



University
of Victoria
Indigenous
Education

S'KEL, K'EL

Photo: Pam Bevan

S'KEL, K'EL is SENĆOTEN for "News"

ĆENKI,LES/Spring 2023

IED awarded the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Language Revitalization, Maintenance, & Reclamation

We are happy to announce that Faculty of Education has been awarded the SSHRC Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Language Revitalization, Maintenance and Reclamation.

This is great news and an honour for the Faculty of Education and the Department of Indigenous Education. Indigenous Education students, faculty and staff continue to do this important work in language revitalization in partnership with local communities on Vancouver Island and across BC and Canada.

The CRC program is part of federal funding to advance research in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Tier 2 Chairs, tenable for five years and renewable once, are for exceptional emerging researchers, acknowledged by their peers as having the potential to lead in their field.

The intent of Tier 2 Chairs is to provide emerging researchers with support that will kick-start their careers. As part of their strategic considerations in managing their allocations, institutions should develop a succession plan for their Tier 2 Chairs.

UVic continues to be a leader in post-secondary Indigenous Language Revitalization in Canada.



Team Updates



Chair's Update

by Ted Riecken

This has been a busy year! It is hard to believe that in a few short months my tenure as Acting Chair will end and Jean-Paul Restoule will return from his year's administrative leave. In the final months of the spring term, IED is busy readying our new Indigenous Post Degree Professional Program (B.Ed.) and looking forward to welcoming our first group students into this new program in September.

IED is also launching two new language partnerships, the Stz'uminus Language Program launched in the Spring and the Kwak'wala Language Program is expected to launch in the fall. This coming June, we are once again running our IED Summer Institute for students enrolled in the Faculty's Secondary Teacher Education program. In July we are also running the TQS Summer Institute for practicing teachers who wish to learn more about Indigenous pedagogy and culture.

Another exciting development for the Department is the recent announcement that we have been awarded a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Language Revitalization! The search and selection process for that new position will begin shortly, with the hopes for an announcement of a new hire coming early in the fall.

So, as I said, it has been a busy year and we have accomplished much. It has been an exciting and energizing year for me and I am appreciative of the opportunity to work with such a great group of people.

Congratulations to Drs. Mclvor, Czaykowska-Higgins & Daniels on receiving the Aspiration Research Cluster Award

Established by UVic's Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation, the Aspiration Research Cluster program was designed to support research excellence, facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and raise the external profile of UVic through capacity-building resources and support.

Congratulations to Drs. Onowa Mclvor, Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins and Belinda Daniels on being awarded the inaugural Indigenous Language Revitalization Cluster.

"Indigenous language revitalization is a significant factor in community wellness, land connection and for the continuation of Indigenous knowledges, epistemologies and worldviews. It is also vital that the languages of the land on which the university occupies are strengthened and maintained as teachings contained in them support lands and ecosystems while contributing to the restoration of legal and governance systems. The Indigenous Language Revitalization Cluster will continue and deepen the consultation process with local Nations to determine what actions and supports are needed for local Nations' languages to thrive." - Dr. Onowa Mclvor

Undergraduate Programs

IED 373 - EL TELNIWT and Indigenous Education



The Fall started with enthusiasm and promise to see the groups of third year students in the required IED 373 course, as well as the first-year students who are taking said course this term. This is a big change in their program, which required the course in their third year. Dr. Carmen Rodriguez de France is preparing to conduct research to learn about students' experiences in the course vis-a-vis their prior knowledge in high school. The findings could be relevant within the current discussion regarding mandated Indigenous courses in high school as a requirement for graduation in 2024.

Carmen's partnership with the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria involving the IED 373

students had another successful term, working with artist and cedar weaver Tyrone Elliott whose patience and calm presence with students in the schools embodied traditional values and teachings (weaved cedar bracelets pictured above).

The two IED 373 classes, instructors Drs. Belinda Daniels and Lauren Jerke, with Carmen's leadership, walked through the Kairos Blanket Exercise (pictured right) in the Cermonial Hall at the First People's House. It was a great experience for all who participated.



