

June 2026

PDPP Update



Pictured above: Madeline, Kate, Saber, Stephen, Madilyn, Bonnie, Jochelle and Jesse work together as just 9 paddlers to move the long canoe

The Tl'Ches Spirit Canoe

by Kate Cruz and Shaylin Warren

Some things are worth waiting for.

The canoe has been with IED 403 since before we even got in one. From the very beginning of the term, we were asking our students to sit with hard questions such as whose knowledge gets celebrated and elevated in science education? Whose ways of observing the world show up in curricula, and whose get quietly left out? Indigenous canoes such as the Tl'Ches Spirit canoe, don't move through individual effort. It moves when people pay attention to the whole and not just their own stroke.

Shaylin Warren had originally coordinated our outing on the Tl'Ches Spirit, but when the weather forecast turned uncertain, we made the call to reschedule. That decision was its own lesson that incorporated the Outdoor Council of Canada (OCC) field course teachings that good outdoor leadership means reading conditions honestly and sometimes choosing to wait.

The rescheduled date landed on April 29th, after the term officially ended and the students who arrived to journey together did so on their own time.

Heinz (now retired and serving in the reserves) and Jesse, a West Shore RCMP officer from the Indigenous Policing Unit who works directly with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, met our small group. They both clearly love sharing the canoe experience and teachings and being on the water as much as possible.

The Tl'Ches Spirit Canoe was created as a method to engage and connect with youth through outdoor activities. The officers share paddling instruction, but also respect a commitment to pass on the cultural teachings associated to the canoe's name, artwork and the connections to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. Tl'Ches is the Lekwungen word for "island," specifically Chatham Island, as Songhees land. The 35-foot canoe carries traditional Indigenous artwork, including a stqéya (wolf) at the bow.

The Tl'Ches Spirit can carry up to 22 paddlers and is available to educators and students (Grade 4 and up) for professional development, educational, and healing purposes. Preceding our time together on the canoe, students explored an integrated math and science unit around ratio, capacity, and oral histories. Ethnomathematics and Indigenous science leans into the knowledge systems present in local waterways and ways of knowing. Paddling the Tl'Ches Spirit made that visceral in a way a lesson plan simply cannot.

If you're interested in bringing this to your students, connect with Jesse to learn more. Click on Tl'Ches Spirit Canoe Program link below to watch video of the program and intent.

Tl'Ches Spirit Canoe Program



1st photo: The Tl'Ches Spirit Canoe awaits paddlers at Skosappson (Kosampson). **2nd photo:** Madeline and Heinz set the pace for our journey at the bow of the canoe.

Language Programs Update



Pictured above: **L - R, back row:** TIWONEMOT, TOLSIYE, Brock Flowers, S'Gaan James McGuire (Haida, Director of Indigenous Collections & Repatriation, Royal BC Museum), Tamis Cochrane (Taku River Tlingit First Nation), TSEHLAUGHTENAUT, YAYELMEV, Darian Claxton, Sarah Jim; **L - R, front row:** Sleey'laat, Dr. Darcy Mathews (Professor, UVic Environmental Studies), Ben Louter (PhD student, UVic Archaeology), CIEMCES, HOWELB, ZELOL.

Learning from Living Landscape

Yesterday's walk and talk with the K'LO,EL was a memorable and thought-provoking learning experience. H'ISW'KE to the DILR IED 299: WS'ANEC & Neighbours: Cultural Materials students who joined and helped make it such an engaging afternoon.

Guided by Dr. Darcy Mathews, we explored ancestral village sites near Uplands Park—once home to thriving communities who fished, hunted, and harvested across these lands. Features like K'LO,EL and KEXMIN beds highlight how these are not just archaeological sites, but living cultural landscapes. As S'Gaan Kwahagang James D. McGuire reminded us, places like camas fields carry an ongoing responsibility to remember and care for.

We also reflected on present-day challenges, including how rising sea levels are submerging significant archaeological sites—an issue that connects to next month's Oceans Past XI conference. Talks from Tamis Cochrane and Ben Louter emphasized the value of community-led archaeology, showing how research can support cultural and language revitalization. Their example of multiple words for "scraper" in the Taku Nation's language underscored how deeply language informs archaeological understanding.

Overall, the afternoon was a powerful reminder that archaeology is as much about living knowledge and relationships as it is about the past.

