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# CANOE CREATION RE-AWAKENS PACHEEDAHT TRADITIONS

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THE RING

January 2022

*The University of Victoria's community newspaper*

ring.uvic.ca

University of Victoria

## SPEED READ

SAVE THE DATE

### Victoria Forum

The Victoria Forum, in partnership with the Senate of Canada, returns in person and online with *Bridging Divides: Turf, Truth and Trust* from April 19-21, 2022. The forum will facilitate conversations around bridging economic, social and environmental divides, bringing together business leaders, policy makers and academics. This free public conference will host regional, national and international thought leaders, tackling some of the world's biggest challenges. Registration opens in early 2022 at *victoriaforum.ca*.

EQUITY ACTION

### UVic signs charter on anti-racism

UVic has signed the Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education as a commitment to hold ourselves accountable to its principles and actions. President Kevin Hall signed the charter Dec. 9 on behalf of the university in the context of our ongoing prioritization and commitment to decolonization and Indigenization, and in the context of our unique relationship to Indigenous communities on whose traditional lands we are located. *bit.ly/21-charter*

# Testing the winds—for clean energy


Wind data buoy ready to launch as PRIMED co-research lead Curran Crawford and deployment manager Chloe Immonen talk to the media. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

**5,500**

WEIGHT OF THE NEW WIND BUOY, IN KILOGRAMS

## Now visible just off Victoria's southeast shore, a new wind buoy could help remote coastal communities ditch diesel dependence.

BY ROBYN QUINN AND ANNE TOLSON

A new locally designed and manufactured buoy has become the first of its kind in BC waters to relay rich data about offshore wind. The buoy is part of a unique University of Victoria project to help remote BC coastal communities replace or reduce their diesel requirements by harnessing wind power from the sea. It was deployed late last year near Trial Island.

Currently, off-grid communities rely heavily on diesel power for their energy needs. This project adds a future option to use renewable energy sources, such as wind, to meet electrical requirements.

The highly customized buoy—six metres long, three metres wide, nine metres tall and equipped with a wind turbine and 3D laser-scanning system—introduces an innovative data gathering process to BC waters. Over a period of about six months, the buoy will use meteorological and oceanographic sensors to continuously gather and transmit live data about wind speed and behaviour to researchers. The data is critical in helping address a significant knowledge gap that has prevented offshore wind energy produced by floating turbines from being used more widely, says Brad Buckham. The buoy is a project of UVic's Pacific Regional Institute for Marine Energy Discovery (PRIMED), a lab led by Buckham and fellow mechanical engineering researcher Curran Crawford.

While land-based wind turbines still account for a small percentage of global energy needs, they have become an increasingly popular source of renewable energy, Buckham explains. By contrast, wind energy produced by turbines located

SEE WIND BUOY P.3

UVIC IMPACT CHAIR

# Truth and reconciliation through Indigenous art practices

BY JOHN THRELFALL

Art not only has the power to inspire, it can also be a powerful catalyst for change. Nowhere is this more evident than in issues of truth and reconciliation, as Carey Newman well knows. Recently appointed as the inaugural Impact Chair in Indigenous Art Practices in the Faculty of Fine Arts—the third of UVic's four Impact Chairs to be announced—Newman brings his passion for decolonization and Indigenous resurgence to this new five-year position.

A multi-disciplinary Kwakwak'awakw and Coast Salish artist, master carver, filmmaker and author, Newman strives to highlight Indigenous, social and environmental injustice through his art practice while also building new relationships by challenging Canada's historical narrative.

"I think about this Impact Chair position as being not just about the process and practices of Indigenous art making, but as an opportunity to discover what is possible when the distinctions between disciplines are removed," he says. "It's also about how the processes of creative production and intellectual exchange are transformed by not only changing who participates, but also the questions we pose, how we approach finding solutions and the metrics we use to evaluate success."

### Inspiring people to action

As UVic's sixth Audain Professor of Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest, Newman has been with the Visual Arts department since 2018; as the Impact Chair, he is also now jointly appointed to Art History and Visual Studies. As well as teaching undergraduate and graduate students, he will continue his own research and cultural production.

"We know that art can be a catalyst in the process of discovering and sharing truth. We also know that art has the power to inspire people to action," he says. "This position provides me the time

SEE CAREY NEWMAN P.3

Newman. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

## ringers

Renowned performing arts expert **Jacques Lemay**, an adjunct professor in the University of Victoria's Department of Theatre and **David Zussman**, a devoted public sector leader and the chair of UVic's Board of Governors, are among 135 new appointments to the Order of Canada announced in late December by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada. A Queen's Jubilee medal recipient, Lemay has served as a consultant for the Canada Council for the Arts and several provincial and territorial arts councils. Alumna **Janis Dunning** is honoured alongside Lemay.

**Verena Tunnicliffe**, professor emeritus in UVic's biology and earth and ocean sciences departments, as well as a co-founder of UVic's Ocean Networks Canada initiative, was named an officer in the Order of Canada for outstanding contributions to ocean sciences and for being a pioneer in the scientific exploration of the deep sea.


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*The University of Victoria acknowledges and respects the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*


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**Acting Executive Director** Denise Helm, 250-721-7639, execdir.ucam@uvic.ca

**Editor** Marc Christensen, 250-721-6022, marcdc@uvic.ca

**Production** Marc Christensen

**Display ads** Bonnie Light, 250-388-5321, adsring@uvic.ca

**Distribution** Mandy Crocker, 250-721-8587, ucam@uvic.ca





The Ring, PO Box 1700, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Tel: 250-721-7636 Fax: 250-721-8955
Email: ring@uvic.ca

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Next Vice-President Academic & Provost

I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Elizabeth Croft has been appointed as Vice-President Academic and Provost. Her appointment will begin on July 1, 2022.

Croft's appointment follows an international search conducted in accordance with the appointment policy. In the course of the search, a strong field of candidates was considered. The search committee's unanimous recommendation was taken forward to the faculty for a ratification ballot and of the eligible faculty members who voted, 90.6% voted in support. Her appointment was approved by the Board of Governors on December 9, 2021.