Post-Degree Professional Program (PDPP)

We are looking forward to welcoming students into the Teaching profession as we prepare to launch our Indigenous Post-Degree Professional Program in the fall! We are excited at the possibilities that this 2-year program represents not only in terms of advancing reconciliation but as importantly, at the possible ripple effects that these teachers would be able to create in their communities of practice and beyond.

Teaching & Learning Indigenous Perspectives

This 13-month program is formed of 15 students who are practicing teachers and are advancing their knowledge with regard to Indigenous education, pedagogies, worldviews, and ways of knowing. Most students in this cohort are already very knowledgeable, serving as good role models for those in the cohort who are less experienced. These students will finish their program in July.

Indigenous Teaching Circle

The revitalized teaching circles constitute a space where we can support each other as instructors, where we can exchange resources and pedagogical approaches and to feel successful at our attempts to be the best versions of ourselves for our students.

Graduate Programs



Master's in Indigenous Language Revitalization

The Master's in Indigenous Language Revitalization (MILR) 2022 cohort (pictured above) is progressing through their program. From January-June 2023, the cohort is working on three courses through hybrid online and in-person delivery: *Indigenous Additional Language Learning*, a new course, is taught by Dr. Megan Lukaniec, *Indigenous Language Revitalization Pedagogies* is taught by Dr. Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins, and *Leadership and Governance for Language Revitalization* will be taught by Dr. Onowa Mclvor.

In July 2023, we will see the students back on campus to begin working on their research proposals for their final projects. Students from the 2020 MILR cohort, which began its studies online during the start of the pandemic, are deep into the final stages of their projects; we expect that most of them will graduate in June or November.

Indigenous Language Revitalization PhD Students

The PhD students continue to work diligently on their dissertations and candidacy requirements. Chapters and podcasts and videos are being sent to supervisory committees at a terrific pace.

We are overjoyed to share PhD candidate Charlotte Ross was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal in January 2023 by the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Russ Mirasty and Deputy Mayor Andrew Stevens.

It's an inspiration to witness the energy, passion for language, and knowledge that all our graduate students bring to their studies. It is an honour to be part of the education journey.

Graduate Programs

We raise our hands to PhD Candidate, Charlotte Ross, on being awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal



Congratulation to IED PhD candidate, Charlotte Ross! She was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for her significant contribution to the province, awarded by the Lieutenant Governor and the Deputy Mayor of Saskatchewan.

Charlotte Ross is a registered member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation, one of three Woodland Cree Nations in Saskatchewan but now makes her home in southwestern Saskatchewan. Being surrounded by the Woodland Cree language (TH dialect) from birth provided a foundation for her life and she lives with the teachings within, foundationally the principles of mitho-wahkotowin (having good relationships with all of our relatives).

Charlotte is a doctoral candidate in our department specializing in Indigenous Language Revitalization.

Her research focuses on Cree adults who are ‘silent’ or latent speakers, exploring how best to meet their unique learning needs with their strong understanding of the Cree language but a limited, or no, speaking ability. Charlotte holds a graduate degree in Adult Continuing Education and an undergraduate with a specialization in Native Studies. In her professional life Charlotte provides consulting and training services to organizations and training institutions in the areas of First Nations history, treaty education, Indigenous language revitalization and organizational capacity training to support leadership, staff, and community members. She believes that our Indigenous histories and languages hold the answers to our current challenges and future growth.

In her ‘spare time’ (haha, fellow doctoral students), she loves to cook for her family and visit with friends and family on the phone. Her rejuvenation place is up north at her family’s traditional trapline where there is no electricity, no running water, sporadic internet and plenty of trees, paths, rivers, and lakes to get grounded. Charlotte is a mother, an aunty, a partner, and a grandmother. Her family roles are the most important and sacred relations in her life. Early this year Charlotte lost two very significant family members in close succession, her younger brother, and her niece, passing away just ten hours apart from one another. In her grief, Charlotte was able to offer the humble reminder that “each day is a gift, the ‘present’, that is to be treated with love and care as no one knows when our last day will be.” She always shows up to class, to our supervision group, and to our gatherings with gratitude, humility, good humour, great cooking(!) and grace. She has an infinite and infectious curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, who brings a bright light to all learning circles. We are so grateful for you Charlotte, as a member of our inaugural Phd cohort, our Department, our Faculty and UVic – kinanâskomitin.

