



VITP pumps millions into the economy

by Patty Pitts

The University of Victoria-owned Vancouver Island Technology Park (VITP) delivered a major boost to the island and provincial economy in 2005 by generating more than 2,000 jobs and \$280 million in direct, indirect and induced revenue.

The good news was included in the first economic impact study of VITP, released on Dec. 1. The report predicts even more growth in the next two years, demonstrating the significance of the high-tech industry to the Vancouver Island economy.

"The technology park is a powerhouse of jobs and opportunities that has more than lived up to our expectations," said UVic President David Turpin to an audience of business, academic and government leaders, including Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources and Member of Parliament Saanich-Gulf Islands; Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Minister Responsible for Research and Technology; and Frank Leonard, Mayor of Saanich.

The 53-page report, covering fiscal year 2005, demonstrates that

VITP contributed \$279.9 million to the local and provincial economy through \$160.2 million in direct sales and \$23.3 million in municipal and provincial tax revenues. The rest came indirectly through spin-off business, employee and business visitor spending. (A further \$18.8 million in federal tax revenues was not included in the \$279.9 million total.)

During the same period, VITP companies directly employed 995 people and helped to create additional jobs in the construction industry and with other local companies supplying groceries, clothing, furniture and other goods for a total employment impact of 2,023 jobs.

"High-tech is a vital and sustainable industry," said Coell. "The Vancouver Island Technology Park is creating jobs and attracting talented people to the Island and BC. These are well-paying, exciting, challenging jobs that provide opportunities for young people in their own province."

"This study is clear evidence of the tremendous impact that the cutting-edge research and technology

SEE VITP P.7

Taylor to head new oceans corporate entity

The career of Dr. Martin Taylor, vice-president research at the University of Victoria for the last nine years, is about to undergo a sea change.

Taylor has been named founding president and CEO of a new corporate entity being created by UVic to operate and manage its investment in the VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada ocean observatories.

The three-year, renewable appointment begins on July 1, 2007, one day after Taylor steps down as vice-president research. His second term as vice-president was due to end in June 2008.

"Martin has made and will continue to make an outstanding contribution to the UVic research

environment," says UVic President David Turpin. "During his term as vice-president research, the university's research stature has increased tremendously and external research funding has more than tripled."

The new oceans entity, as yet unnamed, will be a not-for-profit corporation governed by a board of directors. The relationship between the corporate entity and the university will be detailed in a formal agreement to be approved by the UVic board of governors in early 2007.

The VENUS and NEPTUNE Canada observatories are both led by UVic. The VENUS (Victoria

SEE TAYLOR P.2



Raising a glass of (root) beer to the late Victoria philanthropist and heritage developer Michael Williams, UVic President David Turpin and Heritage Properties CEO Janina Ceglaz celebrate the unveiling of a new statue of the university benefactor.

DON DENTON

University to open downtown art gallery

When Victoria philanthropist and heritage developer Michael Williams died in 2000, he left virtually his entire estate, including an extensive art collection, to the University of Victoria. His will also expressed a wish that proceeds from that legacy be used to establish a downtown gallery.

Last month, in the heart of the Old Town district that Williams helped revitalize, UVic President David Turpin honoured that wish, announcing that the university will open a downtown gallery next summer to showcase the collector's more than 1,000-piece collection.

Speaking at a ceremony to unveil a new statue of Williams commissioned by his friends, Turpin announced that the new gallery would be located at 630 Yates Street, one of the buildings that Williams left to the university.

"Michael wanted to share his passion for art with the people of the city he loved so much," said Turpin to a crowd gathered on a civic green facing Market Square. "Over the past few years, we have been looking for the right opportunity to achieve Michael's dream. I'm pleased to say that opportunity has arrived."

The site for the new gallery, on the

corner of Yates and Broad streets, is a structure built in 1950 for the Bank of Toronto. It is considered one of the city's best examples of "early modern" architecture.

Turpin says the university has respected Williams' wish that the gallery not bear his name. The new gallery program will be based around his collection of paintings, drawings and sculptures by some of the most renowned artists of the Pacific Northwest.

To view the Williams art collection online, visit www.maltwood.uvic.ca/mcw.

UVic researchers play \$4 million role in breast cancer study

by Valerie Shore

A University of Victoria research team is receiving \$4 million over the next five years to develop a new technology for the identification of molecules critical to the early detection of breast cancer.

The university is a partner in one of five teams across North America recently awarded funding by the US National Cancer Institute to assess leading-edge proteomics technologies relevant to clinical cancer research and practice. The team received \$11.4 million in total.

UVic is the only Canadian university involved. The other co-investigators are at the Broad Institute of MIT

and Harvard University in Boston, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, and the Plasma Proteome Institute in Washington, DC.

"To be working with researchers from these world-class institutions speaks volumes about the calibre of our proteomics expertise," says UVic biochemist Dr. Terry Pearson. He's administering the UVic portion of the grant, to be shared between his lab and the UVic-Genome BC Proteomics Centre, headed by UVic biochemist Dr. Christoph Borchers.

Proteomics is the study of the structure and function of proteins, including the way they work and interact with each other inside cells.

Technologies such as mass spectrometry are used to detect infinitesimal amounts of proteins in samples of blood or other biological substances.

The team will detect and measure each of 225 blood proteins with a suspected link to breast cancer—known as biomarkers—and use newly developed proteomics techniques to confirm or reject its association with the disease.

"A lot of people over the years have worked on biomarkers for breast cancer, but so far, very few of them work well as diagnostic indicators," says Pearson. Validation of suspect biomarkers will help indicate where

SEE BREAST CANCER STUDY P.6

Celebrate the season!

Enjoy some holiday cheer with your co-workers and meet the recipients of this year's President's Distinguished Service Awards at UVic's annual holiday reception on Dec. 12 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the University Centre cafeteria.

UVic President David Turpin will start the program off at 4:15 p.m. by recognizing the four individual winners and the team award recipients. This year there were 22 nominations for the individual awards and six nominations for the team awards.

Last year's winners were: biology instructor Yousef Ebrahim, administrative officers Rosemary Pulez (chemistry) and Terry Russell (earth and ocean sciences). The Student Transition Centre team won the team award.



Burke and distant relative.

Meet the spiny side of our family tree

Those prickly sea urchins you see nestled in rocky crevices along our coastal shoreline have more in common with us than you might think.

An international team of researchers that includes two University of Victoria biologists and several of their students has successfully sequenced the sea urchin genome and discovered that the marine invertebrates share 70 per cent of their genes with humans.