I'd like to thank the members of the search committee and everyone who participated in this process by providing input into the position description and valuable feedback following the candidate presentations.

Elizabeth Croft is a visionary and forward-thinking leader with a track record of building inclusive, collegial and collaborative partnerships. In each of her senior leadership positions, her action-oriented approach has delivered results in areas of importance to our university, including strong academic programs, reconciliation and decolonization, student experience, and equity, diversity and inclusion.

"I look forward to new challenges with the University of Victoria on my return to Canada," says Croft. "UVic's global sustainability vision, experiential education, and commitment to Indigenous scholarship, all underpinned by a culture of equity, diversity and inclusion and scholarly excellence, strongly resonates with me. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to work with President and Vice-Chancellor Kevin Hall and his leadership team, the faculty deans, directors, VPAC leadership and the outstanding colleagues that make UVic an exceptional community contributing to a better life for our people and planet."

Croft

Croft is currently the dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Monash University in Australia, where she oversees over 8,000 students and 500 academic and professional staff, with programs in Australia, China, Malaysia and India. She holds a BASc in mechanical engineering from UBC, an MASc in mechanical engineering from the University of Waterloo and a PhD from the University of Toronto. She is recognized internationally as an expert in the field of human-robot interaction.

Before joining Monash University, Croft was a tenured full professor at UBC, where she was a senior associate dean, an associate dean of education and professional development, the Marshal Bauder Professor in Engineering Economics, and the associate head of mechanical engineering.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hall, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor

WEST CAMPUS GREENWAY

# Weaving cyclists and pedestrians to the heart of campus

The Midgard Connection Pathway and the western-most segment of the Campus Greenway is now open, connecting pedestrians and cyclists from Gordon Head Road and Midgard Avenue to Ring Road.

The functional pieces of the pathway are complete and ready for use, and additional features will be installed in the spring while the pathway remains open to cyclists and pedestrians. The additional features include upgraded lighting, new benches, wayfinding and interpretive elements to ensure the greenway is a safe, secure and inclusive path at all times and in all weather conditions, and will also support learning opportunities.

The greenway features separated pedestrian and cyclist pathways.

The West Campus Greenway integrates strategies from the Campus Cycling Plan. The opening of the pathway coincides with the completion of the District of Saanich upgrades to the cycling/pedestrian crossing at Midgard Avenue and Gordon Head Road. Together, the opening of these projects allows for a safe, comfortable and sustainable trip to campus.

When you're on the pathway, keep an eye out for the weaving paving pattern that was inspired by the metaphor of weaving cedar in UVic's Indigenous Plan. This pattern of weaving will be used throughout the Campus Greenway as a way of embedding Indigenous ways of knowing and being in the design of this capital project. As UVic works towards this design goal, watch for new banners and interpretive signage, this spring.

The 1.3 kilometre Campus Greenway runs through the heart of campus and is the primary multi-modal pathway connecting Gordon Head Road to Sinclair Road. The Campus Greenway Landscape Plan and Design Guidelines establishes guiding principles, big ideas and design guidelines to support and coordinate the implementation of landscape and public realm improvements along the length of the greenway. The landscape plan addresses several programming and character features, including academic and social interactions, restoration of ecosystems, campus gateways, crossings and the overall organizational framework of the greenway.

Once completed, the greenway will create vibrant academic and social hubs, connecting buildings and public spaces on the campus.

RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

# Fossil fuel stocks reduced; new decarbonization target for portfolio

The University of Victoria Foundation announced that as of September 30, 2021 it no longer has holdings of companies in its equity portfolio involved in the extraction and processing of coal, oil or natural gas. Further, the foundation has also adopted a new responsible investment policy that sets a target to reduce the carbon intensity of all investments by 45 per cent by 2030.

"A shift in strategy and managers has been steering our decreasing investment in carbon intensive industries over the last five years," explains UVic Foundation Chair Mary Garden. "While we know the pace of change hasn't been fast enough for some people, the foundation board needed to ensure that we fulfilled our fiduciary duty as we continued to evolve our investment approach in support of UVic's priorities including research, academic programs, student scholarships, awards and bursaries."

The new policy recognizes the vital importance of reaching net zero GHG's emissions goals by 2050 at the latest, as well as global efforts to limit warming to 1.5C. It considers the opportunity and risk that climate change presents and focuses on decarbonization across all investments and sectors.

Key elements of the policy include:

- **carbon footprinting**—progress on achieving targets will be reported annually with review of the target at least once every five years;
- **ongoing engagement**—continued participation in investor coalitions and collaborations to enhance environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and disclosure requirements by joining the University Network for Investor Engagement and supporting the Task Force For Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD);
- continued selection of **investment managers committed to climate change** who actively, often through proxy voting, engage with companies to drive down emissions and increase disclosure; and
- increased **impact investing**—continued financing of sustainable projects like the new student housing and dining project which meets LEED v4 and passive house standards—the most rigorous global building standards for sustainability and energy efficiency.

Climate change presents systemic opportunities and risks. The policy also prioritizes the goal of supporting investment in companies with strong ESG practices and attractive long-term growth potential that are on the path to net-zero emissions while avoiding investment in companies or industries that are unable or unwilling to evolve.

"We believe our market exposure to climate risk will continue to decrease as we develop and implement decarbonization strategies across all foundation investment portfolios," explains Garden. "As an example, we're in the process of reviewing new impact investing opportunities that support a low carbon economy and look forward to making additional announcements in 2022."

The foundation is responsible for managing more than $525 million in assets and administering over 1,400 endowment funds that disburse more than $17 million annually to UVic.

"Those that understand the intricacies of climate finance know that seizing impact investing opportunities are some of the best ways to influence positive environmental and sustainable outcomes," states Cary Krosinsky, Yale and Brown University lecturer, author and advisor on sustainable finance. "I believe the foundation's new policy allows for capturing leading strategies in this area and goes beyond what you would normally expect from an investor of this size."

The foundation is a separate legal entity from the University of Victoria which itself has adopted a responsible investment policy that aims to lower carbon emissions in the university's capital working fund.

