Indigenous Education

SKEL,KEL

SKELKEL IS SENCOTEN FOR "NEWS"

July 2026

Congratulations to the IED Graduates

Convocation June 2026

Pictured above: Back Row: Jordan Hill, Kaitlyn Kwakwaka'wakw, Jessica Tom, Jessica Gabriel, Kathleen Dick, Kaylee Jack, Kathleen Hall, Jessica Tom, Kaylee Jack, Christina John, Kanawayhaw Harris Roberts, Jamie Vandenkerk, Wesmanakwanlaxa Hunt, Kwakwaka'wakw, Wongalarroo Amos, Nancy Vincent Campbell, Gabriel Frank-Cordiste, Kelly Frank-Wheeling, and Kelly Jones. Kwakwaka'wakw

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Pictured above: BJ Frost and Nick Jimmy, graduates of the Indigenous Housing Stream, celebrating with Lil Bear Trail Theatre House Commercial Hall on June 8th. (Photo by Jason Dunkelsman)

IED Grads Blanketed and Celebrated in Two Ceremonies

On June 8th, IED was well represented at UVic Convocation and the following Indigenous Recognition Ceremony (IRC) with three doctoral students and 12 MALA graduates.

The IRC incorporates a traditional Coast Salish blanketing ceremony, honouring graduates with blankets woven by Elder Tsawalk Master Weaver Susan Point and presented by Elders, and members of the UVic community to share a meal, celebrate accomplishments, and honour the ancestors who have made these achievements possible.

Charlotte Rose, Nathan Brittlebar and Hala White, all part of IEDs first cohort of doctoral students, attended with their families. Many MALA students were supported by family members, coming from as far away as Alaska, Nunavut, Denesdeh, the Tlʼpkʼip, and Haudenosaunee territories.

Pictured above: Left photo: Blanketed graduate entering the Ceremonial Hall at the Fine Theatre House. Right photo: IED Faculty Members and Staff.

Pictured above: Left photo: Charlotte Rose and Tom White. Right photo: Kimberly Robertson, Nancy Wickstrom and Jessica Gabriel. Photo Credit: Jason Dunkelsman

Pictured above: Top photo: Charlotte Rose and Jessica Gabriel. Bottom Left photo: Nancy Wickstrom and Kimberly Robertson. Bottom Right photo: Charlotte Rose and Tom White. Photo Credit: Jason Dunkelsman

Pictured above: Top photo: Charlotte Rose and Jessica Gabriel. Bottom Left photo: Tom White and Hala Hallgrimsson. Bottom Right photo: Charlotte Rose and Jessica Gabriel. Photo Credit: Jason Dunkelsman

Pictured above: Top photo: Jordan Kaplunen and family. Bottom Left photo: Blue Eagle Creek Dancers and Tina Chatterjee-Hughes.

Language Programs Update

Pictured above: Jared Ritz's cohort (Ms.ECE Cohort) in Kindergarten Class, Left to Right: Brenda Hunt & Bill Jones Ritz, Tracy Gaspar, Tina Chatterjee-Hughes, Jessica Gabriel, Jared Ritz, Kaylee Jack, Kathleen Hall, Jessica Tom, Kathleen Dick, Kaylee Jack, Christina John, Kanawayhaw Harris Roberts, Jamie Vandenkerk, Wesmanakwanlaxa Hunt, Kwakwaka'wakw, Wongalarroo Amos, Nancy Vincent Campbell, Gabriel Frank-Cordiste, Kelly Frank-Wheeling, Angelina Rose and her children, Marlena Dunlop, MONUTRY, Sarlena Frantzky, and MONUTRY's mentor.

Celebrating the arrival of the 2026 MALR cohort

We were delighted to welcome a new cohort of students to the Master of Indigenous Language Revitalization (MILR) program in July, marking the start of the 2026 cohort spent 10 days on campus in Victoria. This time on campus provides an important opportunity for students to connect with one another, engage with IED faculty and staff, and begin exploring key concepts and approaches in Indigenous language revitalization.

The program brings together learners from diverse communities who share a commitment to language revitalization and bring strong foundations in teaching, community work, and participation of the summer courses. Students will continue their studies with two additional courses in Fall 2026, building on the knowledge, skills, and relationships established during this first summer.

We look forward to supporting this cohort throughout their academic journey and witnessing the important contributions they will make to Indigenous language revitalization in their communities and beyond.

Pictured above: Left to Right: Jessica Gabriel, Jessica Tom, Kathleen Dick, Kaylee Jack, Kathleen Hall, Jessica Tom, Kaylee Jack, Christina John, Kanawayhaw Harris Roberts, Jamie Vandenkerk, Wesmanakwanlaxa Hunt, Kwakwaka'wakw, Wongalarroo Amos, Nancy Vincent Campbell, Gabriel Frank-Cordiste, Kelly Frank-Wheeling, and Kelly Jones. Kwakwaka'wakw

Exploring Culture, Community, and Connection

For the second half of our land-based course, *IED 299 SELKNEC A Neighbours: Cultural Histories*, students in the 8[ʔ]SENCOTEN IED cohort — facilitated by Saxalamat Instructor Ms. Tracy Gaspar — explored the Saxalamat Village site, learning about traditional Saxalamat fishing practices, Indigenous Astronomy, traditional harvest, and interactions of language revitalization.

