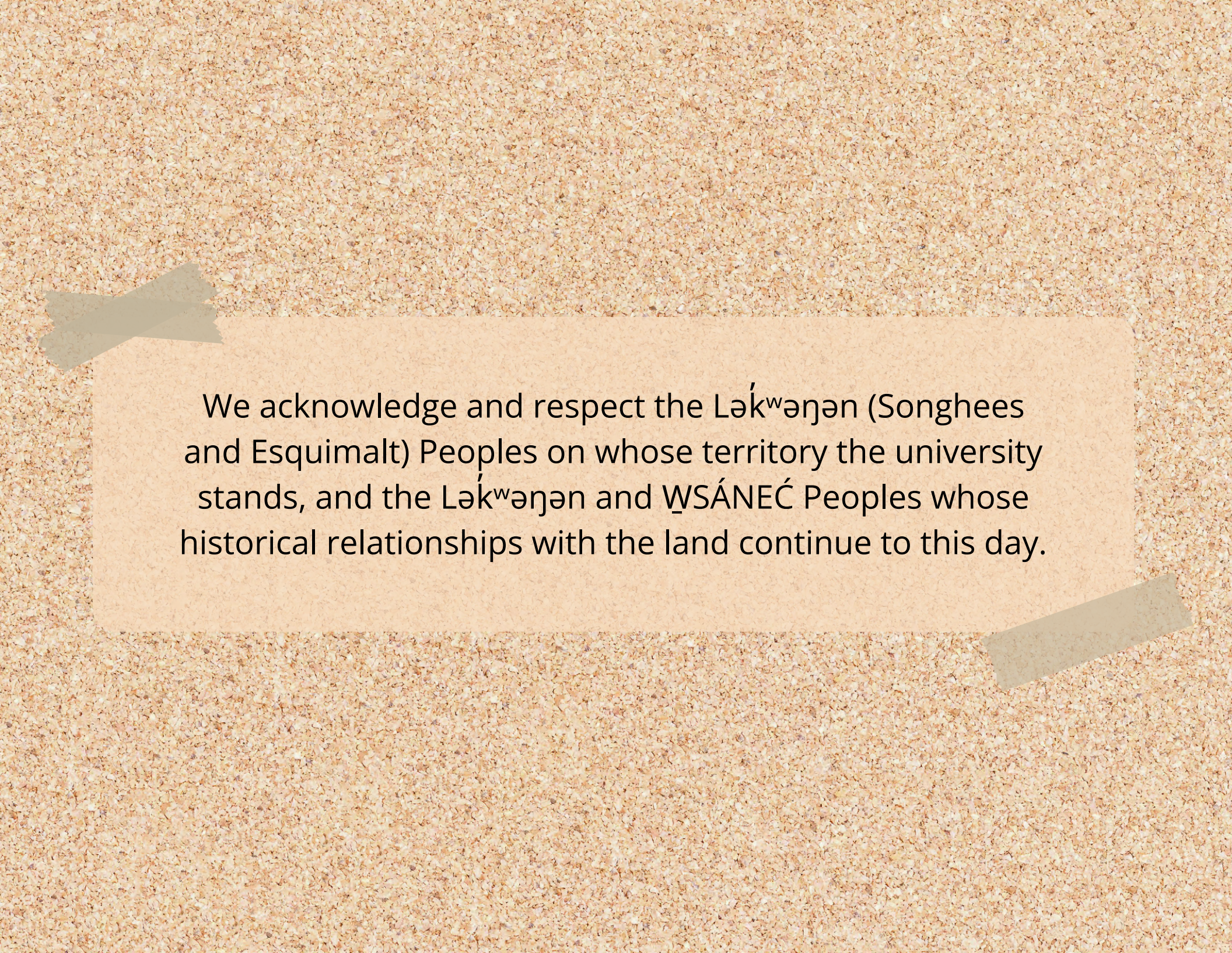


Indigenous mini university



summer camp
2024



We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



Mini-University Summer Camp

An immersive experience for Indigenous youth

For one week each summer, UVic's classrooms, dorms and outdoor spaces host some younger-than-usual visitors from all over BC and the Northwest Territories. A week full of academic, creative, cultural and social activities provides an immersive opportunity for participants to see for themselves what attending UVic would be like.

