

Community and University Engagement @ University Of Victoria

University of Victoria's new Strategic Framework (2018-2023)

UVic's vision is to "integrate outstanding scholarship, engaged learning and real-life involvement to contribute to a better future for people and the planet." The most recent Strategic Framework (2018-2023) highlights UVic's ongoing commitment to excellence in community-engaged research and innovation to advance human knowledge, improve and enrich lives, tackle global challenges and promote the sustainability of the planet. The framework also builds on the university's leadership in experiential education and transformative learning, and aims to provide each student with dynamic and relevant opportunities for applied, research-enriched and work integrated learning. A strong focus on advancing reconciliation through respectful partnerships with First Nations in research and education is also at the forefront of UVic's mandate. And finally, UVic is committed to the promotion of a sustainable future through its research, teaching and institutional operations. Foundational to this work is a commitment to nurturing long-term relationships with civil, public and private partners and First Nations built on trust, respect and reciprocity. Partnerships are vital to UVic's strategic vision for collective impact and are strongly integrated into the research, teaching and service of our institution.

Engage Locally and Globally: Working Together for Collective Impact

Engagement of our local and global communities is a core value that advances UVic's mission and is at the heart of its new Strategic Framework (2018-2023): UVic will be a preferred partner and a leader in local and global engagement. Working together for mutual benefit with community, private sector, government and other educational and research organizations, UVic will expand and inform its approach to engaged research, creative activity, learning and knowledge mobilization to foster connections and co-create positive change.

Our Approach: Growing our Collective Impact

Collective impact strategies bring together a broad spectrum of public, private and civil organizations to catalyze large-scale action-oriented partnerships in solving local challenges. The outcomes of these partnerships usually are place-based and context-specific to a city or region, and are designed to drive change across entire systems. To embrace a collective impact approach does not diminish the role of community-driven priorities; instead, collective impact requires recognition that community partners, including First Nations and Indigenous partners, public and private sector organizations, have vital knowledge and an epistemic advantage to act on community issues. UVic's strength in research, knowledge mobilization and education provide capacity for its partnerships to co-create knowledge that solves complex issues. UVic and its partners have opportunities, through their collective impact, to be key drivers that develop an enabling environment to address local and global challenges and drive sustainable change.

A University that builds community engagement

UVic's Strategic Framework articulates UVic's vision "to be the Canadian research university that best integrates outstanding scholarship, engaged learning and real-life involvement to contribute to a better future for people and the planet." Across the six strategic priorities of the Strategic Framework, community engagement operates as an engine that drives opportunities to advance and mobilize

knowledge, transform learning, improve and enrich lives, tackle global challenges, foster respect and reconciliation and promote sustainability.

Locally grounded partnerships for community engagement

UVic's Indigenous Plan (2017-2022), guided by the teachings of Coast Salish First Nations, identifies a path for engaged teaching and research conducted in respectful partnership with Indigenous communities in our region, across Canada and the world. In each instance, partnerships must be locally grounded in an understanding of place and conducted for mutual benefit. At the levels of individual behaviour, community level impact, systems and policy change, community-engaged research has produced demonstrable outcomes. A recent impact assessment (2016) found over 20 percent of community-engaged research had an Indigenous focus or was conducted in partnership with First Nations and Indigenous communities.

UVic is an open and engaged university that works in partnership to build collective impact. Engagement of students, faculty and researchers with local community partners mobilizes new knowledge focused on regional problems and builds institutional capacity for communities as well as the university. Through their participation in community-engaged learning and research, students gain skills and knowledge that continue to have a positive impact not only on their own careers but also on the organizations with which they will work and the communities in which they will live after graduation.

Community engagement that is internationally informed

UVic works in partnership to address global challenges. Research across UVic, according to a recent institutional assessment, has had a positive impact across all of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Outcomes had a positive impact particularly in:

- Goal 3 Good health and Well being
- Goal 4 Quality Education
- Goal 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 13 Combat Climate Change
- Goal 14 Conserve Oceans, Marine Resources, and
- Goal 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

The breadth and reach of research partnerships contributing to collective impact are documented on the Community Engagement Map that displays more than 1,300 records of engagement in 85 countries during 2016/17 (see <https://www.uvic.ca/ocue/engagement-map/>).

In all of these ways, and more, UVic is realizing and committed to significant social impact through knowledge co-creation, research and learning that is built on mutually beneficial, sustained partnerships with community partners.