Why is the Fraser Building expanding?

The university is planning and designing an expansion to the Fraser Building to house a national centre for Indigenous laws. The centre will provide academic and support space for the Canadian Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders program (JD/JID) and Indigenous Legal Research Unit (ILRU). By expanding the Fraser Building, the university will enhance the experience and success of JD and JD/JID students, and will serve as a national centre for dialogue, research, and knowledge transfer.

In September 2018, the university launched the JD/JID program, with a 25-student cohort entering the four-year program. The JD/JID program is the first of its kind in Canada, is uniquely global, and will further the university’s reputation by training legal professionals to work across Indigenous and non-Indigenous legal traditions.

Who we’ve learned from

Through the development of the siting and design we have engaged with:

- Songhees Representatives
- Esquimalt Representatives
- W̱SÁNEĆ Representatives
- University of Victoria Stakeholders
- Faculty of Law Representatives
- University of Victoria Students

Guiding Principles

The university has been meeting and consulting with key community members including Elders, Hereditary Chiefs, knowledge keepers, and the university. Through these conversations, the project planning team built guiding principles for the program and project. Further conversations in the design process have focused on how the design of the building can honour Indigenous society and the host peoples. This conceptual design of the building is informed by Coast Salish knowledge and stories.

Location of expansion

Why was the site area shifted?

- Building on the former site would have required the removal of more mature trees in the forested area to the south;
- The new site creates a circulation loop connecting the two buildings in order to integrate the programs;
- The new expansion area allows for a connection to the existing entry; and
- The new site presents opportunity for learning in the forest.

The new expansion area

The new expansion area offers the following benefits:

- Respects the watershed area
- Connects with the existing building
- Activates Ring Road
- Ease of way-finding
- Creates identifiable main entry
- Preserves mature trees that are healthy
- Increases area for the Learning Deck with access to the forest

You can expect online engagement events for the current design phase of the project soon.

We heard from the community and campus in the fall of 2019 during the planning phase. UVic now has a conceptual design for the building and would like your input again.

The Fraser Expansion will implement the Campus Plan directions and will support the university’s vision to increase the vibrancy of campus life by enhancing the natural and built environment to create more opportunities for interaction and collaboration.
We acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen Peoples on whose traditional territories the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱ SÁNEĆ nations whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS LAWS
FRASER BUILDING EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

Floor Plans
The project includes 2440 square meters of expansion area and 1170 square meters of renovation area.

- Circulation + gathering space
- Ceremonial spaces + student lounge
- Classrooms + lecture rooms
- Faculty offices, wellness suites and Indigenous initiatives office
- Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) + Environmental Law Clinic (ELC)
- Storage, support + mechanical
- Outdoor learning deck

View from Ring Road
Perspective of the building expansion entry from Ring Road.

View from Forest
Perspective of the building expansion from the forest to the south.

Ceremonial spaces + student lounge
Classrooms + lecture rooms
Faculty offices, wellness suites and Indigenous initiatives office
Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) + Environmental Law Clinic (ELC)
Storage, support + mechanical
Outdoor learning deck

Isometric view showing the first floor program including the ceremonial spaces, classrooms, faculty offices, wellness suite, and lobby.

Isometric view showing the second floor program including the ILRU + ELC offices, the Sky Classroom, and gathering spaces open to below.

Circulation is open to below with study nooks and views.

Extended forest for natural views from existing Fraser building and new expansion.

Additional entry to Expansion lobby providing easy access from Ring Road.

Outdoor learning deck with views and connection to the forest.

Existing entry which will connect new and existing.

Extended forest for natural views from existing Fraser building and new expansion.

Perspective of the building expansion from the forest to the south.

View from Ring Road
Perspective of the building expansion entry from Ring Road.

View from Forest
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UVic’s Environmental Stewardship Strategy maximizes the retention of trees on the site. Removed trees are replaced at a minimum 2:1 ratio on campus and UVic is targeting 3:1 replacement for this project. Where possible, removed trees will be re-used in the building and/or gifted to local Indigenous communities. Prior to removing trees the university will work with local Indigenous communities to ensure cultural and ceremonial processes are followed.

The Sea - Welcome Stormwater Feature
The landscape is respected for its ability to support life. Stormwater will be a major factor in the landscape design and provides an opportunity for storytelling.

The Shore - Elder’s Garden
The foundation for the Elder’s garden will be a carefully considered ethnobotanical planting strategy to support teaching, learning, and storytelling. Plants with multi-seasonal interest will be selected.

Retaining the existing forest allows learning opportunities in this natural area.

‘Extending the forest’ - Courtyard
By extending the forest to create immersive relationships between interior and exterior, the principle of equality with the animal environment can be embedded in the building design.

End-of-Trip Bicycle Facilities
The renovation of the existing Fraser building will include end-of-trip facilities including showers and lockers.

SPOKES provides low-cost, long or short term bike rentals to students. The Fraser Building expansion will also implement new bicycle parking.

Public Transit
U-Pass provides students with unlimited access to Victoria region public transit.

Campus Bike Centre
The Centre provides covered bike parking, equipment lockers, benches and a space for the SPOKES bicycle program.

The project offers more than 50% off the regular price of taking transit.

The project has engaged a transportation engineer to conduct a comprehensive review of the increased demand and the university’s parking supply.

Through transportation analysis, we expect this project to increase parking demand on the UVic campus by 7 stalls. Although we expect the current parking facilities to be able to accommodate this increased demand, the Oak Bay Parking Facilities Bylaw requires 25 new parking stalls. Because this project is within the District of Oak Bay, it will require a parking variance approval.

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