Since its inception, the Mini-U Summer Camp has made a significant impact, with over 300 students participating from grades 9–12. Among these participants, more than 30 students have either attended or are currently enrolled at UVic, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in exposing students to the university experience and contributing to their pursuit of higher education.

The impact that Mini-U has on Indigenous youth is evident in the many smiles you will see throughout this photo book.

Welcome Ceremony

Elder in Residence May Sam welcomed the Mini-University students to the territory and opened the table for our first breakfast together as a group.

Our Associate Directors Shawna McNabb and Rob Hancock welcomed the campers to the University of Victoria on behalf of the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement. Then the chaperones had the chance to introduce themselves.





THANK
☺ you

Chaperones

Top row from left to right:

Lauren Aimoe, Aekana Souliere, Anakin Bennet

Middle row from left to right:

Sarah Ronayne, Melanie Murphy, Matthew Haussmann, Wyatt Adams

Bottom row from left to right:

Kristy Charlie, Jacob Smallboy, Michelle Gregoire, Makayla Silvey

Not pictured:

Darlene Keeper



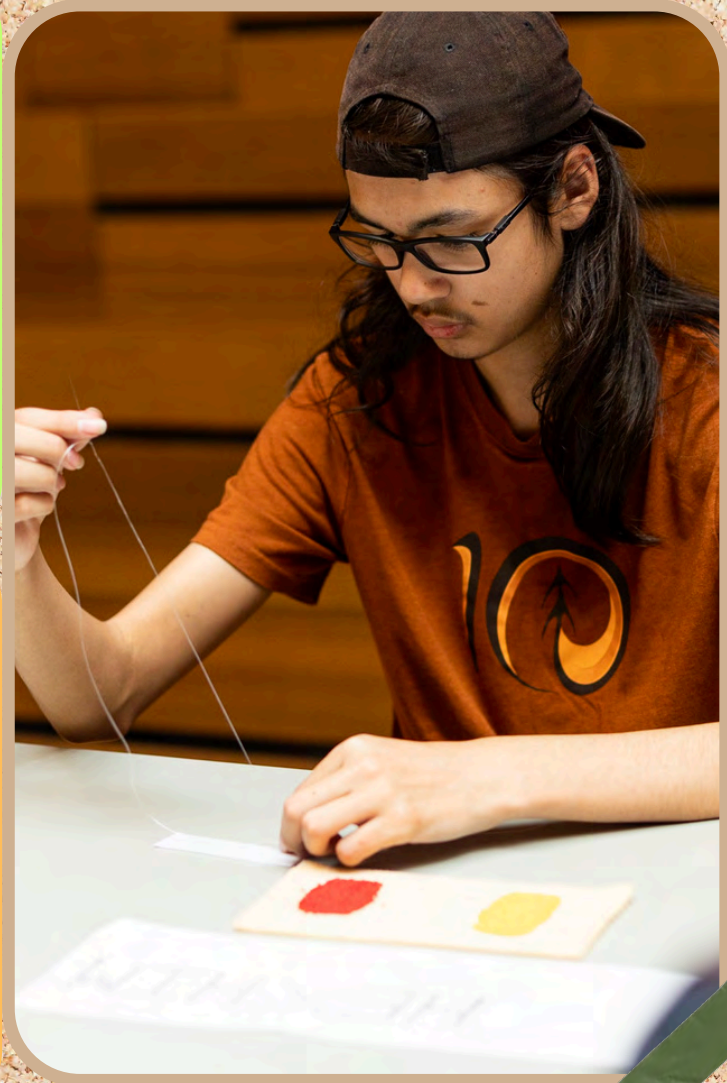
Pronoun Pins

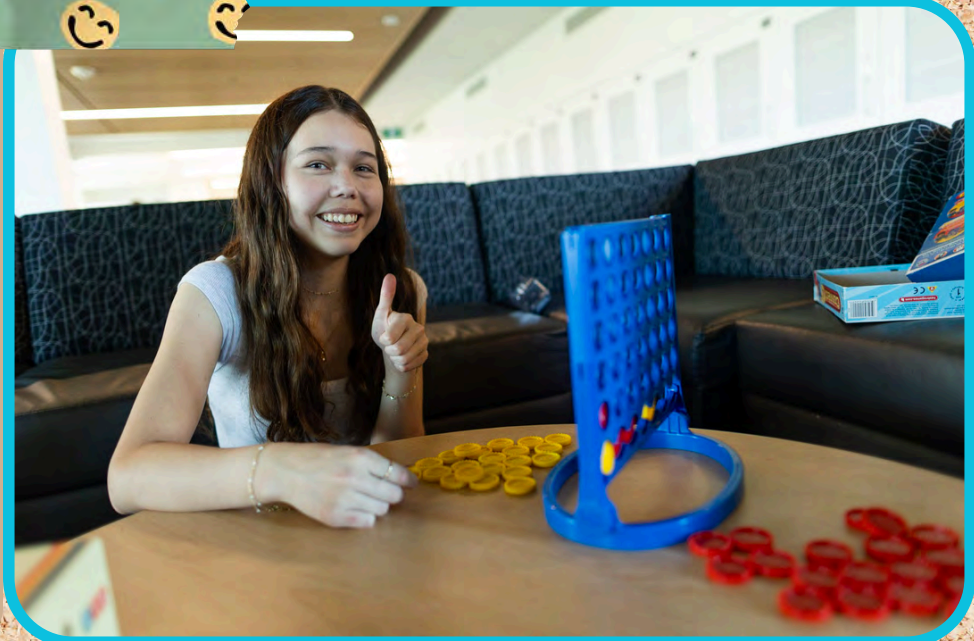
Our Mini-University Coordinator Michelle Gregoire facilitated a beading workshop. Using a single-needle flat stitch technique, the Mini-U students made pins using their pronouns.



"It was nice doing something new for once and having someone to guide you."
- Mini-U 2024 Student







Fun in the Residence

Mini-U students stayed on the 11th floor of the Sṇéqəʔéʔləŋ (Sngequ House) which included a beautiful kitchen, lounge space and ocean views.

This was a space to find resources, information for the week as well as a space to cool down with some puzzle-making and board games!



Rattle Making

Charity Morris from Ahousat First Nation led a workshop creating these beautiful rattles with the Mini-U students. They used hide, sinew, wood and beads.