# National award for marine conservation

Inspiring new approaches to marine conservation, Natalie Ban is at the leading edge of finding real-world solutions to environmental issues. For her work, Ban received today the prestigious E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

Ban. PHOTO: SYLVIE LI / SHOOT STUDIO

Ban's research seeks to incorporate ever-changing environmental patterns and threats, including climate change, into marine conservation practices and planning. For instance, marine protected areas (MPAs) are well known for protecting biodiversity, but the effects on people who use the oceans are debated and climate change considerations are minimal. Her team's research led to improved consideration of climate change in MPA planning in Canada's Pacific.

"This fellowship is an amazing opportunity to focus on advancing my team's research partnerships and opportunities," Ban says. "It allows me to spend more time thinking creatively, building relationships and co-creating research that can address important marine conservation issues."

Ban co-creates approaches and solutions with communities, such as her collaborative research with the Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance, made up of the Wuikinuxv, Nuxalk, Kitasoo/Xai'xais, and Heiltsuk Nations, which witnessed a decline in the Dungeness crab and yelloweye rockfish populations for decades along BC's central coast. Indigenous fishers provided data that filled the gap where no records existed prior to 2003 in the study region.

She says she hopes that considering both Indigenous knowledge and Western science—and interweaving them when appropriate—will address modern fishery problems and inequities in fisheries management, and model a collaborative approach applicable to BC and elsewhere.

"With my approach to partnering in research, I co-create research questions and methodologies with Indigenous Peoples and other partners," says Ban. "Much of my research supports Indigenous authority to steward the oceans."

Every year, NSERC awards up to six Steacie Fellowships that are held for a two-year period. Successful fellows are relieved of teaching and administrative duties so they can devote all their time and energy to research. The fellowships are held at a Canadian university or affiliated research institution.

Ban says she is hoping to spend more time in coastal communities to further build connections and carry out research with partners, especially as related to fisheries reconciliation. She will also be dedicating time to researching the social-ecological outcomes of MPAs.

## CAREY NEWMAN CONTINUED FROM P. 1

and resources to continue making art that addresses injustice and asks difficult questions. It also provides the opportunity to write about and critically reflect upon the process, and in doing so gain a better understanding of what works or doesn't work and why."

Best known for his *Witness Blanket* installation—a national monument to recognize the atrocities of Indian Residential Schools, now permanently collected into the Canadian Museum for Human Rights—Newman points out how the arts have long been used to confront various forms of injustice and inequality.

"When it comes to the genocide wrought by colonial Canada, generations of artists, scholars, activists and knowledge keepers have advocated for awareness and called for change by varying degrees of confrontation and inspiration," he notes.

"In my own creative practice, I build upon the work of those who came before me, making artwork that looks at how the colonial foundations of Canada have created the social, ecological, racial and economic injustices we face today. I believe that by understanding this history and recognizing how it is perpetuated today—and maybe embracing some Indigenous ways of being—we can dismantle what makes it systemic, and eventually live up to the altruistic self-image that has long been embedded in Canada's national identity."

### Building bridges through collaboration

As he begins his term as Impact Chair, Newman hopes to better bridge the space between institutional and community-based learning, as well as launch two new projects: one organizational and one conceptual.

Organizationally, he will be establishing the unCentre for Arts and Decolonisation, which will take an anti-oppressive, anti-racist, nonhierarchical approach to collaboration.

"My goal is to encourage more interdisciplinary creative/research projects addressing the root causes of systemic issues that broadly impact society."

Conceptually, he will start a new long-form art project. "'The Seedling' will ask us to transform our relationship with the land, reconsider who and what our governance serves, and challenge us to change our actions and sense of collective responsibility today by radically expanding the timeline we use when planning for the future."

Newman also hopes to find more harmony between different types of knowledge systems.

"Academia views research as proprietary . . . [while] in oral traditions, storytelling is the way knowledge is carried through generations," he says. "But just because something is freely told, it doesn't mean the rights to it have been also been given. Better understanding this nuance between rights and responsibility will go a long way toward building stronger relationships between academia and communities."

Ultimately, he hopes to bring a holistic approach to his position as Impact Chair. "My artwork is inspired by, and responds to, a wide spectrum of historical and contemporary social issues," he explains. "It is rooted in Kwakwaka'wakw and Sto:lo world views that see governance, law and arts as inextricably interconnected: I include all of these when considering the potential impacts of Indigenous art practices."

## WIND BUOY CONTINUED FROM P. 1

in the ocean hasn't been exploited to the same extent, mostly because of the lack of data needed by industry to develop accurate, certifiable, insurable technologies. "This buoy will be in place for a sustained period as part of a data collection campaign for the purpose of trying to support a floating offshore wind industry," says Buckham.

Clean energy projects such as this reflect UVic's commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. In particular, the UVic wind buoy project aligns with SDG Goal 7—to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.

The PRIMED research team contracted Sidney-based AXYS Technologies to construct the buoy. Later this month, a tugboat will pull a barge carrying the wind buoy to the waters near Oak Bay, where the device will be deployed, a few hundred metres southwest of Trial Island.

"The group has been working on this for several years, so everyone is excited to see the buoy deployed and start seeing the data," says research scientist and deployment manager Chloe Immonen, who joined the project in 2019.

Immonen says the research being carried out with the buoy near Trial Island will not only benefit remote communities hoping to ditch diesel but will also contribute to a better overall understanding of the way wind can be harnessed to create sustainable energy.

This research was supported as a part of UVic's Canadian-Pacific Robotic Ocean Observing Facility, funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and BC Knowledge Development Fund.

## health & safety updates

The January term begins with a shift to online learning for Jan. 10-24, along with renewed attention to health and safety measures that will keep our campus a low-risk setting for COVID-19 transmission. As the details of health and safety measures are worked out, visit *uvic.ca/return-to-campus* regularly to keep up-to-date with the most current guidance.

## Top 10 of 2021

From addressing injustice to inspiring creative ingenuity, UVic was at the forefront in 2021, providing expertise and offering solutions to another year of change and stories that gripped the world's attention.