The study was reported in the Nov. 10 edition of *Science* and also appears in a special issue of *Developmental Biology* this month. UVic contributors are Drs. Robert Burke, who led a team that analysed genes associated with the nervous system, and John Taylor who, with graduate student Allison Churcher, used novel techniques to identify genes involved in smell, sight and taste.

“We realized more than 100 years ago that urchins and vertebrates (such as humans) were related, but the genome really emphasizes this,” says Burke. “In flies and worms, less than 40 per cent of their genes are found in humans. Most people, however, would be hard-pressed to say an urchin looks any more like a human than a fly.”

The study also reveals that urchins, which can live for many decades, have elaborate immune systems. Although they lack eyes, ears and noses, they have many genes involved in vision, hearing and detection of chemicals.

They also have many of the genes linked to human diseases such as Huntington’s chorea, muscular dystrophy and atherosclerosis, and their simple, transparent embryos are ideal for studies on embryonic development.

UVic research gets \$5 million boost from CFI

by Valerie Shore

University of Victoria researchers will develop one of the highest resolution microscopes ever constructed and the world’s first integrated seafloor engineering laboratory, thanks to two grants totalling just under \$5 million announced in late November by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

Mechanical engineer Rodney Herring will use a \$4-million grant to construct a scanning transmission electron holography microscope facility. The specialized microscope uses electron beams and holography technology to observe and image the inside and outside of materials, to an expected resolution as small as one-fiftieth the size of an atom.

“It will reveal to us the atomic structure and the types and number of atoms in a specimen and allow us to measure its properties with great precision,” says Herring, a materials scientist and engineer who specializes in microscopy methods. “These properties are used by scientists and engineers to develop new devices and materials at the molecular, or nanoscale, level.”

The microscope will take two to three years to build, in partnership with the private sector. It will be used by a wide range of researchers across Canada and around the world to investigate new materials in areas as diverse as manufacturing, electronics, biotechnology, fuel cell technology, construction, and defence.

“This microscope will be a unique instrument that will put Canada at the forefront internationally in research focused at the nanoscale level,” says Herring.

The second CFI grant, totalling \$992,684, goes to Colin Bradley, also in the mechanical engineering department, for the establishment of an ocean technologies test bed. The seafloor “laboratory” will allow engineers to develop and test the next generation of technologies such as autonomous underwater vehicles, and navigation and communication systems.

The test bed will enable a broad range of future applications, such as the emerging development of cabled ocean observatory systems, scientific instrument prototyping, and basic marine science.

“It will be a first-of-a-kind,” says

UVic scores well in two national postsecondary rankings

The University of Victoria maintained its position as one of the country’s top comprehensive universities in this year’s annual *Maclean’s* magazine rankings of postsecondary institutions.

UVic placed third out of the 11 comprehensive institutions that participated in this year’s survey, which faced a boycott by 26 of the 47 universities that normally submit data to the magazine.

UVic decided to continue its participation, says President David Turpin, because the university prides itself in being open and accountable and the information that *Maclean’s* requires for its survey is publicly available. He added that the surveys, while flawed, do provide a means for universities to reflect on their overall performances.

UVic placed first in its category in the amount of medical and science grants it attracts and also scored high for the average entering grades of its students and the proportion of them with a 75 per cent or higher average. The University of Guelph placed first overall, followed by the University of Waterloo.

UVic also scored well in the annual *Globe and Mail* University Report Card. Unlike *Maclean’s*, the national newspaper categorizes universities by size rather than by programs and relies on input from undergraduate students who register with an online scholarship database.

The report card rated UVic highly for the overall attractiveness and atmosphere of the campus, satisfaction with the student experience, the library services and resources, availability and quality of computer equipment and technology, and the overall quality of education.

Taylor continued from p.1

Experimental Network Under the Sea) observatory is the world’s first interactive real-time portal into the ocean, with live instrument readings and archived data available via the Internet. The first leg was installed in Saanich Inlet earlier this year. A second leg will be installed in the Strait of Georgia in 2007.

NEPTUNE (North-East Pacific Time-series Undersea Networked Experiments) is a \$250-million joint US-Canada venture to lay 3,000 km of powered fibre-optic cable and instruments off BC, Washington and Oregon. It will be the world’s first regional cabled ocean observatory.


The Canadian segment, managed by NEPTUNE Canada, will consist of an 800-km loop of cable-linked seafloor laboratories in the deep ocean off BC. It will be installed in 2007-08.

As president and CEO of the new oceans entity, Taylor will be responsible for providing leadership and vision to achieve the scientific and social goals of NEPTUNE and VENUS. It’s a role for which he is highly qualified, says Turpin.

“In his present portfolio, Martin has invested considerable time and effort in the genesis and development of the VENUS and NEPTUNE observatories. His involvement with the management of university research at the national and provincial levels, and his experience with the ‘business’ of research, have acquainted him with the complexities of blending university culture with a business model.”



Taylor



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Director Bruce Kilpatrick

Managing Editor Valerie Shore

Production Beth Doman

Contributors Beth Haysom, Patty Pitts, Christine Roulston, Valerie Shore, Melanie Groves

Advertising Bonnie Light
388-5321 or ringads@uvic.ca

Calendar Mandy Crocker, ucom@uvic.ca


Printer Goldstream Press

The Ring, PO Box 1700,
University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2
Tel: (250) 721-7636 • Fax: 721-8955
e-mail: ucom@uvic.ca • website: www.uvic.ca/ring

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Still time to give as United Way campaign wraps up

As this year's United Way campaign draws to a close, donations continue to add up and push the total toward to the goal of \$220,000.

At press time, the total amount of donations collected was more than \$204,740, which is more than 93 per cent toward the goal.

"We're very pleased with this year's campaign," says UVic campus campaign chair Dr. Penny Codding. "More people gave this year and donors gave more than in the past. Each donation goes a long way toward making a difference in the community of Greater Victoria."

This year, 92 employees became new donors and 149 became "leaders," which involves giving a donation of more than \$500.

Codding notes that several employee groups experienced a large jump in the number of donors. In particular, the number of donors

in CUPE 951 increased by 50 per cent, in the Professional Employee Association by 40 per cent, and in the Faculty Association by 30 per cent.

Codding attributes the campaign's success to a lively kick-off weekend, dedicated volunteers, one-on-one canvassing in each department, and a prize giveaway to a different donor every day.

While UVic's campaign officially ended Dec. 1, the United Way of Greater Victoria will continue accepting donations after the deadline.