On July 14 2026 we travelled to SMENYKTEN Nature Sanctuary, hosted by Libby McMillan, to hear stories from SÓELPEI Elder ELTAESTEN Earl Claxton Jr., about the Saanichton Bay Marine Lake: SENCOTEN place names, and ethnobotany. On May 22nd 2026 we travelled to Tsawout Nation to learn about the Tsawout Fish Weir, and to meet with Elder Graham Cheal of QAYOTL, FEN Marine Guardians. SÓELPEI Earl demonstrated a herring rake, a fishing spear, and a clam digging stick, and several students traveled by boat with Graham into SELSEYEL Goldstream Inlet.

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Pictured above: IED 299 students Kimberly Kwakwaka'wakw Wongalarroo and Jessica Tom.

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On June 17th we attended the Oceans Past III conference at University of Victoria. The theme was "Ancient Fishing Technologies and Practices" and included a day of conference proceedings with a picnic and song. Dr. Brian Hayden gave an exceptional keynote presentation about the Sea Garden restoration on Cowichan Tribes homelands. On June 18th we met with Elder Ernie Phillips at Tsawout Nation to learn about exploration site at Tulbert Harbour, Salt Spring Island with SÓELPEI Knowledge Holder Mark Sampson and members of his family — a beautiful day landing the SCIQE, & another exploration site at Tulbert Harbour, Salt Spring Island with SÓELPEI Knowledge Holder Gordon Gaming, welcomed by Jennifer Hedale and members of the Mayne Island community with a generous gift, participating in educational events planned for National Indigenous Peoples Day and Indigenous Peoples Day of Prayer and Fasting. On June 19th The SENCOTEN IED students graduated in a beautiful ceremony held at the SÓELPEI College the following week. Thank you to IED for supporting this exceptional course offering. LIFE'S and congratulations to the cadre of the superstar students in the cohort!

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2026 Summer Institute

Pictured above: 2026 Summer Institute students enjoying National Indigenous Peoples Day at Fort Rodney University.

Sound Pedagogies

With "a little help from our friend", Kwakwaka'wakw and Nuu-Chah-Nulth artist in residence, Ray Mathias, students in the 2026 Summer Institute, Sound Pedagogies, explored a wonderful long program exploring the songs they composed supported by Ray. Among other things, the students experienced diverse learning opportunities not only through their courses but also through the Indigenous Knowledge Exchange Series, organized by Indigenous Coordinator at St. Margaret's School, Stephanie Boyd, Curriculum Writer Jordan Lightning as well as co-producer and co-director of the film Kanawa: People of the River, screened at Victoria Film Festival. Kanawa: People of the River was also screened at Fort Rodney and followed by Stephen Davies, Indigenous Learning Program Developer, along with Yuwaalaqun, Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Member and Kanawa Director, Joel Sawyer, who shared the story of the exercise to learn about the repatriation journey of the cultural treasure journeying back home to their people and their communities. We were invited to the Jonathan Hunt-House Commercial Hall to hear Indigenous Housing Stream graduates Charlotte Rose and Tom Tsawa. With the help of master carver Richard Hunt (Chief Kwakwaka'wakwʼ's grandson), students carved a paddle.

There were also visits to the Legacy Art Gallery, the event for National Indigenous Peoples Day at Royal Roads University, and the most talked about opportunity: the privilege to dance, drum, and sing with Indigenous youth at Wawadzilla (or Monique Martin House).

The theme for this year's Institute was "Sound Pedagogies", the students were able to write their own songs and melodies as they were invited to listen with care and intention, experiment with sound, and learn how to compose songs that are rooted in place and emphasized by John Harris, Elders & Indigenous Knowledge Facilitator from Snʼnaw (Tsolum) KT who offered words of welcome and wisdom to all of us on June 4th. The first day of the Institute, John shared with us that "Sound is a powerful medium for learning, learning in diverse ways, some of which included collage, reflections, group work, lesson plans, and sharing circles."

Hector, Wigwasa, Alex, Carmen, and Jean-Paul appreciated the opportunity to support these pre-service teachers on their first portion of their journey here at UVic.

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Register now for Summer Elective Courses

Indigenous Education
Online Summer Electives

IED 320: Indigenous Language Learning Methodology

Lots indigenous language revitalization practitioners, Nationwide to explore proven methods, community based approaches and tools, and strategies for an activist approach to supporting Indigenous language learning.

August 10 – 21, 2026
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
CRN: 20467
Instructors: Dr. Nicola Ransom

(Note: no cost collection for 2nd course description)

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