### Climate conversations

As hundreds of government officials and experts—including a UVic delegation—attended the COP26 climate conference in Scotland, UVic signed on to the Race to Zero, an international carbon-emissions pledge to build a sustainable future. UVic researchers had plenty to discuss on climate this year—from explaining how June's record-breaking heatwave would have been "virtually impossible" without human-caused climate change, to showing how climate monitoring and analysis can help governments and businesses plan for the impacts of climate change.

### Re-awakening the ancestors

Read about the Pacheedaht c̓upuc on pages 4-5.

### 150 years of racism in BC

*Challenging Racist British Columbia: 150 Years and Counting* launched in February and delves into the long history of racist policies impacting Indigenous, Black and racialized communities in BC, tying the histories of racism and resistance to present-day anti-racist movements.

### Pandemic drinking and alcohol policy

British Columbians drank more alcohol during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic than they have in the past 20 years, according to the latest analysis of BC alcohol sales data. Increased alcohol consumption coincides with alcohol-related problems, which include accidents, injuries, domestic violence, cancer and other illnesses.

### Art as catalyst for Indigenous Impact Chair

See Carey Newman story, page 1.

### 215+ and a commitment to truth

On June 1, the university community came together in ceremony to honour the children whose remains were found and to offer support to Elders, students, staff and faculty. A sacred fire was lit according to local protocol.

### What's the matter with lasers?

Lasers in sci-fi movies cut and burn. But UVic physicist Art Olin and a Canadian research team used the lasers they developed to cool antimatter to near absolute zero, and became the first in the world to manipulate antimatter using lasers.

### What you otter know about eelgrass

Research by UVic PhD student Erin Foster and other BC scientists proved a that the digging activities of sea otters led to greater genetic diversity in eelgrass —an important finding because eelgrass prevents shoreline erosion, and provides a habitat for herring and a nursery area for rockfish and salmon.

### Award-winning, transformational playwright

In June, Syilx and Tsilhqot'in playwright and director Kim Senklip Harvey became the first Indigenous woman to win the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama—less than a week after receiving her UVic Master of Fine Arts in Writing.

### UVic alumni at the Tokyo Summer Olympics

At last year's Tokyo Olympics, UVic men's rugby alumnus Nathan Hirayama, Canada's all-time leading scorer, was one of the flagbearers who led the Canadian team into the opening ceremonies. And while he and his rugby sevens didn't medal, two other former Vikes did.

**Read more: *bit.ly/21-wrap***

# CANOE CREATION RE-AWAKENS PACHEEDAHT TRADITIONS

**For the first time in more than 50 years, an oceangoing dugout canoe was carved, blessed and launched by the Pacheedaht First Nation. Hewn from a 500-year-old western red cedar, the canoe—or čupuc (pronounced chuh-PUTZ)—is the centrepiece of a two-year project envisioned in the community and brought into being in partnership with UVic child and youth care professor Sarah Wright Cardinal, with funding by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.**

**BY SUZANNE AHEARNE**

Since the day she was hauled into the Pacheedaht community in June of 2021, she's been the centre of attention. Teenagers turned off TVs and gaming consoles and left the comfort of Wi-Fi to hang out in the canoe shed to be near her. Kids who'd had a hard time focusing on school all year spent entire days and warm summer evenings listening to stories and songs about her, as wood chips flew from chainsaws and hand tools, and her sleek and powerful shape emerged from the 500-year-old western red cedar log.

And that was the point. The idea—to involve a whole community in the carving of an oceangoing canoe, and surround it with the teachings and culture of their pre-colonial ancestors—was designed with young people in mind. The project aimed to revive confidence, health and well-being, and pride—in particular, among its young men—by creating a work of great physical and symbolic weight.

The canoe, which over the course of the four-month carving process "revealed itself as female," is the centrepiece of a two-year project that emerged from and is led by the Pacheedaht First Nation (PFN), in partnership with UVic child and youth care professor Sarah Wright Cardinal. It is the first seaworthy dugout canoe to be carved in the community for more than 50 years.

"Reclaiming Nuu-chah-nulth teachings to empower and strengthen the roles and responsibilities of Pacheedaht young men" is funded by a $200,000 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, a federal agency that supports post-secondary research. This partnership is UVic's first memorandum of understanding with the PFN, one of 12 First Nations with reserves in the Capital Regional District.

## Impacts of isolation

On October 28, the still-raw and unpainted canoe—or čupuc (pronounced chuh-PUTZ)—was blessed according to traditional ceremony. Its launch into the Gordon River that day coincided with one of the many fall atmospheric rivers to barrel through BC. That morning, intense rain and wind knocked down several power poles near Jordan River, about 40 km down Highway 14, which connects Pacheedaht with nearby Port Renfrew, and with Sooke and Victoria to the south.

Invited guests from Victoria say they drove over a live wire and around a downed tree to get there, where most of the 130 or so community residents and family from neighbouring Dididaht First Nation waited, chatting excitedly over the din of the rain pounding on the canoe shed's metal roof and the drone of the diesel generators that power the community every time BC Hydro service gets knocked out.

These weather conditions aren't uncommon, but they highlight one of the challenges this small and remote community faces: isolation.

Thirteen Pacheedaht children attend the elementary school in Port Renfrew. While there are future plans to build a K-12 school in community, no date for that has been set. For children above grade five, getting to school involves a 150-km, four-hour round-trip bus trip to Sooke. It's a tough slog. The graduation rate is low.

On top of the impacts of trans-generational trauma, that has placed a lot of weight on its young people. "We're healing from genocide and assimilative policies," says Cardinal, who is Cree from Treaty 8 territory and has a PhD from UVic in curriculum and instruction. "So, it's critically important to provide experiences for youth in their home communities. And we need our young men well for our communities to be well."

## A canoe is not just a boat

In Pacheedaht, as in other communities of the 14 Nuu-chah-nulth nations on Vancouver Island, a cedar canoe is not just a boat. A canoe was once the lifeblood of the economic, social, spiritual and governance systems of these whaling nations.

The canoe project brought Makah master carver Micah Hawt'wilth'iayatuk McCarty from Neah Bay—across the Juan de Fuca Strait at the northern tip of Washington State's Olympic Peninsula—to mentor and teach carving skills to two young apprentice carvers, Trystan Dunn-Jones, 25, and Trent Jones, 28. Considered "cousins," the Makah are related by kinship, language and culture to the Pacheedaht and Dididaht nations.

