

## Congratulations to the Indigenous Lanaguage Revitalization Graduates



Pictured above, L-R: Kwak'wala Certificate Graduates, Pewi (Dorothy) Alfred, Danielle Dawson, and Gloria Hunt before the UVIC convocation ceremony on November 13, 2024.

### Kwak'wala Language Program celebrates the CILP graduates

We are proud to celebrate the graduates of the Kwak'wala Certificate in Indigenous Language Proficiency (CILP) program! This remarkable achievement highlights their unwavering dedication to preserving and strengthening Kwak'wala, the ancestral language of the Kwakwaka'wakw people.

Through their hard work and determination, these graduates are playing a critical role in revitalizing Kwak'wala, ensuring its survival as a living language and cultural foundation for future generations. Their journey reflects their deep commitment to reclaiming identity, empowering communities, and honoring the culture and traditions passed down through their ancestors.

This certification is more than an academic accomplishment—it is a profound contribution to cultural resurgence and language preservation. The graduates are not only learners but also leaders and champions of their language, inspiring others to embark on the path of language revitalization.

Congratulations, Kwak'wala graduates! Your efforts light the way for a vibrant and enduring future for the Kwakwaka'wakw language and culture.



Pictured above, L-R : Stz'uminus Diploma Graduates, Naomi Towe, Sierra Pelkey, Elizabeth Tom, Josie Louie, Candice George, Krista Perrault, standing proudly with Program Elder Buffi David right before the UVIC convocation ceremony, November 13, 2024.

### Bittersweet Celebration for Stz'uminus DILR Graduates

We are excited to celebrate the achievements of the Stz'uminus graduates of the Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization (DILR) program. This milestone marks two years in their educational journey as well as their dedication to preserving and revitalizing Hul'q'umi'num' language. We are grateful to the eleven graduates for their commitment to strengthening cultural identity and fostering intergenerational connections.

It was an especially bittersweet accomplishment for this group to celebrate afterwards, as they lost their beloved classmate, elder, mother, grandmother, Clara Harris the day after the celebration. Clara completed her diploma along with her cohort, and daughter Kim, and they both would have participated in the ceremonies with the group November 13th, but tragically, Clara was already in hospital that day. Clara's legacy of kindness, wisdom, and generosity of spirit as well as her dedication to her family, language and loved ones lives on with the determination and dedication of her daughter Kim and her classmates. We raise our hands to you, respected ones, and pray for safe passage to Clara and healing of the hearts of family and loved one.

Language revitalization is a vital step toward preserving Indigenous heritage and ensuring that future generations have access to the wisdom, stories, and traditions embedded within their ancestral language. These graduates have demonstrated exceptional perseverance and passion, serving as role models for their communities and beyond. A small group of them will carry on and plan to continue their entire teaching degrees, starting this year in their Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization.

We commend their hard work to keep the Hul'q'umi'num' language thriving for generations to come, even as we all honour and mourn Clara. Congratulations, graduates—you are an inspiration to us all!