Submitted by Dr. Onowa McIvor (Faculty member and Graduate Supervisor)

EKÁTEL - We are all connected

EKÁTEL **UVIC**
WE ARE ALL CONNECTED
GLOBAL AND LOCAL GLIMPSES OF LANGUAGE
REVITALIZATION AT UVIC AND BEYOND

DR. LORNA WANOSTS'A7 WILLIAMS
SUZANNE GESSNER
SXEDTELISIYE
ONOWA MCIVOR
EWA CZAYKOWSKA-HIGGINS
PAULA LAITA
RUSSELL MYERS

APRIL 3 & 4, 2023
FIRST PEOPLES HOUSE
CEREMONIAL HALL

DAY 1 | MONDAY
Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams, Host
Suzanne Gessner,
First People's Cultural Council
Russell Myers Ross
Paula Laita Pallares

DAY 2 | TUESDAY
Opening address by President Kevin Hall
Onowa McIvor and Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins,
NEȚOLNEW
Film Premiere: Illuminating Impacts of
Indigenous Language Revitalization
SXEDTELISIYE & PENAWEN, WSANEC Community

On April 3 & 4, 2023, Aliko Marinakis, IED Indigenous Language Programs Manager, worked with professor emeritus Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams and Jasdeep Randhawa, Community Relations Coordinator, to host the two-afternoon event: *EKÁTEL - We are all connected, Global and Local Glimpses of Language Revitalization at UVic and Beyond*. The event featured Indigenous language revitalization (ILR) champions who provided stories and contexts of ILR efforts and research in their communities and included a film premier of *Illuminating Impacts*, a beautiful 20-minute video by film makers UATE Stories.

The name EKÁTEL - We are all connected, was generously gifted to the organizers by WSÁNEĆ language champions PENÁĆ and SXEDTELISIYE. The event was hosted on-line as well as in person at the Ceremonial Hall in the First Peoples House and was attended by local Indigenous community members, ILR graduate and undergraduate students, and interested UVic faculty and staff, as well as people who work in the ILR field.

The first day of the program heard from Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams, providing the grounding context of the event and the history

of the ILR movement, past and present. Dr. Suzanne Gessner, of First People's Culture Council, gave a presentation on status of First Nations languages in BC, Russell Myers Ross, Yunesit'in former Chief and graduate of the Indigenous Governance Master's program, presented the story and history of Tsilhqot'in language revitalization, and Dr. Laita Pallares, from Soziolinguistika Klusterra Research Centre presented on the context and methods of Euskara (Basque language) revitalization.

The second day saw an introduction by UVic President Dr. Kevin Hall, as well as a presentation on the multi-year ILR adult learning grant NEȚOLNEW from Drs. Onowa McIvor and Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins. A beautiful story and songs of SENĆOŦEN revitalization was shared by SXEDTELISIYE and PENAWEN, who are SENĆOŦEN instructors, teachers, UVic graduates, and WSÁNEĆ community partners.

The second day also saw the launch of the beautiful film *Illuminating Impacts*. The short film, created by talented film makers Erynne Gilpin and KI Peruzzo, looks back through 10 years of ILR at UVic within the Vancouver Island language communities and seeks to explore hidden impacts from perspectives of participants and former students. The project was initiated and co-produced by Dr. Shauneen Pete and Aliko Marinakis, who were lucky to find Erynne Gilpin and KI Peruzzo of UATE Stories, who bravely took on the project after many delays.

Indigenous Language Revitalization Conference

The film makers started this project during the heart of the pandemic and so they had to be very creative as well as safe. They did a wonderful job of connecting and finding stories and created a beautiful work of art featuring instructors, former students and other community language stakeholders across several Island First Nations.

A special thank you to the important donor who donated funds to support and elevate Indigenous language programming in IED, the First People's Cultural Foundation, as well as UVic staff Perry Plewes, Pam Bevan and Colleen Juricic, for supporting the guest speakers and organizers of the successful two-day event.