Chief Jeff Jones says a two-metre-wide, 11-metre-high cedar tree was chosen and felled in the Qala:yit Community Forest—a partnership between the Cowichan Lake Community Forest Co-operative, the Pacheedaht First Nation and the provincial government—less than a year ago. Some of the first cuts were done at the nation's sawmill, allowing for slabs of high-end cedar to be used for other projects, rather than being turned into wood chips.

That need was keenly observed by women in community. And it was the vision of some of these women to launch the canoe project. Former PFN Health Director Roxy Jones, a child and youth care grad who also holds a master's in Indigenous counselling from UVic, joined Cardinal to write the proposal to fund a master carver to mentor apprentices and provide wraparound supports and cultural teachings. PFN council member Tracy Charlie was also essential to the envisioning, and co-led the project with Cardinal, continuing to provide cultural guidance alongside Elders and knowledge keepers.

Makah master carver Micah McCarty roughs out the canoe shape with a chainsaw. PHOTO: SOPHIE ADAMS

During the ceremony before the launching of the canoe, Qwul'sih'yah'maht Robina Thomas, UVic's Associate Vice-President Indigenous (seated, L) and Helga Hallgrímsdóttir, UVic's Dean of Human and Social Development (seated, R) hold drums given to them as gifts which were designed by master carver Micah McCarty. Behind are UVic project lead Sarah Wright Cardinal (L) and Trena Black, a UVic PhD student from T'Souke First Nation, holding paddle gifts. PHOTO: SUZANNE AHEARNE

As they prepare to launch the canoe into the Gordon River for the first time, apprentice carver Trystan Dunn-Jones (L) and Makah master carver Micah McCarty (R) steady the canoe on the trailer, while Elected Chief Jeff Jones looks on. PHOTO: SUZANNE AHEARNE

> *"I think the long-term lesson in this for the young men was that this is not easy. It takes time and patience and perseverance and dedication and a work ethic. And they want to do more."*
>
> — MAKAH MASTER CARVER MICAH MCCARTY

McCarty taught his apprentices relevant drawing and math skills, how to read the log and the grain and how to use power tools and hand tools like the adze. "I think the long-term lesson in this for the young men was that this is not easy," says McCarty. "It takes time and patience and perseverance and dedication and a work ethic. And they want to do more."

Once they've put in what he calls the "sweat equity," the bigger lessons materialize. "With this knowledge and the ability to use their hands and their bodies, to learn from someone who lives these teachings, they see it's within their reach...and they can move forward and pass that on to their children and the next generations."

Dunn-Jones is a recent UBC graduate of the Indigenous Teacher Education program. He left the community when he was 16 and, until earlier in the year when he moved back, he'd never carved before. He told CBC: "This was one of the coolest things that's ever happened in my life."

"I believe this project brought everything from all aspects of the territory into one—the resources, the people, the culture—into one powerful experience," he says. "It's steered my heart into land-based curriculum."

## Wisdom of matriarchs

The circle of women who support this project work to involve the whole community. They bring what McCarty and Cardinal refer to as "a lot of matriarchal wisdom and strength."

In this circle are two UVic research assistants: Pacheedaht member Sheila Jones, who completed the requirements for her Bachelor of Child and Youth Care on the project, and T'Sou-ke member Trena Black, a PhD student in UVic's Social Dimensions of Health program who has matrilineal ties to Pacheedaht. (A third research assistant, Sophie Adams, social sciences undergrad and a Metis community member of Pacheedaht, joined in the fall to make a video about bringing the čupuc to life.)

## Lighting a flame

Sheila Jones was raised in Pacheedaht, leaving after high school to go to then-Malaspina College (now Vancouver Island University). She lived in Nanaimo for 27 years until she moved to Victoria to attend UVic. This summer, she developed and ran a weekly role model program for children and youth to listen to Nuu-chah-nulth guest speakers share their pathways to wellness. Role models included UVic Elders-in-residence Kathy LaFortune, a Pacheedaht member, and husband Doug LaFortune.

It's difficult, she explains, for young men to know how to be a son, a brother, a father—one of the impacts of residential schools and missing role models.

"When I was young," she says, "I saw a lot of suffering. I saw a lot of suicides.... Things are changing but it's still very isolated here. It's important to raise up [the young men] and teach them and give them tools. It lights a little flame."

She recently started working at the Songhees Wellness Centre as a youth wellness coordinator and will soon be working in area high schools where Songhees members attend.

"I think part of my role here this summer, was just to show that you can go to school, you can complete grade 12, you can go to college, you can go to university. You can leave the community, and come back and help your community."

## A magnet for joy and laughter

In addition to her PhD studies, Trena Black is also a UVic education alum who was in the first cohort of UVic's Master's of Indigenous Language Revitalization program. She was among the group who protected the space around the canoe, making sure good feelings surrounded it. The carving shed became a magnet for joy and love and laughter—and good food which she and others in the community prepared for the children and young men who gathered there. For the summer, she camped on the beach along with Cardinal, assisted with a pit cook, managed the COVID safety plan, and documented the project with photographs and video.

Those photos will illustrate a bilingual Dididaht-English children's ebook and curriculum guide that she, Dunn-Jones and Cardinal will be co-writing with a community Elder and youth this winter. Black explains the impact on her this way: "Our ancestors' values are in our DNA, and when we do something to make them proud, you can feel the ancestors' blood running through your veins."

This holistic form of teaching that keeps well-being at its centre informs her work as BC School District 61's first-ever Indigenous elementary specialist teacher—part of a team launched in September 2020. In this role, the teacher of more than 22 years supports teachers and administrators to Indigenize classrooms, make safe spaces, and share Indigenous resources.

## Babies-to-Elders learning

Weekly arts and crafts nights are one component of the project that will continue through the spring of 2022, along with bi-weekly babies-to-Elders intergenerational culture nights with Dididaht neighbours.

"It enlivens the memories of the days when cedar carving, potlatching and canoe carving were integral parts of the community," explains Cardinal. "The singers and dancers are reawakening that ancient knowledge and natural governance systems that centre on the canoe teachings."