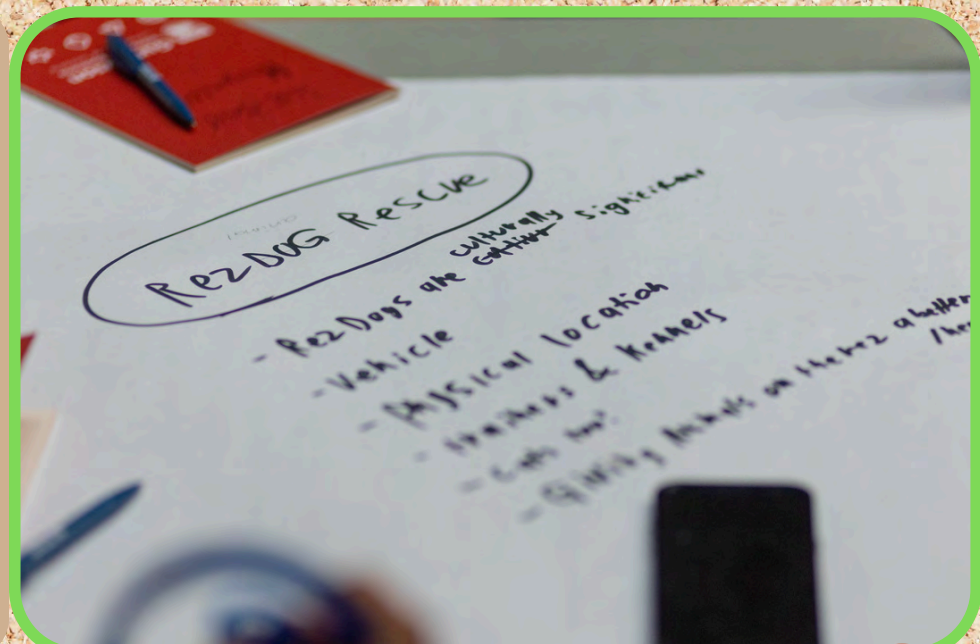


***"Really awesome cohort of
campers and great
workshops."***

-Mini-U 2024 Chaperone







Business Workshop



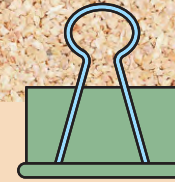
Paige Mckenzie & Caitlin Dyck from Gustavson School of Business took the Mini-U students through a case study creating their own businesses to benefit their own communities.





***"Activities were well rounded in
regards to experiencing the life of
a university student."***
-Mini-U 2024 Chaperone



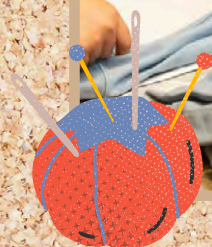


Plant Walk

J.B. Williams from Tsawout took us to TIXEN, otherwise known as Cordova Spit, to learn about and try different medicines. The Mini-U students got to use the medicine pouches made during the wellness circle as offerings to the plants. J.B. Williams finished off our time by telling some traditional stories.









Ribbon Apparel

The workshop was facilitated by Crystal Brune and her team, who taught the Mini-U students to use sewing machines to make ribbon sweaters, shirts or skirts. Métis Elder in Residence Barb Hulme was also there to support.





***"I liked the workshop and how
we got to connect with
everyone, working groups and
connect with the materials."***

-Mini-U 2024 Student







Career & Faculty Fair

Numerous UVic departments gathered in the Ceremonial Hall to inform Mini-U students of the resources, supports, opportunities and job prospects associated with each field of study or organization on campus.

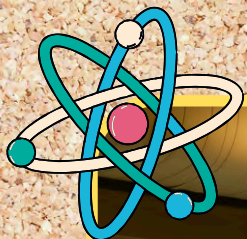




Science Venture

Caitlin and Paige from Science Venture at UVic taught the Mini-U students about being in a chemistry lab and facilitated two experiments with them using materials like dry ice, dye and dish soap.





"I think the community aspect of the camp was a big strength, that everyone could come together was awesome."

-Mini-U 2024 Chaperone





Pet Cafe

Serenity at the Multifaith Centre and Pacific Animal Therapy Society brought their therapy dogs to our Mini-U students to provide some emotional support, high fives and many smiles.





***"My favorite activity would
have been the pet cafe,
loved the dogs there."
-Mini-U 2024 Student***





Legacy Art Gallery

Lorilee Wastasecoot, the Curator of Indigenous Art and Engagement at Legacy toured us through their two exhibits: Fire Season and Masked Identity.

"The chaperones and staff welcomed us all and made it feel like home"
-Mini-U 2024 Student







Cedar Weaving

Lorilee Wastasecoot and her team also facilitated a cedar bracelet weaving workshop with our Mini-U students.