Yet another fundraiser is planned for this week when co-op education hosts a gingerbread house silent auction with proceeds going to the United Way.

For more information or a pledge form, visit unitedway.uvic.ca or contact Codding at 721-7157 or pcodding@uvic.ca.

Dog evolution provides update to Darwin's theory

by Suzanne Connell

Did the hormonal rhythms of certain wolves contribute to their relatively fast evolution to domesticated dogs?

That's the basis of a UVic researcher's new theory to help explain how species form. "Thyroid hormones may play a significant role in evolution," says anthropologist Dr. Susan Crockford who specializes in archaeozoology—the study of how humans and animals interact over time.

"While genes play a major role in evolution, they're also influenced by thyroid hormones which control many genes and general body functions, including behaviour."

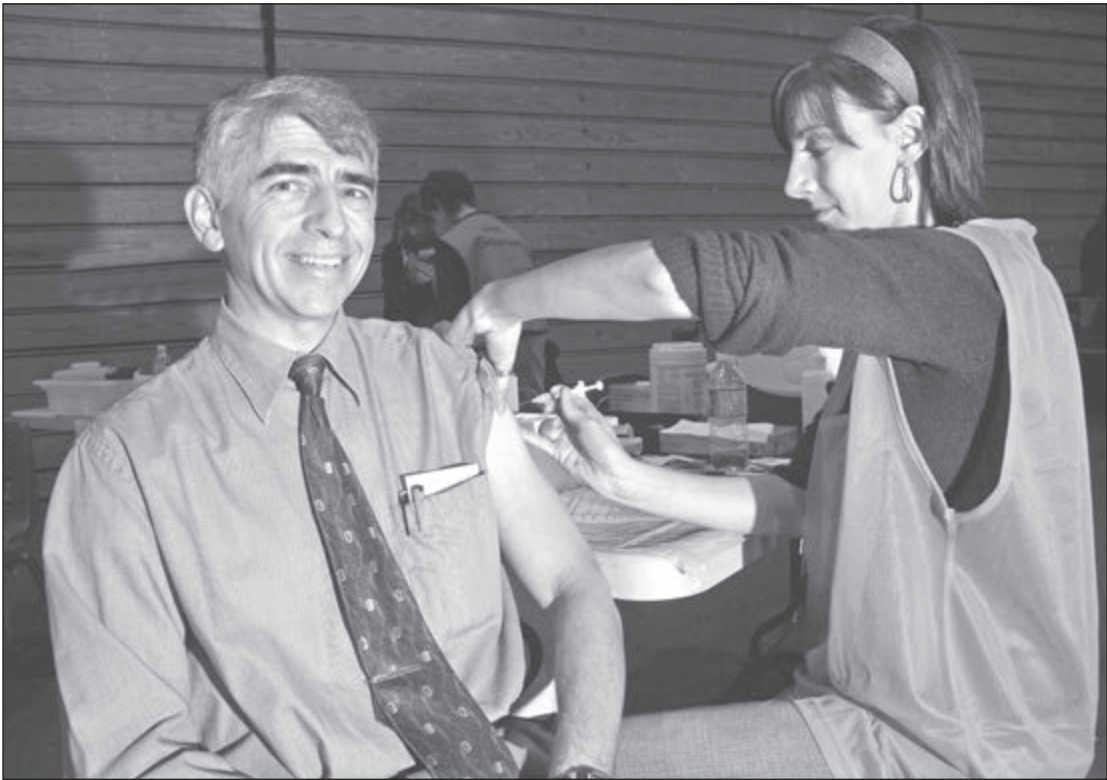
In her new book *Rhythms of Life: Thyroid Hormone and the Origin of Species*, Crockford applies her theory to the evolution of the dog. Agreeing with many researchers that dogs evolved from a wolf ancestor relatively quickly and without direct human

interference, Crockford contends that certain wolves evolved into dogs because of their specific rhythm of thyroid hormone production.

These wolves had hormone patterns that made them more stress-tolerant and more likely to colonize in early human settlements. After several generations of interbreeding, the offspring of these stress-tolerant wolves acquired the physical and behavioural characteristics of dogs instead of wolves.

Crockford applies this model to many other speciation events, including the evolution of brown bears to polar bears and the series of speciation events that led to the creation of modern humans.

Crockford's theory will be showcased in a new PBS documentary called "Dogs that Changed the World," scheduled to air as a two-part *Nature* special in spring 2007. For more information about Crockford's book visit www.rhythmsoflife.ca.



Don Lovell (facilities management) gets a shot in the arm from his daughter, nursing student Gillian.

Flu shot... check!

by Melanie Groves

One of the season's worst rainstorms didn't stop 673 UVic employees from rolling up their sleeves and taking advantage of the one-day staff influenza immunization clinic on Nov. 15.

The emergency pandemic planning exercise was one of the first of its kind in Canada, and attracted keen observers from several health and emergency services agencies, including the Provincial Emergency Program and Department of National Defence.

"The exercise was a great success," says UVic emergency planner Daphne Donaldson. "After this clinic, the university is now in a much better position to respond during a real pandemic."

Donaldson co-ordinated the exercise with a team of employees drawn from across campus, including the departments of Occupational

Health, Safety and Environment, Nursing, Health Services, Campus Security, Athletics, and Communications. Community partners included the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the BC Ambulance Service and the municipalities of Saanich and Oak Bay.

Health Services employee Birdena Luney noted that "it was really inspiring to work with people from such different areas on campus to pull together a successful exercise like this."

More than 50 students and staff volunteered in a variety of roles to keep the clinic running smoothly. Nursing students not only staffed the injection stations, but also created and administered a survey that will provide valuable demographic information about participants.

If you missed the one-day clinic, Health Services offers influenza immunizations at a cost of \$20. Call 721-8492 for more information.

WINTER HEALTH TIPS

An influenza shot boosts the immune system and lessens the chance of getting sick and spreading the virus to others. University Health Services also recommends frequent hand-washing with soap and warm water, and coughing into your upper sleeve instead of your hands. Getting plenty of rest, exercise and nutritious food will also help to keep you healthy this winter.



Eat a balanced diet.



Dispose of used tissues immediately.



Get a flu shot.



Wash hands frequently.




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The Coolest Milk 2 Go!