## Decolonizing academia

Asked how this type of academic research and partnering differs from traditional research, Cardinal says it's not what many think of as scholarly work. "This is a ceremonial, education and community wellness journey, and it's a necessary part of child and youth care today."

"Everything stays in community. This respects the intellectual property of Pacheedaht and Nuu-chah-nulth teachings. The ancestral and local land and water-based knowledge is enlivened at home in the village, nurturing strong kinship family systems."

UVic Dean of Human and Social Development Helga Halgrímsdóttir and inaugural Associate Vice-President Indigenous Qwul'sih'yah'maht Robina Thomas made a point to attend the blessing ceremony. Each tell of UVic's commitments to decolonizing research and renewing relationships with Indigenous communities.

"It's a wonderful example of committing to working in a holistic way, including the youth, ensuring the transmission of land and cultural teachings, with elders and knowledge keepers guiding the majority of this work." says Thomas, a member of the Lyackson First Nation and related through matrilineal lines to the Snuneymuxw First Nation, at the blessing ceremony.

Cardinal sees part of her role as a conduit to knowledge-sharing back to the university community: to bring Indigenous content into course curriculum as well as into research, and model "ethical, responsible, Indigenous research."

## Preparing for her first journey

This winter, master carver McCarty will return to complete the fine-tuning and painting of the canoe before its official naming ceremony next spring. It will also be an opportunity to bring the youth back together in community—especially important through the long, dark season.

And they will be preparing to take the canoe on her first sea journey as part of the summer mini-youth conference that will include relatives from neighbouring Nuu-chah-nulth nations—the final phase of this four-part project.

"It's a very positive thing for our younger generations," says Chief Jones. "And," he says from the riverbank, as excited children are ferried by adults in rubber boots and hipwaders to ride in the canoe for what he calls her first bath, "as you can see, there's so much joy and laughter and pride and happiness in the air today."

> *"This was one of the coolest things that's ever happened in my life. I believe this project brought everything from all aspects of the territory into one—the resources, the people, the culture—into one powerful experience. It's steered my heart into land-based curriculum"*
>
> — PACHEEDAHT APPRENTICE CARVER TRYSTAN DUNN-JONES

Children take turns paddling in the čupuc (canoe) on the Gordon River. PHOTO: SUZANNE AHEARNE

# Celebrating Shelagh Rogers

**BY JODY PATERSON**

Fittingly enough, the story of Shelagh Rogers' life-changing adventure as University of Victoria chancellor opens with a literary twist.

The story begins in 2013, when the long-time host of CBC's *The Next Chapter* was enjoying a "really fun and raucous" evening at UVic, hosting a tribute to create a scholarship in honour of the poet and retiring UVic professor Lorna Crozier. Two friends on faculty asked Rogers if they could throw her name into the hat in the search for UVic's next chancellor. Rogers tossed out a cheerful *"Sure!"* and the night concluded.

But the wheels had been set in motion. The next person to ask her the same question months later was calling on behalf of the chancellor search committee. Rogers was in Cape Breton when the call came, attending the funeral of her dear friend and novelist Alistair MacLeod.

"I didn't even know what a chancellor was, or what they did," recalls Rogers. "There were challenges to me taking the role. I wasn't a UVic alumna. I live on Gabriola Island. I live with depression, which meant there would be times when I couldn't fulfill my duties. Like the Volkswagen at a wedding, I came dragging all kinds of cans behind me."

"But Jamie Cassels, UVic's president at the time, told me that UVic was committed to doing more around mental health for students, and that my depression would be no more of a problem than if I had the flu or a sprain and couldn't make an event. Everyone was so gracious, so accepting. And I thought, well, let's give it a try."

Rogers began her first term as UVic's 11th chancellor on Jan. 1, 2015, immersing herself quickly in her new voluntary role and the rigorous committee work and ceremony that the position encompassed. Seven years on, she will wrap up an extended two terms on Dec. 31, having stayed on for an additional year because of the pandemic.

The role will end but the bond is forever, says Rogers. Her moving and vivid stories from her time at UVic had both subject and interviewer dabbing their eyes during the interview for this article. UVic President Kevin Hall agrees that there's definitely a special connection between UVic and Rogers.

"Her term as chancellor may be coming to an end, but our connection is not," says Hall. "In fact, we are just getting started."

Rogers (with AVP Indigenous Robina Thomas at left). UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

## A change of traditions

Rogers' passion for truth and reconciliation has been an ideal fit for the university in the challenging and difficult work of moving away from a colonial past that has shaped the people, practices and policies of virtually every Canadian university for more than 200 years.

"I am an honorary witness to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which let me come here with what I'd witnessed there," says Rogers. "I'm so proud of UVic for being on its own journey to truth and reconciliation. So much groundwork has been laid."

Every detail matters when trying to change the world, and Rogers got an early chance to impact a colonial practice at her first spring convocation in 2015. The tradition at the time was for each student receiving a bachelor's degree to kneel in front of the chancellor's chair on their way across the stage.

But when Indigenous student Hjalmer Wenstob's turn came, he stopped in front of Rogers and quietly told her that, with all respect, his family had asked him not to kneel. "Oh, I'm down with that!" said Rogers through her live mic. By the fall convocation that year, the practice of kneeling in front of a seated chancellor had been replaced by a touch on the shoulder from a standing one.

"No Indigenous person should be bowing or kneeling in front of me. No graduate should. If anything, it should be me kneeling to honour them," says Rogers.

She also suggested an alternative to having organ music open every convocation. "We now have sacred Indigenous songs and drumming, so generously shared by cultural practitioners from the territories the university stands on," says Rogers.

Songhees Elder Dr. Skip Dick has brought his leadership to the challenge of instilling UVic ceremony with Coast Salish protocol, adds Rogers. Dick "delivers a lesson in Coast Salish protocol at every opportunity," whether that protocol is about clearing the path of obstacles for graduating students and their families or welcoming a new university president to the territory.

