law and the recent winner of a national 2017 Killam Prize for his commitment to furthering our knowledge of Indigenous legal traditions.

For many, law conjures up images of courts, lawyers and judges and their focus on words. But in visual and oral cultures, the law is often found in the artistic and

physical world, says Borrows, who is Anishinaabe/Ojibway and a member of the Chippewa of the Nawash First Nation.

Indigenous law research involves working with Indigenous communities to identify cultural practices such as origin, contact and trickster stories, the potlatch, totems, wampum belts and other artistic works, and then teasing out the legal principles and precedents embedded within them.

The end goal is to create legal institutions that are grounded in communities, are transparent and accountable, and can interact productively with other laws in the country. This effort will benefit areas such as child welfare, education, health care, housing, self-governance, ecological stewardship and resource development.

After 150 years of repression of Indigenous people in Canada, it’s been hard to apply Indigenous law in contemporary circumstances, says Borrows. The revitalization of Indigenous legal traditions is creating pathways out of an era of control, into an era of shared autonomy and responsibility.

“It’s important to do this well because we have to work together; we all live on the same land and share this beautiful country,” says Borrows. “To enjoy a healthy future, we need to be attentive to what the land itself has taught Indigenous peoples for thousands of years.”

Borrows is currently working with law faculty colleague Val Napoleon to develop a joint degree in Indigenous legal orders and Canadian common law (JID) at UVic. It will be the first degree of its kind in the world.

The degree will train students to understand Indigenous legal orders, build institutions based on those orders, and design institutions and procedures that work in concert with other levels of Canadian law.

More info: bit.ly/uvic-borrows-edge

Research by, for and with the people

Being praised by community research partners as a “game changer” might be all the confirmation a researcher needs on whether her work is having a vital impact on the community.

But a national award from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) is pretty great affirmation too, as is the \$100,000 research prize that Charlotte Loppie’s research partners—Indigenous women across Canada living with HIV/AIDS—are eager to help her spend.

Loppie, a professor in the University of Victoria’s School of Public Health and Social Policy and director of UVic’s Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement—is one of three Canadian researchers recently awarded a prestigious Gold Leaf Prize from CIHR.

The prize celebrates excellence in health research and its translation into benefits for Canadians. Loppie’s award is in the category of transformation and patient engagement.

Loppie works in areas such as Indigenous health inequities, Indigenous HIV/AIDS and the social determinants of Indigenous health. She’s dedicated much of her career to “patient-oriented research”—a way of thinking about and conducting research as something that’s done by, for and with the people with lived experience who are the focus of the research.

More info: bit.ly/uvic-ring-loppie

A matter of consumer trust

What “brands” are the most trustworthy? Which ones deliver the value and service you’re looking for before you spend your hard-earned money?

Researchers in the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business at UVic are on the case. For the last three years they’ve produced the annual Gustavson Brand Trust Index, a handy guide to the brands most trusted by Canadians.

More than 6,500 consumers are asked to score 294 Canadian companies and brands in 26 industry sectors on a range of brand value measures. The results show how community engagement, relationship management and customer experience influence consumer trust.

At the top this year: Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Canadian Automobile Association and Costco for their close connections with communities and customers.

More info: bit.ly/uvic-trustindex2017



Portritis and daughter Abi. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

“I want to give back to the community”

When UVic’s new civil engineering program launched in 2013 with a clear focus on sustainability and Indigenous communities, it caught the attention of Kear Portritis.

The program’s emphasis on making the best use of natural resources and lessening environmental burdens—green buildings, sustainable cities, industrial ecology and water resources—was immediately appealing.

Portritis had strong motivation for his choice. “As a single parent, one of my most important jobs is to be a role model to my daughter,” he says. “I want her to grow up seeing me use my abilities to help people, and solve problems that affect our communities.”

Portritis graduated this month as part of the program’s inaugural class and plans to continue on to graduate studies. “I want to work on projects that create better housing for Indigenous communities, to be involved in engineering that’s driven by the needs of society,” he says.