Help shine the spotlight on your colleague’s research

The university is seeking nominations for its 2007 Craigdarroch Research Awards. The annual awards—named after Craigdarroch Castle, home to the university’s predecessor institution, Victoria College—were established in 2003 to recognize excellence in research. Awards are presented in four categories: the Gold Medal for Career Achievement; the Silver Medal for Excellence in Research; the Award for Societal Contribution; and the Award for Research Communication. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 31. Winners will be announced at an awards event this spring. For award and nomination details, visit www.uvic.ca/research/craigdarroch/.

Parking tickets reduced for food

Campus Security Services is once again helping out the Food Bank and giving campus parking violators a break. Each outstanding campus parking ticket paid between now and Dec. 22 will be reduced by \$5 if the payment is accompanied by a donation of a non-perishable food item for local food banks. Only one item per ticket is permitted. This is the sixth year the program has been offered. In 2005, half a dozen big boxes of food donations were collected for distribution. Parking fines can be paid at Campus Security Services from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. For more information call 721-6381.

Calendar takes you down the garden path

The Finnerty Gardens 2007 calendar is on sale now, the perfect gift for the gardener on your shopping list. The sixth edition of the calendar brings you more of the colourful splendour of the campus gardens, from season to season. By purchasing the calendar with its month-by-month photographs, expert commentary and thoughtful quotes, you will be contributing to the future enhancement of the Finnerty Gardens. The calendar costs \$19.95 and is available at the UVic Bookstore, Munro’s Books, Bolen Books and many other local retailers.

CUFA/BC seeks award nominations

The Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia (CUFA/BC) wants your nominations for its annual Academic of the Year and Career Achievement awards. If you know someone who has been doing outstanding research or scholarly work that contributes to their community, nominate them today. To learn more about CUFA/BC awards or to download nomination forms, visit www.cufa.bc.ca/award. Nominations are due by Feb. 5.

Common household chemical may pose health risk

An antibacterial agent used in common household items such as soaps, toothpaste, processed food, and clothing represents a potential health risk to human hormone action, says a new study co-authored by a University of Victoria researcher.

The study, published recently in *Aquatic Toxicology*, examined the effects of the antibacterial agent known as triclosan on the development, or metamorphosis, of tadpoles into frogs. The study showed that when tadpoles are exposed to levels of triclosan commonly found in the environment, frog metamorphosis that relies on thyroid hormones was significantly disrupted.

Triclosan is of particular concern to toxicologists because it is structurally similar to thyroid hormones, which play a crucial role in early human development.

“Thyroid hormones and the mechanisms by which they affect cells are highly conserved from frog to mammal,” says Dr. Caren Helbing, a UVic molecular biologist. “It’s highly likely that what affects frogs could affect mammals, even humans.”

Triclosan is used in a wide variety of products, including clothing,

food, personal care products, and some plastics to make them more bacteria-resistant. It is present in municipal effluents, is persistent in the environment, and accumulates up the food chain.

The study found that as little as one-millionth of a gram per litre of triclosan interferes with thyroid hormones and their ability to direct the genes responsible for frog metamorphosis. This is the same concentration of triclosan found in 85 waterways tested across the U.S. in another, recent study.

Triclosan has also been detected in human breast milk, notes Helbing. “These levels are in the general range of what we tested, so triclosan may be having an impact on babies during a vulnerable time when thyroid hormones are important in their development.”

Helbing hopes this study will spur further research into how low doses of triclosan might be affecting human and wildlife health. “Given that there’s already concern over the indiscriminate use of this product and the promotion of resistant bacteria, it would seem prudent to limit its use to those products where it’s really needed.”



Canada Research Chairs

Opening doors—and minds

by Beth Haysom

All her life Lorna Williams has lived within the sheltering embrace of her Lil’wat community and the traditions of her peoples.

Their wisdom protected her as a young child when she and Mount Currie classmates were labelled “retarded” by the education system. Their strength helped her to defy the stereotype and sustained her through her career that has seen her emerge as an internationally sought-after educator in Indigenous studies and Aboriginal education.

Now at UVic as the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning, she’s still guided by their spirits in her efforts to open the minds of educators and to open doors for aboriginal students.

“I carry the strength of the elders around with me and live by the values taught to me by my parents and my community,” says Williams.

Much of her own Indigenous knowledge and world views were passed on orally through the traditional stories of her ancestors based on “understanding our relationship to the Earth, the universe, the family, the community and the spirit world.”

Now Williams is a consummate storyteller. She begins with long pauses that allow the listener time to adjust to a different mindset, to reflect on what it must have been like to grow up at a time when educators regularly disregarded Indigenous culture and traditions.

When she started school, Williams spoke no English but she recalls approaching her classes with keen anticipation and curiosity: “I had dreams and aspirations, as did all children in my community.”

But Williams vividly recalls having those dreams shattered when she and classmates were deemed to have scored in the mentally retarded range on tests that failed to acknowledge their inherent cultural knowledge and abilities: “To be perceived in that way, it affects you to your very soul,” she says.

Since then, Williams has dedicated her life to honouring, preserving and teaching Indigenous languages and world views.

Williams chose to come to



DIANA NETHERCOTT

Williams

UVic in 2004 at the pinnacle of her career “because this university is an exciting and positive place to be. UVic has made a real commitment to developing Indigenous programs and making First Nations, Métis and Inuit students feel welcome.”

Through a joint appointment with the Faculty of Education and the Department of Linguistics, Williams oversees programs to certify Indigenous language speakers to teach their languages in provincial schools and Indigenous communities.

Following on from this work, Williams is researching and writing a book on the historical developments of languages in each of the eight language families in the province. “Our languages, our cultures our ways of life exist nowhere else on the planet,” says Williams. “Canadians don’t realize that when each of our languages dies, it is a loss for them too.”

Among these efforts is a pilot First Nations language and culture program on northern Vancouver Island that will allow students to progress through a series of courses toward an education degree. In the first stages of the program, many students are

able to study within their own communities.

Williams is also collaborating with Gloria Snively in the Faculty of Education in a research project to find ways of countering the low participation of Aboriginal students in the sciences.

Most of all, Williams’ goal at UVic is to improve success rates among Aboriginal children by creating awareness among pre-service teachers at the university.

“All teachers need to know something about teaching Aboriginal children. There are Aboriginal students in all school districts in this province. In some districts they make up more than 50 per cent of the student population,” she says.

A result of Williams’ creative teaching is the thunderbird and whale welcoming and protection pole carved by a group of First Nations, Métis and non-Aboriginal students.

It stands proudly in the MacLaurin Building, where Williams often walks on her way to her office, and reminds her of her ties to her ancestors: “We can’t exist without them,” she says. “They are our ties to the beginning of time and far into the future.”