"One of my proudest days was being able to confer on Skip an honorary doctorate of education in my first year as chancellor," says Rogers. "To be able to say 'Dr. Skip Dick'—you feel like the universe is back in balance when something like that happens. Same with conferring an honorary degree upon the Knowledge Keeper Barney Williams. Two powerful events, restoring harmony."

## Growing the conversation on mental health

Rogers lives with depression, and has deeply appreciated the chance to be part of a growing dialogue on campus focused on students' mental health.

"Almost every time I hosted a mental health awareness event," Rogers recalls, "there would be a number of students presented in a line, each stepping forward to tell a bit of their story, then back while another did the same. They alternated like that in a kind of a story weave. I could never have done that at their age. They are so courageous. It was so inspiring."

Years of honing her skills as a CBC host turns out to have much relevance to the work of a chancellor. For that same mental health event, Rogers drew on her experience to conduct live interviews with the mental-health experts or people with lived experience participating in the event.

But she also learned a hard lesson early on that not everything about journalism is a good fit for a chancellor. A truly painful memory from her first six months involves an incident when she followed the long-standing journalistic instinct to be the first to break a story—in this case, the 2015 death of Joyce Underwood, a founding member of UVic's Elders Voices program.

Rogers had great respect and love for the Elder, and rushed to post a tribute to her on Facebook. Unbeknownst to Rogers, that was a grievous breach of Coast Salish protocol, which honours those who have died by not publically saying their name or sharing their image for a year.

The university's First Peoples House brought it to her attention and gently corrected her. Rogers felt mortified by the error. She immediately deleted the post and apologized to Underwood's family.

"Friends said to me at the time, 'Well, you didn't know.' In truth, I didn't ask. Like a journalist, I wanted to be first with the story," says a still-apologetic Rogers.

But a good story can also change a life, she notes—something that the late Ojibwe author and Rogers' friend Richard Wagamese imprinted on her. "All that we are is story," wrote Wagamese. "It is what we arrive with. It is all we leave behind." Rogers has shared his words at many UVic convocations.

"Richard made me think about the choices we make in creating our own story. He was all about how we can shape our own story," says Rogers. "The therapy I have been through for depression is all about reshaping the narrative–that our stories are not finite. I like sending students off with the understanding that they can create the best possible person by making choices that shape their personal story."

Hall says Rogers has won over the entire university community with her enthusiasm, goodwill and compassion.

"She has taught us a great deal, and made a huge impact on our university. I am entirely confident that UVic is a better place because of her."

## Passing the torch

As her chapter as chancellor comes to a close, Rogers recalls the day last year when she learned that BC Provincial Court Judge Marion Buller will be the next chancellor. Buller is a UVic law graduate and the first female First Nations judge to be appointed to a provincial court back in 1994.

"I happened to be looking out the window at the Salish Sea when I heard that Marion had said yes. At that very moment, two orcas breached. You can't get more of a sign than that!"

Rogers plans to heed the advice of a chancellor friend at the University of Manitoba, Anne Mahon, to take some time for herself before jumping into whatever lies ahead.

"She sent me a lovely note pointing out that, yes, when something ends, something else begins, but that the in-between time is good to rest in. I think that's what I'll do," says Rogers. "A rest will create a space for what's next."

Not that it will be a silent rest, or one that takes Rogers too far from her deep commitment to the issues that have defined so much of her life's work and her role as chancellor.

"I realize that I have a platform, and it has granted me access to worlds that I would never have been able to be part of otherwise," Rogers notes. "But I've had to be mindful of my role at the university in terms of what I was out there saying.

"Now, I'm hoping to use my voice in more direct ways. I'm looking forward to being able to take the cork out!"



PHILANTHROPY

# $1.5M gift to support Indigenous mental health research

UVic is establishing a new research chair in Indigenous mental health named after the late Chief Mungo Martin, the world-renowned Kwakwaka'wakw artist who contributed so much to the creative arts which play an integral role in shifting cultural perceptions of mental health. The research chair is funded by a $1.5-million gift from UVic political science alum Bruce McKean.

"We are grateful for the donation that established the research chair in Mungo Martin's name," says Chief David Mungo Knox, great-grandson of the late Chief Mungo Martin. "And to use his name in what is an important and needed area of research all over Canada."

The university is thankful for this generous contribution to the clinical psychology program at UVic which will help strengthen research, teaching and community engagement in Indigenous health and well-being. UVic is grateful to Chief Martin's family for the honour of allowing the university to use the name of their honoured relative, who worked with Indigenous nations all along the west coast to help communities reclaim traditions of carving and other art forms.

"This new position, with its focus on mental health and by supporting research grounded in traditional knowledge, reflects the university's commitment to providing community support, says UVic President Kevin Hall, "and to being accountable to the commitments we have made to taking action on truth, respect and reconciliation.

McKean originally suggested the name of the research chair to reflect an important memory from his childhood when he would visit Thunderbird Park with his mother.

"I can still recall the scent of cedar shavings from my childhood," McKean says. "I would stand and stare, watching Mungo Martin work on his carvings."

McKean also wanted to pay respect and give further recognition to the Mungo Martin name. "He was a leader in the rediscovery of First Nations art, culture and ceremonies."

Chief David Mungo Knox in a forest near his home in the village of Fort Rupert—Tsaxis, Kwaqu'ł (Kwakiutl), holding a carving by his late great-grandfather. PHOTO: KWAKIUTL PHOTOGRAPHER KIMBERLEY KUFAAS, A COUSIN OF KNOX AND GREAT-GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER OF CHIEF MUNGO MARTIN

A few years ago, McKean deepened his connection to Indigenous ways of knowing during a conference. The experience of listening to Indigenous voices and taking part in a smudging ceremony led him to see the truth about colonialism in Canada.

"Truth and reconciliation is about Canadians reconciling ourselves to the truth about our history with Indigenous Peoples," he adds.

The role of the chair, in UVic's Department of Psychology, will be to develop mental-wellness research and learning that is informed by engagement with Indigenous partners and communities. The university is actively recruiting for an Indigenous scholar with a background in Indigenous knowledge and methodologies, as well as health expertise, to fill this new academic position in 2022.