Pictures from the EKÁTEL - We are all connected – ILR Conference



Language Programs

Exciting New Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Language Proficiency Degree Proposed

In partnership with WŚÁNEĆ School Board (WSB), IED put forward a proposal last Fall for a new the Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Language Proficiency. We have now been approved at all the UVic levels of Senate and are awaiting approval from the Ministry of Advanced Education. This is an exciting step forward in language revitalization at UVic, where we will be able to offer an entire four-year degree, working towards the development of fluency in the languages of our community partners, families and colleagues.

The first intake laddering into the program will be SENĆOŦEN in Fall 2023. We are currently engaging in development work before we launch the program, proposed for a Fall 2023 start. IED is expecting a small cohort of students to continue from W,SENĆOŦEN ISTW into the proposed new BA. Over the next year or so, IED plans to make changes to the initial program to ensure each partnering language community we deliver the program in partnership with will have their particular language recognized on the parchment at graduation. We hold our hands up to our WŚÁNEĆ partners for seeking this path for their adult language learners and always striving for new and better ways to create speakers in their communities.

W,SENĆOŦEN IST local cohort

We are grateful for the ongoing partnership with the WŚÁNEĆ community, as we acknowledge that UVic sits on and uses the land that was unceded by the lək'wəŋən and WŚÁNEĆ people. The small group of students in the current W,SENĆOŦEN IST cohort (pictured right) will complete their course work for their W,SENĆOŦEN IST Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization this summer. Currently they are preparing for their first language practicum where they will explore language learning and teaching environments in the community.



The partnership is postponing our new intake until 2024 so that SENĆOŦEN instructors can focus on the new degree delivery in the Fall. We hope to launch a new intake for SENĆOŦEN and Lekwungen learners for Fall 2024.



Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization

Representing five different language groups, and bonding together over three years of course work, the current cohort of BEDILR students (pictured left) is set to make a powerful impact on their communities and the world. The group has just completed their final practicum and are on track to complete graduation in June. They will be ready and certified to teach in BC public schools, First Nations schools or immersion language schools by Fall 2023 in their languages of Secwepemctsin, Kwak'wala, lək'wəŋən, Nuu-chah-nulth, and SENĆOŦEN. We are very excited to see the impacts they will make in their teaching careers ahead!

Language Programs



New Partnership with Stz'uminus Education Society

In March, IED launched a new partnership with the Stz'uminus Education Society for the local language of Hul'q'umi'num. The Stz'uminus Education Society has a clear goal, and approached UVic over a year ago, to begin enacting their vision of training a new cadre of educators in their language to move their school towards Hul'q'umi'num immersion.

Thirteen women graduate in the Stz'uminus Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization (ILR) program 2022 cohort and are continuing with a Diploma in ILR with IED. Most of these kw'am'kw'um slhunlheni (strong women) already work in education and are passionate about reawakening Hul'q'umi'num. They are on journeys to teach and support Hul'q'umi'num immersion in their communities. By learning from and along side Xwulmuxw instructors, such as PhD candidate Rae Anne Claxton, they are clearing the

path laid by their ancestors for Hul'q'umi'num speakers and learner for generations to come.

Upcoming Partnership for Kwak'wala language

The Department of Indigenous Education has partnered with Kwikwasut'inukw Haxwa'mis First Nation and Nawalakw Healing Society to deliver a Certificate in Indigenous Language Proficiency for Kwak'wala. This is the third island community we are in partnership this year, and we are looking forward to building a robust cohort and program in Kwakwaka'wakw territory this coming year.

Our main community administrator, who will also be instructing in the program, is ikawegi'lakw - Deanna Nicolson, former IED team member, whom we are delighted to be working with again as a community partner! Courses will be held in the Nawalakw healing facility at Hada, in 'Namgis territory (Alert Bay) and online.



Pirurvik Partnership, Iqaluit

This will be our final year of the Pirurvik partnership delivery. Completing a final Certificate and Teaching Diploma this year, they have achieved wonderful outcomes around building Inuktitut proficiency as well as teacher training within the IED program frameworks.

The Pirurvik partnership will transition to continue delivery through Continuing Studies. We are honoured to have had a chance to work with such a forward moving, brilliantly effective and visionary group of people at the Pirurvik Centre, and will continue to be connected academically, as the delivery model transitions.