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THE POSSIBILITIES OF PEDAGOGY

“This is fertile ground for making a real step forward,” says new director of the Learning and Teaching Centre

by Beth Haysom

Being a “teacher’s teacher” has to be one of the most rewarding jobs there is, says Teresa Dawson, the new director of the Learning and Teaching Centre, which offers consultation and resources for instructors and teaching assistants at UVic.

“Helping people to feel better about what they do every day, that’s making a real difference,” says Dawson, whose youthful enthusiasm belies a long career of supporting teachers to excel in the classroom.

Dawson has no qualms about coaching professors who may be several years her senior. “Mine is a gentle approach. I don’t tell people what to do; I listen well,” she says. “Faculty members are smart, aware people who want their students to succeed and usually it’s not hard to work together and find what they need for that to happen.”

The British-born Dawson discovered a talent for teaching in her childhood, helping friends with their fractions and then, in her teens, tutoring to earn pocket money for travelling. But it took a particularly imaginative professor during her post-graduate studies at McMaster University to open her eyes to the possibilities of pedagogy.

That pivotal professor was Martin Taylor, now UVic’s vice-president research, who at that time, was teaching a course in medical geography using case histories—a version of problem-based learning that has since become a highly regarded method of study.

“Imagine how thrilled I was to find that the teacher who inspired me was here at UVic,” says Dawson. “He was the person who first made me realize that the way you teach can change the way that students learn.”

That revelation put Dawson on a pedagogical career path. Along the way she developed a training program for teaching assistants at Pennsylvania State University; was responsible for designing and implementing an evaluation of instruction program at the University of California at Los Angeles, and established the Teaching and Learning Services unit from scratch at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus.

Now she’s delighted to be facing new challenges at UVic’s Learning and Teaching Centre, which has already established a strong reputation for cutting-edge excellence. Among the programs listed on its website is one that addresses the pedagogical possibilities of blogging.

“It’s wonderful to be part of such a top-notch institution where learn-

ing and teaching are already well integrated throughout the campus. This is fertile ground for making a real step forward,” says Dawson, who is currently making the rounds of the various departments and “doing a lot of listening” so that she can chart her course.

“If anything, UVic is too humble,” says Dawson, who is chair of the national Educational Developers Caucus and is keen to pursue a leadership role for UVic. She notes that UVic has been selected by the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning as one of only seven universities in Canada to participate in its highly regarded international Institutional Leadership Program.

Dawson aims to showcase UVic’s many instructors who are already experts in integrating teaching and research, mentoring graduate students, connecting the curriculum to the community and generally enhancing the student experience. “It will be good to share that knowledge,” she says.

One of her goals is to include teaching and learning “scholarship” as part of the teaching dossier achievement record kept for all UVic instructors. “Everyone benefits if we can provide a supportive environment in which instructors can



UVC PHOTO SERVICES

Dawson

achieve their goals and document their accomplishments effectively so that they can be appropriately rewarded,” she says.

Dawson is someone who practises what she teaches. She was the winner of the 2006 Faculty Teaching Award at her previous institution and, as

soon as possible, Dawson hopes to teach a class in human geography. “I have to have my classroom fix,” she says. “That’s what gives me my best ideas.”

For more information on the Learning and Teaching Centre, visit <http://web.uvic.ca/terc>.

New human resource system launched

by Melanie Groves

Filing your pay statements in a shoebox will become a thing of the past when the new Human Resource Information System (HRIS) becomes available to the campus community in January.

Here’s how the new system will affect you:

- Employees will be able to access personal payroll information, such as direct deposit bank account information and pay statements, and change personal contact information, online. You must have an active netlink ID and password in order to use the self-service features, and will have the option to discontinue receiving paper pay stubs. Log in via the uSource portal at <http://usource.uvic.ca> after Jan. 1.
- Employees will be converted to a semi-monthly payroll process in January. Pay dates will remain the same, but benefits and deductions will be split and deducted twice a month. Payments for items such as provisional pay, shift differential and overtime will be made every pay period, rather than at the end of the month only.
- Employee numbers will be converted to a new UVic ID (e.g. V00123456). The last six digits will be the same as current employee

numbers. Current staff and benefit cards remain valid, however, and do not need to be reissued.

• The payroll department and human resources records clerks have merged into a new unit reporting to financial services. Staff moved to a new location in the Ian Stewart Complex in late November. The best way to contact them is by telephone at 721-7034 or email at hrris@uvic.ca. Non-payroll-related human resources inquiries will continue to be handled at the general office in Sedgewick B146.

• Staff training in uHire, a new online recruitment, resumé building and job application tracking process, will start in January. uHire will replace the paper process for campus job applications beginning in May. Check <http://web.uvic.ca/hr/> for the training schedule.

According to Project Nova co-director Janice Johnson, “the HRIS implementation team, human resources and payroll offices have all done outstanding work preparing for this launch.”

A page answering common queries about the HRIS system will be available soon on the accounting, human resources and Project Nova websites. For more information about Project Nova, visit <http://web.uvic.ca/nova/>.

Painkillers top heroin use, says CARBC study

A new study conducted in seven Canadian cities reveals that prescription painkillers known as opioids are becoming Canada’s leading street drugs. The findings raise questions about the current focus of Canada’s drug control policy and treatment programs.

A team led by Dr. Benedikt Fischer, a researcher with the Centre for Addictions Research (CARBC) at the University of Victoria, published its findings in the Nov. 21 issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. The study was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

Commonly prescribed opioids in Canada include Oxycodone, morphine, Demerol, Percodan and Tylenol 3 or 4.

“Our study suggests that heroin use has become an increasingly marginal form of drug use among illicit opioid users in Canada, especially outside Vancouver and Montreal,” says Fischer.

Heroin use was substantially prevalent only in Vancouver and

Montreal. It was de facto absent in smaller cities like Edmonton, Quebec City or Fredericton. And, in all study sites, there was a significant decline of heroin use among participants between 2001 and 2005.

Fischer also highlights that in a



large number of cases prescription opioids used by street drug users originate from the medical system and not from illicit production and distribution.

The secondary and reduced relevance of heroin compared to prescription opioids among illicit

opioid users has implications for drug control policy and treatment programs, which primarily focus on heroin abuse and dependence.

“Our drug control policies ought to be targeting prescription opioid abuse more effectively,” says Fischer. “But we also need to ensure we don’t compromise legitimate access to and uses of prescription opioids.”