In Community

Tl'chq Language Immersion Workshop

In May 2026, the Tl'chq Government Department of Culture and Lands Protection – Language Division hosted a two-day Tl'chq Language Immersion Workshop in Behchokq, bringing together educators, language learners, Elders, and community members to strengthen language revitalization efforts. Facilitated by Dr. Belinda Daniels, the workshop focused on building practical skills and shared approaches for immersion-based teaching and learning, supporting the continued growth of Tl'chq Yatil in schools and communities.

Tl'chq Language Immersion Workshop

Building Strong Foundations for Tl'chq Language Revitalization in Schools & Community



The Tl'chq Government Department of Culture and Lands Protection – Language Division recently hosted a two-day workshop in Behchokq focused on teacher training for language immersion. Facilitated by Dr. Belinda Ka-kiyoosiew Daniels, the workshop brought together school teachers, assistants, language learners, Elders, community members, and staff from the Language Division to strengthen approaches to Tl'chq language revitalization and immersion-based learning. Drawing on over two decades of experience in Indigenous language revitalization and more than ten years of work with the Tl'chq language, Dr. Daniels shared teachings and practical approaches grounded in relationship-building, language reclamation, and land-based ways of knowing and doing.

Sessions explored:

- Immersion teaching methods
- Relationship-building between teacher-speakers and learners
- The role of dreaming, ways of knowing, and language connection
- Decolonial approaches to assessment and learning
- Building confidence and fluency through collective learning

The workshop highlighted the importance of creating strong learning relationships and safe spaces where language learners can grow together with support from community, Elders, and one another. This gathering was an important step in supporting the ongoing revitalization of Tl'chq Yatil and strengthening pathways for future language speakers in Tl'chq communities.



Masi cho to everyone who participated, shared knowledge, and helped make this gathering meaningful.

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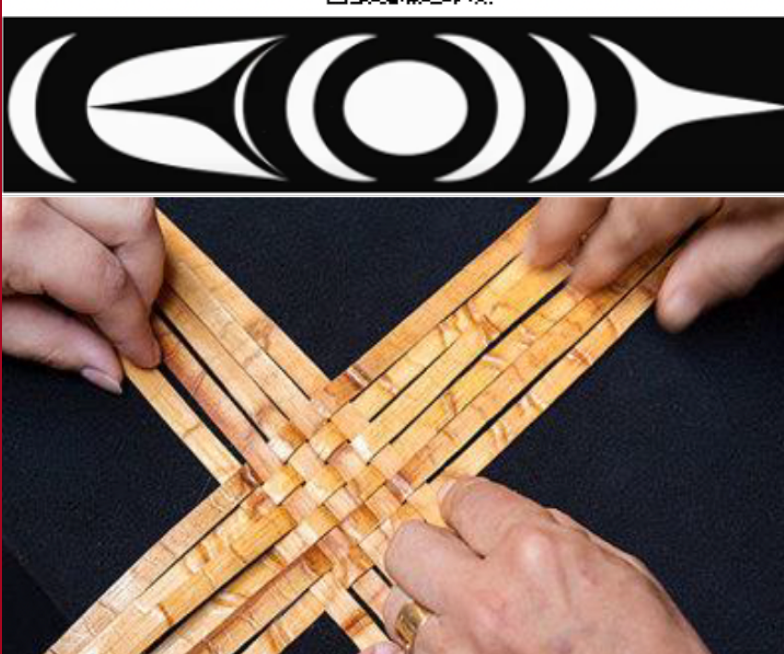
Helping each other to learn

Discover an immersive Indigenous arts course exploring ancestry, culture, resilience, and healing through creative practice with Artist in Residence, Alex Taylor-McCallum, examining colonial impacts while celebrating tradition, storytelling and community connection

July 3-25, 2026

CRN: 31397

(Refer to UVic calendar for full course description)





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Elective Course



Math 161: Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers I

Number systems and their properties, the set of real numbers and its subsets, the interpretation of numerical operations with applications, and elementary number theory. Computation strategies, including mental computation and estimation, standard and non-standard computation algorithms. Problem solving is emphasized throughout.

July 6 – August 7, 2026

Mon., Tue., Wed. from 1:00 – 3:50 pm

CRN: 31778

Instructor: Nikki Lineham

(Refer to UVic calendar for full course description)





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Online Summer Elective



IED 320: Indigenous Language Learning Methodology

Join Indigenous language revitalization practitioners Nationwide to explore proven methods, community centered methodologies, guest speakers, and hands-on practice supporting Indigenous language learning.

August 10 – 21, 2026

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

CRN: 31657

Instructor: Dr. Nicki Benson

(Refer to UVic calendar for full course description)



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