The donation to establish the Chief Mungo Martin Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health recognizes the historical and continuing impacts of colonialism on Indigenous Peoples. McKean hopes the research chair will create knowledge and leadership consistent with Indigenous values—reinforcing and advancing those values for the benefit of all Canadians. The role of the chair supports UVic's commitment to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goal 3 which focuses on good health and well-being.

PHILANTHROPY

# Record-breaking year for Giving Tuesday

**BY SARAH TARNOPOLSKY**

With its colourful sprinkle theme, Giving Tuesday has become a favourite annual tradition at the university. Thanks to tremendous support from alumni, UVic faculty and staff, sponsors and other supporters, this year's event raised $178,673, pushing the multi-year total over half a million dollars. That money supports 24 different causes at UVic that benefit students, research and community-focused programs like University 101, CanAssist and the Centre for Outreach Education.

The global Giving Tuesday initiative counters the commercialism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday through a day dedicated to philanthropic giving and volunteering. Here at UVic, it demonstrates what is possible when members of the entire UVic community come together for causes they care about. The sprinkle theme really encapsulates this. Each person's small act of participation adds to the overall impact, and this year's record-breaking result proves how powerful that collective effort can be.

TOP RIGHT: President Kevin Hall lands on the Chance tile and spins the wheel to see what his fate will be. LOWER LEFT: Philanthr-opoly—an interactive game that teaches players about the impact of donations at UVic—was played by 453 students and other campus visitors on Giving Tuesday. LOWER RIGHT: One of the differences between the traditional game of Monopoly and Philanthr-opoly is that real money is involved, thanks to generous Giving Tuesday sponsors. After playing, students chose to designate their "Sprinkle Bucks" to one of 24 funds. ALL PHOTOS BY UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

# Day in the Life: Ruth Parrish

Parrish has a tea and a laugh while on break at work. UVIC PHOTO SERVICES.

**BY PHILIP COX**

On a warm spring day last May, Ruth Parrish and her daughter Alana stood in front of a large crowd by the longhouse outside the Royal BC Museum, drums adorned with their Haida family crest in hand, singing The Children's Blessing Song by Cree-Dene musician Sherryl Sewepagaham.

Between them stood Layla—barely one year old, hands gripped tight, her beautiful brown eyes soaking up the scene before her from the safety of the shadows cast by her mother and grandmother.

This was no ordinary day for Parrish; nor for anyone who had read the news that day. This was the day the remains of 215 Indigenous children were revealed at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, and Parrish was singing in their honour.

"I'm not outgoing. I don't do these kinds of thing very often," Parrish states. "But for the children I did it, you know? For the people there. For ceremony. For healing. So… it was a really big moment in a small way, you know? It's just a song. But it's more than a song, really."

An ordinary day for Ruth Parrish starts between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. when she wakes up naturally, free from the shrill of an alarm. Four days per week she drives to the University of Victoria, where she works as an administrative assistant for the Indigenous Studies program.

Lucky visitors to her office might be greeted with a fresh cup of Healing Tea that Parrish has made from ingredients grown in her garden, bags of which the department sometimes gives as gifts.

Much of her days are spent in meetings or handling "the nitty gritty admin stuff," but increasingly Parrish works with students, helping them to navigate the academic system with her own particular approach. "I just try to make students feel at home and comfortable and like they're a real person, you know? Not just a number or a face," Parrish explains. "Their concerns are real and they need to be addressed. Can I help them? I hope I do."

Lisa Kahaleole Hall, a Kānaka Maoli critical theorist and director of the Indigenous Studies program, is confident she does. "Ruth has been a pivotal support for Indigenous Studies students and faculty," Hall says. "It is no exaggeration to say the launch of the Indigenous Studies major could not have succeeded without her patience, perseverance and positivity."

Jeff Corntassel, a political scholar from the Cherokee Nation and associate professor of Indigenous Studies, adds that Parrish "creates a sense of community in every aspect of the programming for Indigenous Studies. Her enthusiasm, kindness, community spirit and respect are evident in her everyday interactions, and this has a spillover effect for everyone that she meets."

Last fall, Parrish received the 2021 Həuistəŋ Award from the Faculty of Humanities for her contributions to Indigenous education, community and cultural resurgence at UVic, indicating that her impact extends well beyond her office walls.

Before the pandemic, Parrish went once weekly into grade school classrooms as part of the Sooke School District's Aboriginal Role Model program, to share her family history and tell the story of her journey to reconnect with her cultural heritage.

"My mom is Haida. My dad is British. I was born in Skidegate, Haida Gwaii, but basically raised as a white Canadian in North Vancouver," Parrish shares. "My Haida grandparents were prohibited by an Indian Agent to potlatch or sing or dance or celebrate their culture at all. My mom was born into that, then left the island when she was 18, so I didn't grow up with that culture. No songs, no protocol, nothing."

For most of her life, Parrish's only connection to Haida Gwaii was a trip with her family when she was 10 and regular visits from her Haida grandmother, who frequently came to Vancouver on business. All told, it was more than four decades before she returned to her birthplace once more.

"We met all these remarkable people—this family that we never knew. I was introduced to my ancestors, my Elders, and relatives who made me feel so welcome," Parrish states. "They just brought

Parrish (right) and her daughter Alana (left) sing in honour of the 215 Indigenous children buried at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, while her granddaughter Layla (centre) soaks up the scene. IMAGE: LOU-ANN NEEL.

me in. I went to my first potlatch. There was no judgment; just total acceptance. That started a whole personal journey for me."

Since then, Parrish has taken many steps to reconnect with her Indigenous identity.

That includes courses in Indigenous Theology and Indigenous Studies, as well as regular weeks-long trips to Haida Gwaii, where she visits her family and new-found community of friends while spending weekdays at language school to listen and learn from the local Elders.

"For me, working in UVic's Indigenous Studies program is the biggest part of my own journey," she says. "It's more than a job. I really stand behind what we're building here. I believe in giving people the tools they need to understand their own Indigenous identity or to understand Indigenous issues more clearly."

What exactly the next steps will be for Ruth Parrish is anyone's guess, but at the end of the day she's quite certain about one thing in particular:

"My seventies are going to be the best years of my life," she says with a great laugh. "I'm kind of looking forward to it."