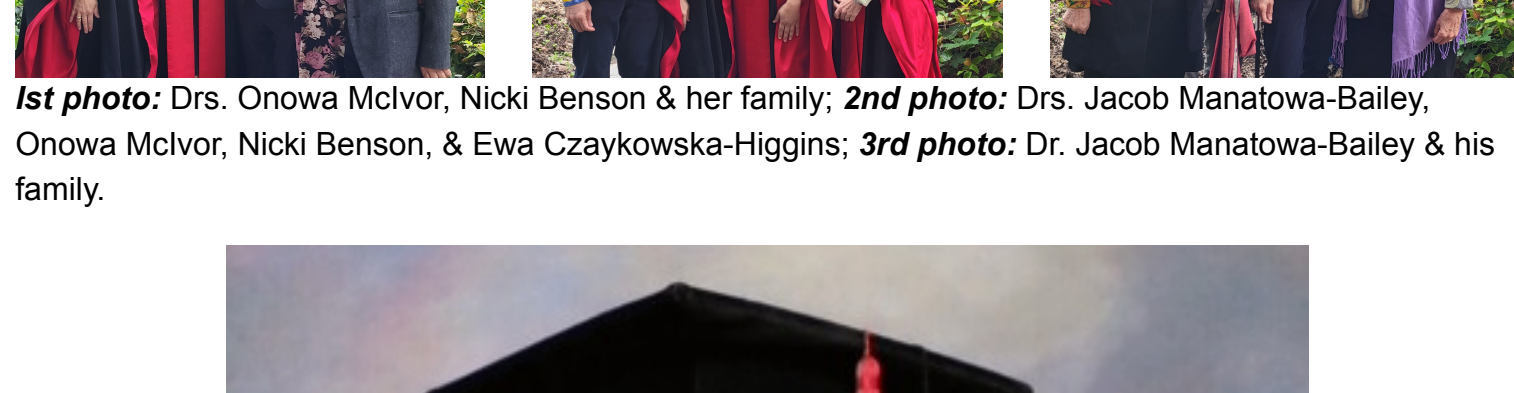


Graduates in multiple IED programs represented at June 2025 Convocation

Congratulations to Drs. Nicki Benson, Jacob Manatowa-Bailey and Christine Webster on the completion of their PhD journey



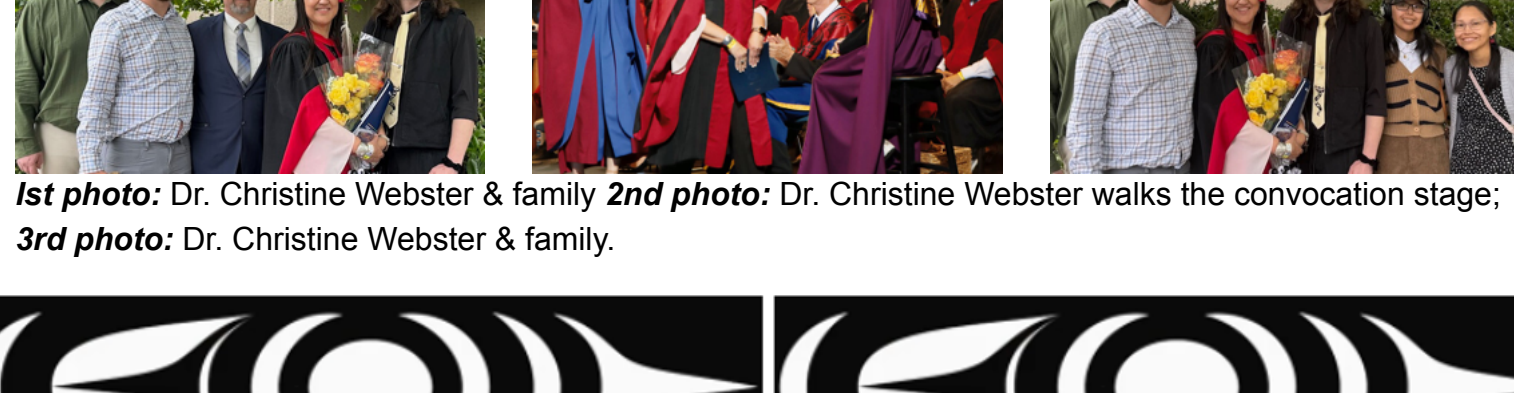
Pictured above: PhD graduates Nicki Benson and Jacob Manatowa-Bailey.