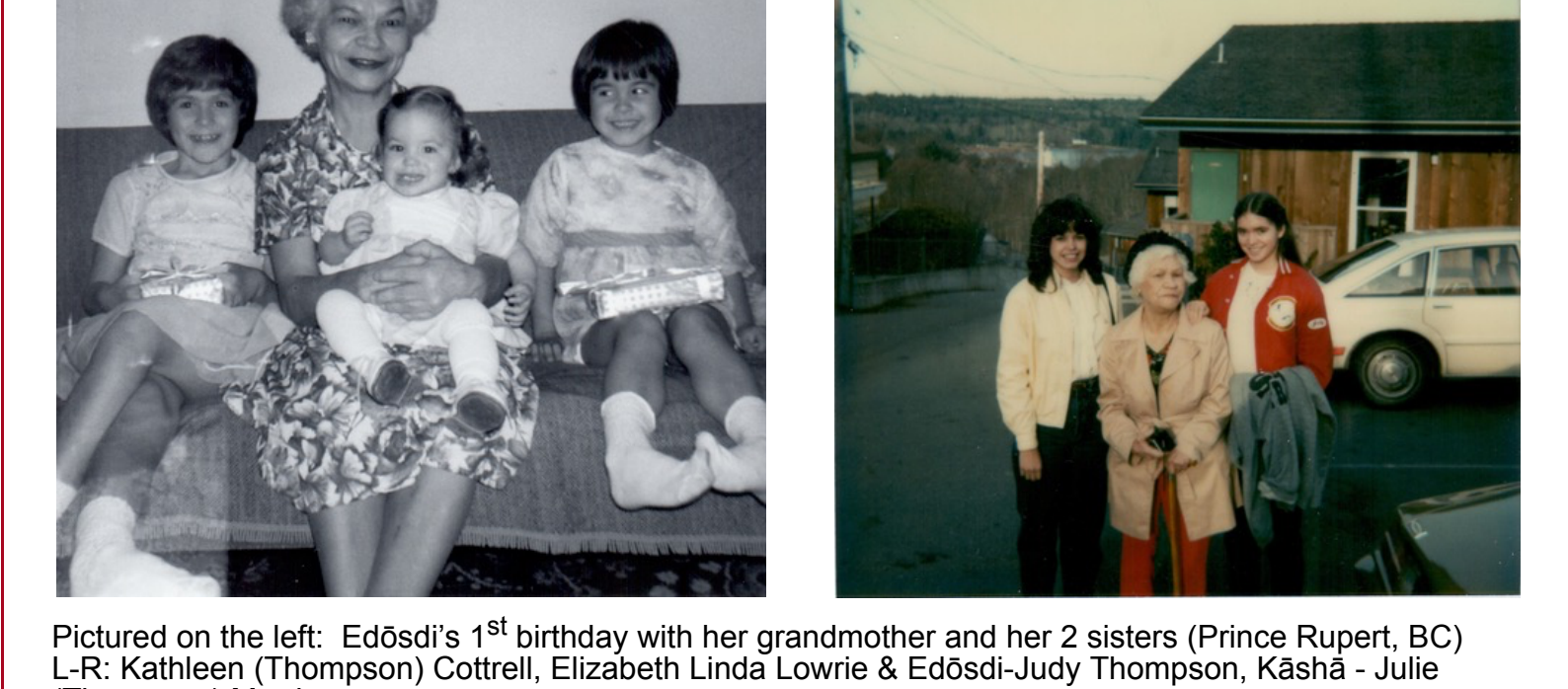
## Language Program Update



### Full Steam Ahead for New WSÁNEĆ Language Program Cohort

The new year marks an exciting start for the newest WSENĆOTEN,IST cohort as they embark on their second term of classes. This term focuses on strengthening their SENĆOTEN proficiency and introduces a new course centered on reconnecting with the ancestral waters of WSÁNEĆ. We are delighted to witness their enthusiasm and look forward to what the term brings.

## Team Updates



### Edōsdi awarded second consecutive grant from Canada Council for the Arts Long-Term Program

Edōsdi (Dr. Judy Thompson) has been awarded a second consecutive 3-year grant from Canada Council for the Arts Long-Term Program, "Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples," valued at \$270,000. The goal of her project, "Voicesability: Sharing the Teachings of our Ancestors," is to create educational, archival, curatorial, and genealogical multimedia from Ancestral teachings, with art created by Tahltan and Gitksan artists.

Edōsdi's previous 3-year project began with a focus on the teachings of Tahltan Ancestors, but due to a chronic health issue and impacts of the ongoing global pandemic, the scope changed to concentrate on Ancestors from her immediate family.

A key achievement of the last grant was an exhibit entitled: "From Usk to Dorréen and everywhere in between: The life of Artist Elizabeth Linda Lowrie along the Skeena River." Edōsdi focused on the art of her paternal grandmother (1907-1986), who was Gitksan and a speaker of Gitksanimaa. The art was displayed at the Museum of Northern BC in Prince Rupert from September to December 2024.

Other achievements included collaborations and mentorships between established and emerging artists, leading to artistic creations inspired by Ancestral art and stories. The building of relationships between artists, the connections made between artists and their Ancestors, as well as artists connecting and re-connecting with family and community, will continue with Edōsdi's current project.

[Exhibit link](#)

## UVic Upcoming Events

### Dialogue with Dr. Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams



### Indigenous languages and Indigenous knowledge in the time of Artificial Intelligence

Thursday, January 23, 2025  
First Peoples House Room 160  
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**Indigenous languages, identity and Indigenous knowledges have shifted from oral traditions to literacy to analogue, then digital, and now AI in less than 100 years. How are Indigenous people impacted by and addressing these rapid changes?**

#### Biography

Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams is Lil'watul from Mount Currie B.C. She is professor emerita from the University of Victoria. And was named to the Order of Canada in 2020. Currently she is strategic advisor to the First Peoples Cultural Foundation, special advisor to Dean of Faculty Education UVIC, Director of First Nations languages Canada Commission on Indigenous Languages, a committee member of the Canada UNESCO and member task force for Decade of Indigenous Languages.



## Walking into Consciousness



Photo credit: California Stett

**Artist Residency:** Jan 27 – Feb 8,  
Mon & Fri: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm & 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm  
Tues, Wed & Thurs:  
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

**Exhibition:** Feb 9 – 24  
**Artist Talk:**  
Saturday, Feb 8, 2 – 3 pm  
Talk will be in the gallery  
and online (zoom link on the website)

**A. Wilfrid Johns Gallery**  
University of Victoria,  
MacLaurin Building (Wing A)

### An artist residency with Lindsay Katsitsakatse Delaronde

Unlock the power of art to open doors, expand consciousness, and transform spaces of learning. *Walking into Consciousness* is a project that invites participants to journey through anti-racist and decolonial approaches, merging creative expression with deep-rooted Indigenous cosmologies.