“Although there have been reports on the increased levels of prescription opioid abuse in Canada and other jurisdictions, there has until now not been a systematic documentation of usage patterns among street drug users,” says

Dr. Rémi Quirion, scientific director of the CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction.

“This study provides us with the scientific evidence needed to improve public policy and treatment programs. Such research is key to ultimately improving the health of Canadians.”

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Vikes enjoy successful season

by Pete Lewis

With classes ending for the December break, the Vikes varsity teams are also winding down the first half of their seasons.

Success has been the theme so far. The men's golf team kicked things off by winning their third Canadian University/College Championship in the past four years back in June. Fifth-year student-athlete Todd Halpen finished second overall in the event.

On the water, the men's and women's rowing teams participated in the Canadian University Rowing Championships in St. Catharines, Ontario. The men's boats took second place, with the women's side finishing third.

The 10-time CIS champion women's field hockey team had a

chance to make it 11, playing in the championship final at UBC in early November. After going 1-0-2 against the host T-Birds through the regular season, they fell short in their final meeting, losing 3-1, but still earning the CIS silver medal.

The following weekend, UVic hosted the top women's soccer teams in the country for the CIS Soccer Championship. A tough 1-0 loss in the quarterfinal play-off knocked the Vikes out of medal contention.

Meanwhile, in Quebec City, the men's and women's cross country teams ran in sub-zero weather at their CIS championship. Geoff Martinson's eighth-place finish helped the Vikes pick up the bronze medal, while the women's team finished 10th.

In the pool, the Vikes are ramping up for their season. Mackenzie

Downing has already hit her stride, picking up three golds in the 50-, 100- and 200-metre butterfly events at the Bell Grand Prix. Also, Matt Pariselli was awarded the Victor Davis Memorial Award for up-and-coming swimmers.

On the hardwood, the men's team was 10-0 in league play heading into its final game before the break, but lost a close match 78-73 to undefeated archrivals, the UBC Thunderbirds. The women's team has battled injuries in the first half, but sits 7-4 at the break.

Topping off the first half of the season was the men's rugby team. The Vikes used a last-second play against the Castaway-Wanderers to earn a 25-23 win and the Vancouver Island Rugby Union Island Championship.

For all your Vikes information, visit www.govikesgo.com.

Smith named Trudeau Foundation mentor

Dr. Gordon Smith, executive director of UVic's Centre for Global Studies and a professor of political science, is among seven highly accomplished Canadians recently named Trudeau Foundation Mentors.

The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation selects several talented Canadians as mentors each year to work closely with outstanding doctoral candidates in the social sciences and humanities fields who have been awarded Trudeau Scholarships.

“Working with young scholars is one of the most rewarding aspects of

my career,” says Smith. “The idea is not that you replace a thesis advisor but that you provide a different kind of advice and support.”

Smith has already started meeting a PhD student at Columbia University as part of the mentorship program. He encourages doctoral candidates at UVic to apply for Trudeau Scholarships, which provide \$35,000 plus \$15,000 for travel for each scholar.

The mentorship and scholarship program is one part of the foundation's aim to create a neutral forum

to address crucial societal issues and to foster a dialogue between scholars and policy-makers in the arts community, business, government, the professions, and the voluntary sector.

Along with his duties at UVic, Smith chairs the board of governors of Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), one of the world's leading institutions in the generation and application of new knowledge to meet the challenges of international development.

Breast cancer study continued from p.1

future diagnostic efforts should be concentrated.

Of the thousands of different proteins in our blood, some are abundant, others are very rare. “In many cases, we're trying to find extremely low-abundance proteins coming from a cancer cell,” says Pearson. “The technology we use must be able to detect those molecules and identify them with ultrasensitive mass spectrometers.”

The project will use an experimental proteomics technique patented by the Plasma Proteome Institute and developed in collaboration with UVic over the last three years. It uses antibodies to “capture” fragments of the target protein from blood plasma, and mass spectrometry to

confirm their identity and measure their concentrations.

Pearson is an internationally recognized expert on the use of antibodies and mass spectrometry for protein detection. Borchers is one of the world's leading protein chemists and a pioneer in the use of mass spectrometry.

The UVic-Genomics BC Proteomics Centre, located at the Vancouver Island Technology Park, is the longest-running protein service and research facility in Canada. It houses seven mass spectrometers—instruments so sensitive they can identify hundreds of molecules from a single human fingerprint and so specific they can distinguish between two molecules that differ by a single atom.

“We've already shown that our technology and equipment are sensitive and specific enough to detect breast cancer proteins from a single cell or as little as one-twenty-fifth of a biopsy sample,” says Borchers. “This grant will make our centre one of the world's leading laboratories in the development of clinical diagnoses for early disease detection.”

This project is looking at breast cancer proteins, but the same technology has potential for other cancers, infectious diseases and even organ failures, says Pearson. “It's too early to tell when this work will translate into new diagnostic tests, but it's an exciting start and the most significant new approach to disease diagnosis in decades.”

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Calendarhighlights

Events free unless otherwise indicated. For a complete list of events, see www.uvic.ca/events

At the Galleries

www.maltwood.uvic.ca
721-6562

Touching Ground: Mexico to British Columbia. Until March. 30. A collection of works highlighting Mexican and BC landscapes. Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery.

Minutia. Until Jan. 12. Robert Kelly, artist. A circular display of 11 "conceptual books" demonstrating the beauty of minute detail in the English language. McPherson Library Gallery.

Thursday, December 7

Sessions in Spirituality 9 a.m. *Stressed? Come Walk the Labyrinth.*

Dec. 7, 11-14,18. Mondays: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Interfaith Chapel. 721-8338

Wednesday, December 13

Music 8 p.m. *Johann Strauss Scholarship Concert.* Performances by winners of the Johann Strauss Scholarship. MacLaurin B125. 721-7904

Saturday, December 16

Visual Arts Student Association Black Tie Fine Art Auction and Fundraiser 7 p.m. Exhibition and pre-sales Dec. 11-16th, 12-4 p.m. Visual Arts Bldg.

Friday, January 5

Music 12:30 p.m. *Fridaymusic.* School of music students in a program for various instruments. MacLaurin B125. 721-7904

When is the next Ring?

Calendar items should be sent by 4 p.m. on the copy deadline date shown below to UVic Communications (Sedgewick C149, fax 721-8955, e-mail ucom@uvic.ca) or entered into the online calendar (www.uvic.ca/events). For information call 721-7636.