1st photo: Drs. Onowa McIvor, Nicki Benson & her family; **2nd photo:** Drs. Jacob Manatowa-Bailey, Onowa McIvor, Nicki Benson, & Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins; **3rd photo:** Dr. Jacob Manatowa-Bailey & his family.



Pictured above: PhD graduate Christine Webster.



1st photo: Dr. Christine Webster & family **2nd photo:** Dr. Christine Webster walks the convocation stage; **3rd photo:** Dr. Christine Webster & family.

Congratulations to IED's MILR graduates



Pictured above: Jessica Starfund, pictured with her supervisor Dr. Jean-Paul Restoule, graduated with a Masters in Indigenous Language Revitalization.

Congratulations to IED's first graduates of the Bachelor of Education Indigenous Post-Degree Professional Program



Pictured above, left to right: Ader Yang, Rob Anthony, Hanna Bryant and Jessica Drake convoked on June 12th.

Please see the UVic News article entitled **"A New Path for Teacher Education"** by Michelle Butterfield featuring the first graduating cohort of the Bachelor of Education Indigenous Post-Degree Professional Program.

[UVic News](#)

Congratulations to IED's Kwak'wala CILP graduates



Pictured above, left to right: Dr. Leslee Francis Pelton and Kwak'wala CILP graduate, Shelley Cook.

IACE Indigenous Recognition Ceremony

The IACE Indigenous Recognition Ceremony on June 12, 2025 honoured the achievements of UVic's Indigenous graduates in Education and Fine Arts through a traditional Coast Salish blanket ceremony. This special event brought together the graduates, their families, friends, Elders, and the university community to recognize the dedication, perseverance, and accomplishments of Indigenous students as they celebrated this important milestone in their academic journey.

Blanketed graduates from IED programs included Jacob Manatowa-Bailey, Katia Olsen, and Hanna Bryant. Christine Webster, IED's first AO, graduated in Leadership Studies.



Tsi'tsu'wu'tul Award



Pictured above: Jacob Manatowa-Bailey, the successful recipient of the Tsi'tsu'wu'tul Award 2025.

Perservering with Resilience: Dr. Jacob Manatowa-Bailey Receives the Tsi'tsu'wu'tul Award

Dr. Jacob Manatowa-Bailey received the Tsi'tsu'wu'tul Award for 2025. This award is presented to a graduating Indigenous student at UVic who has demonstrated remarkable resilience in overcoming challenges. Jacob's achievement was announced at the Indigenous Recognition Ceremony on June 12th. Congratulations Jacob for your extraordinary dedication and perseverance.

Kwak'wala Language Program



Pictured above: The Kwak'wala cohort poses in the Gwayasdams Big House where they listen to instructor Ryan Nicolson explain pieces of their history and the history of the longest standing Big House in BC.



1st photo: Program aunts (our nixsolas) fluent speakers Margaret and Harriet, smile on their way back to Alert Bay after a day of witnessing their students speaking the language and learning about the land and histories; **2nd photo:** UVic program leads, Aiki and Deanna, stand under the beautiful and historic house posts.

WSÁNEĆ Language Program



Pictured above: The WSÁNEĆ BAILP cohort.

Voices of SENCOTEN: The First BAILP Cohort Inspires Through Language Learning

The first-ever cohort of the Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Language Proficiency (BAILP) in SENCOTEN delivered powerful TED-style presentations—entirely in SENCOTEN—for their final course. Students spoke on topics close to their hearts, responded to questions, and shared songs and laughter in their beautiful ancestral language.

This milestone builds on the strong partnership between UVic, Indigenous Education, and the WSÁNEĆ School Board, following the success of the first BEd in Indigenous Language Revitalization cohort. The community now celebrates a thriving adult proficiency program, a full degree in SENCOTEN, and an immersion school expanding to K-12 in Fall 2025.

We are grateful for this inspiring collaboration and the shared pursuit of language freedom.



Pictured above: The WSÁNEĆ BAILP cohort, instructors, and language mentors.

Course Opportunities



Teaching and Learning Indigenous Perspectives Electives

IED 376 online course offered in September 2025 open to all UVIC students

IED 376 - Indigenous Literature in the Classroom (online)

An examination of works by Indigenous authors for use in K-12 classrooms. An analysis of the role literature plays in shaping and reflecting Indigenous histories, identities, and communities.

Courses are offered subject to enrollment.

[TLIP website](#)



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