Community Initiatives



In Community

From Kindergarten to High School to Professional Development for teachers and other public servants, this year Dr. Carmen Rodriguez de France celebrates 24 years as a member of the Speakers' Bureau having facilitated over 300 presentations.

Most of the presentations pertain to Indigenous perspectives (art, history, worldviews, Residential Schools, The Sixties Scoop, and so forth) where Carmen shares what she has learned from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and other mentors who have entrusted her to support efforts towards Reconciliation, advancing her own knowledge and that of others around her. Carmen is grateful for these opportunities, and for having the support of Ms. Mandy Crocker, coordinator of the Speakers' Bureau.

The Book Club with the Greater Victoria Public Library facilitated by Dr. Carmen Rodriguez de France has been growing strong since 2017 to welcome patrons from diverse places on the island and in BC, mostly due to the accessibility of Zoom. Most recently, patrons have engaged with the work of Inuit poet and artist Siku Allooloo; they have read short stories by First Nations writers such as Alicia Elliott and Harold Johnson, and they have also enjoyed the poetry of Métis writer Marilyn Dumont.

Faculty Publications

Olsen, K., & Rodríguez de France, C. (2021). *Finding my voice: A conversation about Indigenous adult education*. In N. Simmons and J. Szpara (Eds.), *Adults in the academy: Voices of lifelong learners*. Brill. Pp.44-56.

Mai, A., & Rodríguez de France, C. (Submitted for publication; working title). *Principles From Principals: Indigenizing Leadership in Schools*. In K. MacKinnon (Ed.), *Learning to Lead Schools: Engaging Principals' Voices*. Canadian Scholars Press.

Daniels, B., Ratt, T., Custer, A., Sterzuk, A., Griffith Brice, M., Fayant, R. (revised and submitted) *ē-pīwīcihtāsowin ahpō ē-pī-wīchisowin: Non-Indigenous learners in Indigenous language-learning spaces*. *Journal of Critical Inquiry in Language Studies*

Ratt, T., Daniels, B., Stevenson, R., & Sterzuk, A. (revised and submitted). "When I chose to become a teacher, I was agreeing to perpetuating colonialism": *Experiences of colonialism in Saskatchewan educational systems*. In Nick Limerick, Jamie Schissel, Mario López Gopar and Vilma Huerta (Eds). *Colonialism, Language, and Education Across the Americas*. Teachers College Press.

Daniels - Guest Blogger - <https://bild-lida.ca/blog/2022/11/>

(Un)learning through a research internship about Indigenous language revitalization: A story of an encounter between a PhD student and two professors (by Ingrid Jasor, Dr Belinda (kakiyosēw) Daniels and Dr Andrea Sterzuk)

NETOLNEW



NETOLNEW Team Update

NETOLNEW (one mind, one people) is an Indigenous-led, Indigenous-governed national partnership of scholars, community leaders, educators, activists, and allies working at the heart of Indigenous language revitalization (ILR) in Canada.

In Fall 2022, the NETOLNEW Partnership members were set to gather for their annual All-Partner's Gathering in Membertou - a Mi'kmaq community located on Unama'kik (Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia) - graciously hosted by project partners, Mi'kmaw Kina'matneway. This was the first in-person gathering planned, after a two-year hiatus during the pandemic. Unfortunately, due to the devastating impacts of hurricane Fiona just days before our departure the gathering was postponed. We sent good wishes and healing energies to our partners Mi'kmaw Kina'matneway on Unama'kik and the broader community as they began to recover.

After some quick action by Alex and Nicole, the 2022 All Partner's Gathering (pictured above) shifted to a virtual format, with partners gathering from their respective territories to share project updates, plan for the remaining year of the grant, and close out the year together in a meaningful way.

As NETOLNEW enters Year 7, the final research year, we shift our focus to knowledge mobilization and sharing research outcomes across the partnership and beyond.

For more information check out their newly redesigned website at www.netolnew.ca.

We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Contributors to the Newsletter

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Belinda Daniels
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Onowa McIvor
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Photo by: Pam Bevan



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