

## Stz'uminus Students Explore Indigenous Plant Medicines with Elder Della Rice Sylvester



Pictured above L to R - **Back row:** Mary McCue, Colleen Juricic, SE'BA'YEQXYE Sierra Pelkey, Naiomi Toye, Janesta Lewis, Della Rice Sylvester, Suliquye' Buffi (Elder-in-Residence), Thee'al'ta'wit Krista Perrault, Dr. Alice L. Meyers (Instructor); **Front row:** Kim Harris, Wushqtunaa't Candice George

### Rooted in Wisdom: Land-based Learning at Bright Angel Park

On January 22, the Stz'uminus BEDILR cohort and IED team members, Colleen Juricic and Mary McCue, embarked on a journey through Bright Angel Park, guided by Elder Della Rice Sylvester. This educational field trip, which focussed on Indigenous plant medicines, was part of their ES 381 course taught by Alice Meyers.

During the walk, Elder Della Rice Sylvester shared her deep knowledge of local Indigenous plants, sharing insights into their medicinal properties and traditional uses. Students had the unique opportunity to see firsthand the uses of Indigenous plant medicines, highlighting the importance of preserving and understanding these practices.

The experience provided a meaningful connection to traditional knowledge and underscored the significance of Indigenous plant medicines within the community. It was a memorable day of learning and appreciation for the rich cultural rooted on the land.



## Indigenous Language Programs



Pictured above L to R - **1st row:** Gə'eli lakw (Harnet Joseph), Gw'ik' lakw (Margaret Wilson), ikaweg' lakw (Deanna Nicolson), Maxw'ig'ogwa (Carolyn Dawson), Pud'idi (Rebecca Mackenzie), Badidu (Shelley Cook); **2nd row:** T'li'niukw (Linda Jones), Gwaxsisalal (Felicja Greekas), Dekilas (Emily Lyall), T'ig'ig'iwik (Tara Nelson), ika'wegam (Lindsay Beans); **3rd row:** G'as'at'atlas (Alana Jacobson), Tsatsig'ia (Kathleen Lounsbury), Kix'k'ag'idz'amga (Laureen Alfred), Tsog'ig'akw (Denzel Wilson), \*M'g'idi (Mercedes Webb)

### Laughing-around in Bakwamk'ala

In this new year, our Bakwamk'ala CILP programs celebrate four more graduates! We applaud Badidu (Shelley Cook), Kix'k'ag'idz'amga (Laureen Alfred), T'ig'ig'iwik (Tara Nelson) and Dekilas (Emily Lyall) for dedicating themselves for a full, intensive year of learning and sharing our language. They not only spent approximately 400 hours online, they also dedicated countless hours teaching our language to school-aged groups at week-long immersive language and culture camps at Hada (Bond Sound).

In addition, this term also marks the second term for our newest cohort. Each day we are joined by our wise-ones, and we support each other to strengthen our proficiency and speak the language of our ancestors. We are grateful for each other, our language and our wise-ones!



### Cross-Generational Mentorship Language Learning

Fourth-year BA SENĆOTEN students are passing on their knowledge by teaching the ASL (Steven Greymorning) method of language learning to the new cohort of W,SENĆOTEN,IST students. This cross-generational mentorship highlights the dedication of both students and instructors in fostering language learning and well-being. The collaboration between fourth-year and first-year students (pictured above) demonstrates the strength of the language learning community and its commitment to revitalizing SENĆOTEN for future generations.

## Throwback Indigenous Education Event



### Illuminating the Impacts of Indigenous Language Revitalization film premieres at the EKATEL – We Are All Connected event

The short film "*Illuminating the Impacts of Indigenous Language Revitalization*" by UATÉ STORIED LEARNING, created by filmmakers KI. Peruzzo, MA, and Erynne Gilpin, PhD, premiered in April 2023 at the EKATEL – We Are All Connected: *Global and Local Glimpses of Language Revitalization (UVic and Beyond)* event, hosted by Indigenous Education at the First Peoples House at the University of Victoria.

This visually stunning and cinematically captivating film reflects on a decade of transformative work in Indigenous language revitalization (ILR). Through powerful storytelling, it highlights the profound impacts the ILR programs have had on both past and present students, as well as the communities they serve.

*Illuminating the Impacts* continues serves as a testament to the resilience and cultural resurgence made possible through these efforts, offering a moving tribute to the importance of language in sustaining Indigenous identities and traditions.

## Course and Program Opportunities

### Bachelor of Education - Indigenous Post-Degree Professional Program

**Registration now open for September 2025.**

The post-degree professional program will provide aspiring teachers, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, with a relevant, relational, and transformative education designed to foster a deeper understanding of First Nations, Inuit and Métis histories, cultures, and ways of knowing and being. The program is designed to enhance relational accountabilities with local Indigenous people and communities.

Graduates of the 20-month program will receive a Bachelor of Education degree and are eligible to apply for a BC Teaching Professional Certificate of Qualification.

To learn more, please click on the PDPP link.



## Job Opportunities at IED

### Request for Expressions of Interest - 2025 Summer Term

The Department of Indigenous Education is seeking instructors for the sessional assignments listed below.

#### IED 371: The History of Indigenous Education in Canada (June 2025)

A broad overview of the history of First Nations, Métis and Inuit education in Canada. Various eras in the history of K-12 Indigenous Education in Canada are examined. Pre-contact forms of Indigenous knowledge and pedagogy are emphasized. The purpose of education from both historical and contemporary Indigenous perspectives are explored as well as the current situation and future directions in both public schools and Indigenous-controlled schools in BC.

#### IED 372: Indigenous Epistemologies (July 2025)

An exploration of Indigenous knowledge and practices of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people. Discussion topics include: Indigenous worldviews, frameworks, methodologies, and protocols that validate Indigenous ways of being and living, and the appreciation of the mental, spiritual, physical and emotional aspects of Indigenous knowledge.

Salary: \$6,800 - \$8,312 per section, commensurate with education and experience

**Deadline to submit expressions of interest: February 18, 2025**

Please submit (email preferred) a letter of interest indicating qualifications and experience, and a current Curriculum Vitae to:

**Dr. Jean-Paul Restoule, Chair**

Indigenous Education University of Victoria

P.O. Box 1700 STN CSC

Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Email: [ied@uvic.ca](mailto:ied@uvic.ca)



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