Publication Date	Copy Deadline
Friday, January 5, 2007	Friday, December 15
Thursday, February 1	Wednesday, January 24
Thursday, March 1	Wednesday, February 21
Thursday, April 5	Wednesday, March 28

VITP economic impact continued from p.1

transfer activity at VITP is having on communities on Vancouver Island and beyond," says Turpin. "The anticipation of continued economic growth in the future supports the case for a significant expansion of the VITP, giving it the capacity to create even more jobs and contribute even further to the economy."

"The success of the Vancouver Island Technology Park is directly correlated with our ability to attract great companies, but even more importantly, their people," says Dale Gann, VITP vice-president. "Our investment lies in the bright individuals of these companies, and in doing so, we have been able to generate a community within VITP that is both knowledge-rich and innovative."

The economic impact study was prepared by UVic students Marian de Monye and Amanda Wright for their Masters of Business Administration degree. They conducted six

months of research and analysis, basing their work on the BC Statistics employment impact model.

The students' work was supervised by Anthony Goerzen, a UVic business professor and director of the faculty's graduate programs.

VITP, located on 35 acres in Saanich, is a facility to accelerate the transfer of technology from research labs to the marketplace. It represents the greatest concentration of high-tech companies and workers on Vancouver Island.

Several of the 28 current VITP tenants—a cluster of fuel cell, new media, wireless, life science, biotech, ocean technology and information communications technology companies—got their start at UVic, involve UVic graduates or employ UVic co-op students.

The economic impact study is available for download at www.vitp.ca

A family connection remembered

Three generations of the Finnerty family gathered in Finnerty Gardens this fall to unveil a plaque in memory of their pioneering ancestors who farmed the land that is now the University of Victoria

The Finnertys were among the earliest settlers and farmers in the Mount Tolmie area in the 1860s and '70s. In the 1890s, Mike and Mary Ann Finnerty, along with John and Hanna Finnerty, ran a successful orchard and dairy farm on land that is now the UVic campus. Two apple trees from the family orchard still stand in the quad just south of the Cornett Building.

The Finnerty name is ever-present at UVic. Finnerty Road is the northern entrance to the campus, fronted by Finnerty's Coffee bar. Finnerty Gardens is a beautiful oasis on the south end of the campus.

David Pollock (BEd,'79), great-grandson of John and Hanna Finnerty, established the Annie Finnerty Bursa-



I-r, Kimberly and Erika Gent, Hanna MacDonald and David Pollock. Erika is the great, great, great-granddaughter of John and Hanna Finnerty.

ry in the Faculty of Education and is a friend of the Finnerty Gardens. Many

descendants of this pioneer family are UVic alumni.

Budding Einsteins and closet McCoy's wanted

by Beth Haysom

During the last 100 years, Canadians have patented more than a million inventions for such vital additions to daily life as basketball, standard time, snow-blowers, garbage bags and instant mashed potatoes.

Among them, the famous Elijah McCoy invented and sold 57 different devices, earning himself the phrase "the real McCoy."

Now it's your turn.

Whether you have invented the world's best mousetrap or a way of putting Matthew McConaughey-style dimples on your boyfriend's chin, UVic's Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC) would like to hear from you.

From now until Jan. 31, IDC is running a contest for aspiring inventors, students, faculty or staff at UVic, Camosun College, Royal Roads University, Malaspina University-College, North Island College, and Victoria area high schools. A \$20 contest entry fee may be waived for high school students willing to write a short essay on start-up companies.

The contest, sponsored by Telus, offers \$20,000 worth of prizes in various categories, including best invention, best software concept, best sports concept and best high school invention. In addition to the judges' picks, contestants may also opt to be eligible for a "people's choice award."

"This contest is a first for us but everyone has been really enthusiastic so we're hoping to make it an annual event," says Brent Sternig, business development manager of IDC, whose mandate is to help student and faculty inventors with the process of taking viable ideas to the marketplace.

"We're really looking forward to seeing the ideas come in, and who knows, we may just help patent some of them after the contest."

Anything goes, well almost anything. IDC contest rules clearly state "No time machines —unless they're working models." Clearly they would have to be the real McCoy.

For contest details see www.idcinnovation.com.

Funding continues IDC expansion

When VITP announced the results of its first economic impact study on Dec. 1 federal Minister of Natural Resources and Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Gary Lunn was among those on hand to praise the technology park for its employment creation and revenue generation.

Lunn noted that VITP plays a vital role in supporting more efficient transfer of

new technology from university labs to the marketplace. UVic's Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC) provided several current VITP companies with assistance in commercializing their research.

IDC expanded its services earlier this year to four other Vancouver Island institutions, thanks to \$1 million in federal funding for the

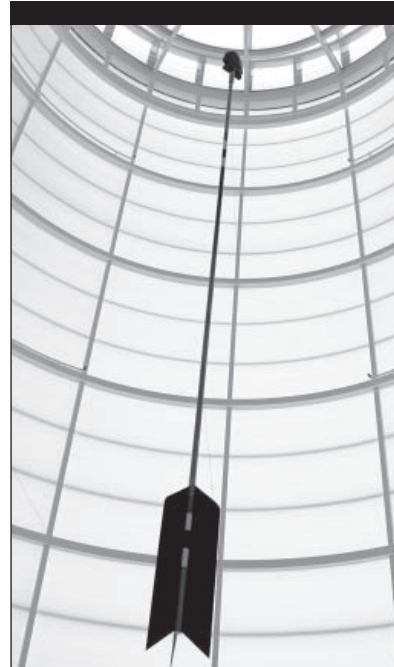
Vancouver Island Technology Transfer Centre. Lunn announced a further \$186,500 in funding through Western Economic Diversification Canada to continue the program, through which IDC offers technology transfer and commercialization services to Camosun College, Royal Roads University, Malaspina University-College and North Island College.



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Ringers

Dr. **Richard Ring**, Professor Emeritus in biology, is the 2006 winner of the Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement from the Entomological Society of Canada. The award recognizes his broad legacy to entomology in Canada, particularly in his work on the physiology and ecology of Arctic insects and biodiversity in old-growth temperate rainforests, and extensive involvement in graduate education and scientific leadership. Over 38 years, Ring has taught more than 16,000 biology and entomology students, originally developed all the department's entomology courses, and was the driving force behind biology's co-op program. He's a past-president of the Entomological Society of Canada and is currently serving (for the third time) as president of the Entomological Society of BC.