Through participatory, land-based, and ceremonial methodologies, we will collectively explore how art becomes a vehicle for social change, fostering a more inclusive and awakened world.



This residency is part of the *Artistic approaches to anti-racism and anti-oppression: Artists and university students engaging in transformative action in a campus gallery research project*, which is supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

## 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.

[PDPP](#)



## IED faculty publications

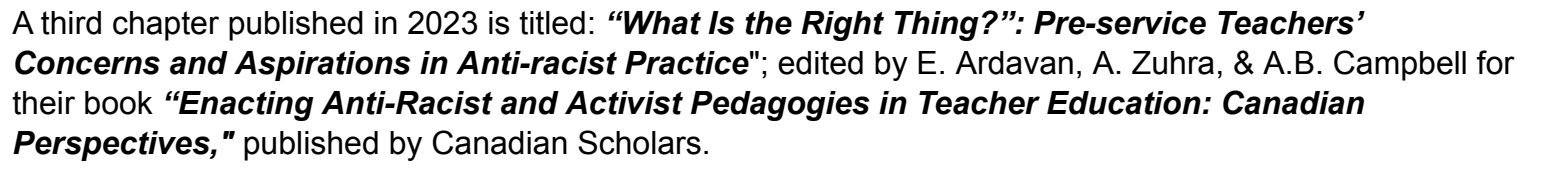
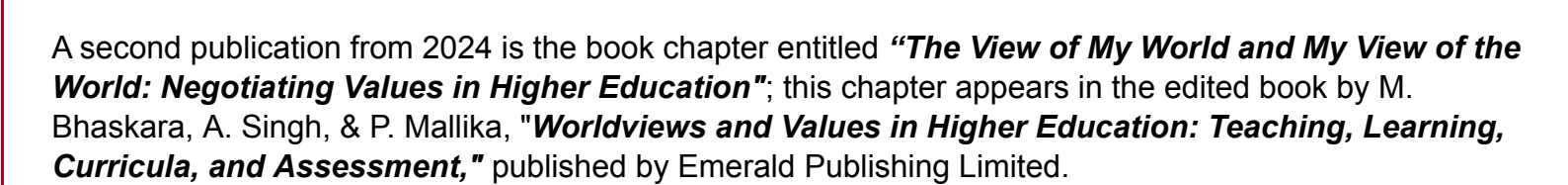
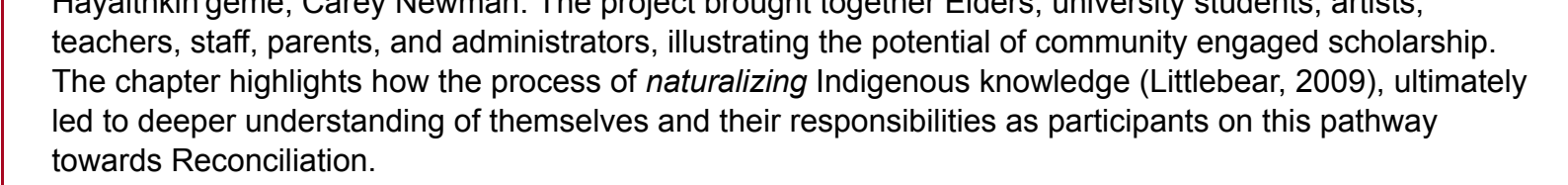
### Dr. Belinda Daniels, Assisant Professor

Belinda Daniels has a recent publication to share:

Belinda's most recent publications include a book chapter, *"When I Chose to Become a Teacher, I was Agreeing to Perpetuating Colonialism,"* which was done in collaboration with Tammy Ratt, Rhonda Stevenson, and Andrea Storzuk. The project brought together Elders, university students, artists, teachers, staff, parents, and administrators, illustrating the potential of community engaged scholarship. The chapter highlights how the process of *naturalizing* Indigenous knowledge (Littlebear, 2009), ultimately led to deeper understanding of themselves and their responsibilities as participants on this pathway towards Reconciliation.

A second publication from 2024 is the book chapter entitled *"The View of My World and My View of the World: Negotiating Values in Higher Education"*; this chapter appears in the edited book by M. Bhaskara, A. Singh, & P. Mallika, *"Worldviews and Values in Higher Education: Teaching, Learning, Curricula, and Assessment,"* published by Emerald Publishing Limited.

A third chapter published in 2023 is titled: *"What Is the Right Thing?": Pre-service Teachers' Concerns and Aspirations in Anti-racist Practice"*, edited by E. Ardavan, A. Zuhra, & A.B. Campbell for their book *"Enacting Anti-Racist and Activist Pedagogies in Teacher Education: Canadian Perspectives,"* published by Canadian Scholars.



You are receiving this news letter from:  
Department of Indigenous Education  
3800 Finnerty Road  
PO Box 1700 STN CSC  
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2  
250-721-7826 | [ied@uvic.ca](mailto:ied@uvic.ca)