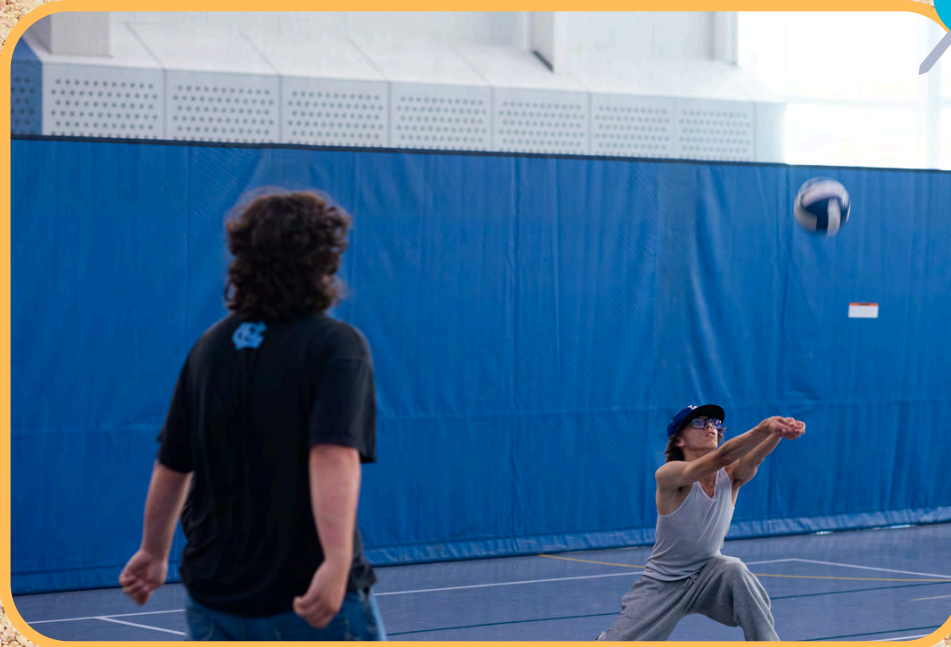






Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities

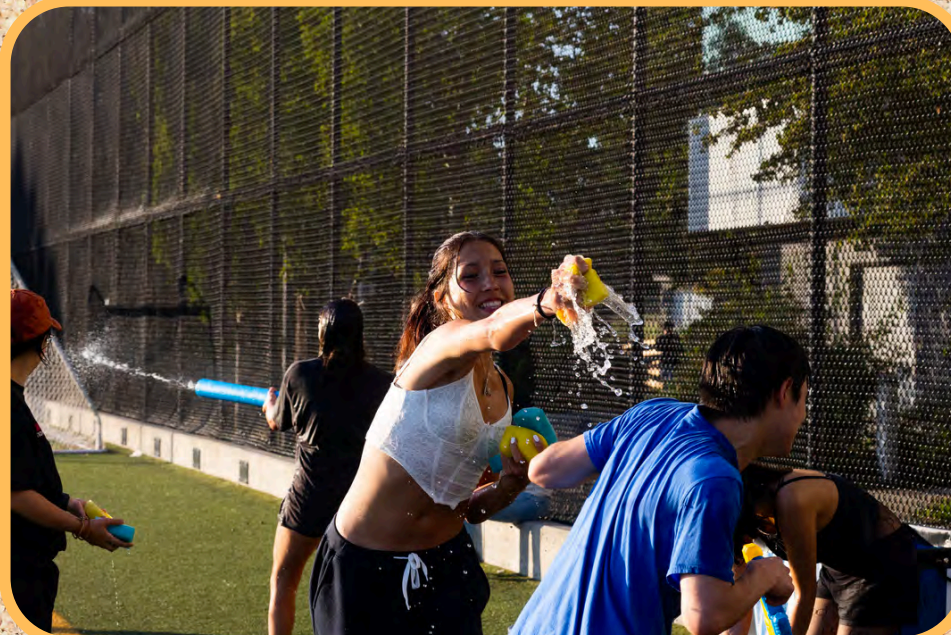
Connor Diacur took us to the fieldhouse to play some sports such as pickleball, ping pong and volleyball. Once the Mini-U students were warmed up from playing Connor thought it would be a good idea to cool down with a...



WATER FIGHT







"The chaperones were the best in the program because they knew how to handle our personalities."

-Mini-U 2024 Student



Recognition Ceremony

To conclude the event and reflect on the past week, a recognition ceremony was held to honour the students and congratulate them for the bravery, openness and engagement they brought to the campus during the Mini-University Summer Camp.





**University
of Victoria**

Indigenous Academic &
Community Engagement



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