Dr. **David Sinton** (mechanical engineering) has won the Douglas R. Colton Medal for Research Excellence from CMC Microsystems. The award, which consists of a medal and a \$3,500 cash prize, recognizes excellence in the application of microsystems or related technologies in Canada. Sinton's area of expertise is microfluidics—the study and application of fluid flow and heat transfer phenomena in microstructures. CMC Microsystems is a federally incorporated, non-profit coporation that offers products and services in microelectronics, micromechanics, microfluidics, photonics/optoelectronics and embedded software.

It's back to the future for **Eric Jordan**, who is returning to UVic to become executive-in-residence in the Faculty of Business. Jordan graduated from UVic in 1993 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Along with fellow student David Manning, he went on to found PureEdge Software, which provided a secure system to transfer legal documents electronically. Jordan was president and CEO of the company and later chief strategy officer when it was acquired by IBM in 2005. Prior to the sale, PureEdge grew from two employees to over 70 and became one of the top two electronic forms companies in North America. As executive-in-residence, Jordan will serve as an on-site guest lecturer, advise faculty and students on research projects, and help broaden the business faculty's relationships with the high-tech community.

Linguistics chair Dr. **Leslie Saxon** has been appointed the 2007 president of the Society of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas. The society was founded in 1981 as the international scholarly organization representing American Indian linguistics. Its roughly 900 members are interested in the scientific study of the languages of the native peoples of North, Central and South America. The linguistics department is a partner in UVic's certificate program in Aboriginal language revitalization. Faculty research includes working with Mayan and Vancouver Island Aboriginal language preservation and revitalization.

Christine Welsh (women's studies) recently accepted Amnesty International Film Festival's Gold Audience Award for her National Film Board documentary "Finding Dawn."The Métis filmmaker documents the experience of Canadian Native women from Vancouver's downtown east side, northern BC and Welsh's home province of Saskatchewan. "I made the film to try to put a human face to the epidemic of missing and murdered Native women across Canada; to make the connection between the 'missing women' and the pervasive violence that Native women experience in this country on a daily basis; and to show that stopping that violence is everyone's responsibility," she says.

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A day in the life

A DAY IN THE LIFE of Rheta Fitzgerald is spent helping people who phone the university's general number find the person they're looking for.

Fitzgerald has been a switchboard operator at UVic for 17 years. The busiest time of year for the switchboard is the beginning of school and again around graduation with people phoning for tickets and directions. "Sometimes we direct people coming from the ferry how to get here and to different buildings."

She and her colleague, Karen Mac-Cuish, need a good sense of who does what in offices all across campus so that they can match the caller with the right person. "One time," she laughs, "a caller just asked for 'Bonnie in salads.'"

In addition to the database directory, important information and numbers fill a whiteboard along one wall. "When computer science moved into their new building, all their locals were changed," says Fitzgerald, "so we quickly updated the directory to give the new information to people who still had the old numbers."

Before the current Meridian telephone system, Fitzgerald might handle up to 200 long-distance calls



Uvic PHOTO SERVICES

Fitzgerald

per day. Now, people make their own calls, but she's ready to help if required. "Mornings and around 3 p.m. are the busiest," she says. "No matter what, we need to stay pleasant. It is very satisfying when people say you've been helpful."

Before coming to UVic, Fitzgerald worked for BC Tel in Victoria, Williams Lake and Vancouver, and at the Royal Jubilee Hospital. She's active in

the Schizophrenia Society, particularly at Christmas dinners and summer picnics. "As a person with schizophrenia, I had the choice to work or stay home, but I wanted to work."

Fitzgerald writes children's stories and enjoys walking and spending time with her son, Jason. She walks from the Gorge into town to catch the bus to UVic and likes to walk around Elk and Beaver Lakes.

Change liquor taxes, urges CARBC study

by Valerie Shore

Taxes on reduced-alcohol beer, wines and spirits should be lowered to encourage healthier consumer choices, says a new study by the Centre for Addictions Research (CARBC) at the University of Victoria.

The study, funded by Health Canada, examines the country's alcohol tax system and recommends a number of ways to protect the health and safety of Canadians through "discerning and purposeful" reforms of liquor taxation and pricing policies.

It notes that despite the proven link between alcohol consumption and risk of injury and chronic disease, there are currently no tax incentives in place for Canadians to choose lower alcohol beer, cider, wine-based or spirit-based products.

"A 3.5 per cent beer is taxed the same amount as a 7 per cent beer," says UVic psychologist and CARBC director Dr. Tim Stockwell, who co-authored the report with research associates Jaili Leng and Jodi Sturge. "In fact, the rates of taxation per standard drink are substantially *higher* on lower alcohol varieties than on high-strength beverages."

In other words, weaker drinks

attract higher rates of taxation than strong drinks. "This is directly counter to what is considered healthy public policy involving alcohol," says Stockwell.

In addition, the market for lower-alcohol products—those between 2.5 and 4 per cent alcohol by volume—is significantly under-developed in Canada. "It's no surprise that beers below 4 per cent alcohol constitute only 0.15 per cent of beer sales in BC," says Stockwell. "And it's almost impossible to find lower-alcohol beers on the province's liquor store shelves."

Contrast that with Australia, where taxes are reduced on lower-strength beers. Ten per cent of that country's beer sales are brands between 2.5 and 3.5 per cent alcohol, and there are almost 40 varieties to choose from.

Alcohol-related deaths in Australia are declining, whereas the rates of consumption and alcohol-related injuries and health problems are rising in Canada. An estimated 5,000 Canadians die prematurely every year from alcohol abuse.

The study also notes that most liquor taxes across Canada aren't linked to the cost of living. "This allows taxation rates to erode over time and contribute to lower prices, which

leads, potentially, to higher consumption," says Stockwell.

The study makes a number of recommendations to reform the alcohol tax structure, including: apply tax to alcohol content, not retail price or volume of beverage; introduce tax incentives for lower alcohol content beverages; create special levies on higher strength products; link taxes to inflation to prevent declines in real alcohol prices over time; and earmark some tax revenues for alcohol treatment and prevention services.

CARBC is a research centre of the University of Victoria, in partnership with UBC, UNBC, SFU and Thompson Rivers University. The study report, "Alcohol Pricing and Public Health in Canada" is available online at <http://carbc.uvic.ca/Publications.htm>.

Stockwell is a member of a national alcohol strategy working group co-chaired by Health Canada, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, and the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. It includes representatives from federal and provincial governments, non-governmental organizations, researchers, addictions agencies and the alcohol beverage and hospitality industries.



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