More info: bit.ly/uvic-portritis



Khan. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Award fuels drive to be small-town family doctor

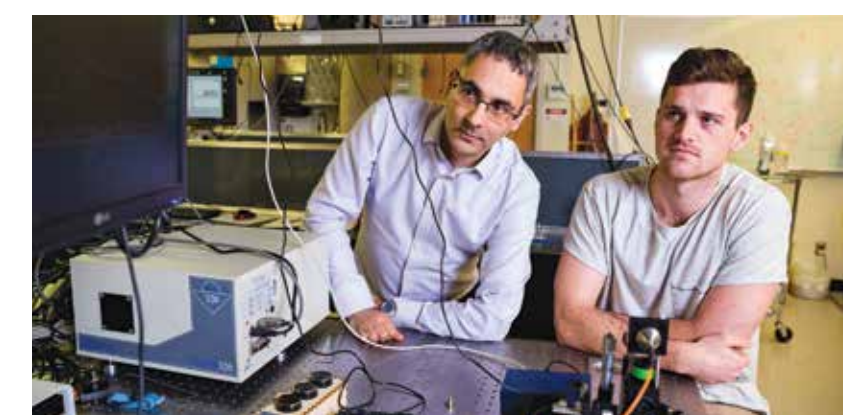
Sarah Khan has a distinct definition of the word “leadership.”

“It means taking a step back to observe those around you and the situation,” says the chemistry undergraduate. “You need to learn from that, adapt quickly and then move forward with the best plan of action.”

Khan practises this approach wherever she goes. It’s earned her a prestigious 3M National Student Fellowship, a Schulich Leadership Scholarship, helped her successfully propose an \$85,000 youth training program for the Quadra Village area, and guided her as she created a method of developing cancer-blocking molecules in a UVic chemistry lab.

Every project Khan takes on fits into her ultimate goal of becoming a family physician so that she can tackle the health care issues she saw growing up in Kitimat, BC. “It’s crucial when you’re living in such an isolated place to feel that you’re cared for,” she says.

More info: bit.ly/uvic-khan-ring



Hore, left, and Medgyesi. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Research partnership tackles fentanyl crisis

With BC’s drug overdose epidemic reaching record levels, health care providers are seeking new tools to contain the crisis.

That’s why, when UVic chemist Dennis Hore received a phone call last summer from a local pharmacist proposing an innovative partnership, he jumped on the opportunity.

Alain Vincent of STS Pharmacy wanted a way to detect and measure the levels of drugs that his clients were bringing in, particularly fentanyl, the deadly opioid involved in many of BC’s drug overdose deaths.

Since then, Hore and his student Nic Medgyesi have been working with Vincent to develop an inexpensive mobile detection device. The prototype they’ve developed measures how laser light interacts with a tablet, says Medgyesi. “Each drug has a unique molecular fingerprint, so we should be able to determine what drugs are present, and at what concentration.”

More info: bit.ly/uvic-hore

GLOBAL RESEARCH HUB

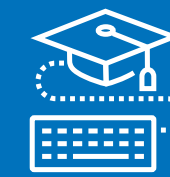


UVic ranks as a top performing university in Canada based on the impact of research and on international collaborations with researchers around the world (2011–2017 Leiden university rankings).

94%

EMPLOYMENT RATE

Preparing students for success.

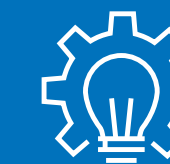


UVic students have a 94% employment rate two years after graduation.

1 IN 3

UNDERGRADUATES PARTICIPATES IN CO-OP

Putting learning in motion.



We have one of Canada’s largest university co-operative education programs, integrating academic studies with relevant paid work experience in more than 40 academic areas.

IN THE GLOBAL TOP 200

Leadership that crosses all fields.

The 2017 QS World University Rankings by Subject place UVic in the top 200 institutions globally for research in five subject areas: Earth and marine sciences, English language and literature, geography, law, and philosophy. QS ranks UVic for world-class performance and subject-specific leadership in 35 of 42 fields.

1 IN 8

ADULTS IN GREATER VICTORIA HOLDS A UVIC DEGREE

Every day in communities around the world, UVic alumni are making a difference—starting right here. The 40,271 alumni in Greater Victoria are key contributors to the thriving knowledge economy, well-being and vibrant cultural life in our region.



\$3.2 BILLION

Driving Canadian prosperity.

UVic operations generate \$3.2 billion in annual economic activity—including direct and indirect expenditures such as salaries and benefits, spin-off companies, patents and licenses, student and visitor spending, taxes and the effects of an educated workforce. University research and technology innovation accounts for \$994 million of that effect.



University of Victoria

Creating vital impact and dynamic learning opportunities in an extraordinary academic environment—that’s the UVic Edge.

