

Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Dr. Robina Thomas appointed as acting president, vice chancellor



Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Dr. Robina Thomas

The IACE team extends a hay sxw̓ q̓a | HÍSW̓KE | Thank you to Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Dr. Robina Thomas for her pivotal role as the Acting President and Vice Chancellor, and former Vice-President Indigenous (VPI) at the University of Victoria. A member of the Lyackson First Nation, Robina also has Snuy'ney'muxw ancestry through her grandmother, Lavina Wyse, and Sto:lo ancestry through her her grandfather, Charles Prest.

Robina began her career at UVic in 1998, as a visiting lecturer in the School of Social Work, followed by a tenure-track position in 2001. Since then, she has held the role of inaugural director and executive director of IACE, as well as special advisor to the president. As the inaugural VPI, she has championed the expansion of Indigenous programming, student supports, and accountability to local First Nations at UVic. Beyond this critical work, she has developed awards that cover tuition fees for local Indigenous students in language programs, renewed the Indigenous Plan and supported its implementation, and chaired

the Indigenous Citizenship Declaration (ICD) Policy Committee. Robina's excellence is further reflected by an extensive list of publications, most recently "Children in the Centre: Indigenous Perspective on Anti-Oppressive Child Welfare Practice" (2015), authored with current IACE Executive Director, Kundoqk, Jacquie Green. Having you in this role has been so important for our community.



Dr. Robina Thomas speaks at Orange Shirt Day event

Dr. Angela Jaime appointed as new Vice-President Indigenous (VPI)

In January, UVic announced the appointment of the new Vice-President Indigenous, Dr. Angela Jaime. Angela is a member of the Pit River Tribe of Northern California and has over 25 years of experience in Indigenous education and academic leadership. As the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), Angela led the implementation of *deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin truth policy*, which bolstered the work of UVic's own Indigenous Citizenship Declaration (ICD) Policy. Dr. Jaime's research focuses on Indigenous women in higher education, anti-racism, anti-oppression, and decolonization within post-secondary institutions. In her role as the newest member of UVic's executive team, Dr. Jaime will support the continuation and advancement of the Indigenous Plan and ʔetalnəwəl | ÁTOL,NEUEL, while providing Indigenous leadership to the broader UVic community and beyond. We are excited to welcome Dr. Angela Jaime to campus this summer!



Dr. Angela Jaime, new VP Indigenous

January Week of Welcome

The IACE team kicked off the new year with Week of Welcome, a week dedicated to welcoming new and returning Indigenous students back to campus each term. Each day features an event for students to connect, share and build new relationships with each other, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and IACE staff. On Monday, students were welcomed to the Student Support Information Fair. Tuesday brought the Elders' Brunch & Bingo, an exciting pancake breakfast complete with fierce competition. The Campus Cousins and NSU Meet n' Greet followed on Wednesday and Thursday respectively, and then capping off the week on Friday with the IIWIL Exchange Student Blanketing and Welcoming Feast. Thank you to everyone who participated in this term's Week of Welcome!



You are cordially invited
INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION CEREMONY

June 8, 10, & 12, 2026

CEREMONIAL HALL,
FIRST PEOPLES HOUSE



Learn more about IRC
bit.ly/4w3vSXO



K'sana Wood Lynes-Ford announced as Optional and Professional Programs Co-op Student of the Year



K'sana Wood Lynes-Ford in a UVic chemistry lab

K'sana Wood Lynes-Ford, member of Kwakwaka'wakw ('Namgis), Gitksan (Gitanyow), and Tsimshian (Gitxaala) First Nations is UVic's 2026 Optional and Professional Programs Co-op Student of the Year.

A chemistry student and recipient of a research internship award from the International Brain Research Organization and Centre for Brain Health (IBRO-CBH), K'sana spent three work terms with the Swayne Lab and Community Genetics Research Program (CGRP) at UVic. She is passionate advancing medicine and research for Indigenous communities, and conducts community-based participatory research projects that centre community interest and need.

In recognition of her accomplishments, K'sana also received the 2025 Co-op Student of the Year award from the Association for Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning BC/Yukon (ACE-WIL).

In addition to her numerous academic accomplishments, K'sana is an active member of the Indigenous student community, serving as the Firekeeper for the Native Student Union, and a friendly face in the First Peoples House. Join us in congratulating K'sana!

Indigenous Citizenship Declaration Policy

The Indigenous Citizenship Declaration (ICD) Policy process ensures that opportunities for material gain that are designated for Indigenous Peoples are accessed by Indigenous Peoples. It also ensures that the eligibility requirements for these opportunities align with the ways that Indigenous Nations, Peoples, and communities determine their Citizenship. With careful implementation and dedicated support staff, the ICD Policy will strengthen the ways that Indigenous Peoples bring our distinct ways of knowing and being into teaching, governance, and service at the university.



Learn more about UVic's Indigenous
Citizenship Declaration Policy
uvic.ca/OVPI/ICD

New OVPI Staff



Jordan Baron
Administrative Assistant

Jordan is the Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Vice-President Indigenous (OVPI), where he plays a vital role in keeping the team organized, responsive, and moving forward. In his temporary position, he has quickly become an essential part of daily operations. Jordan is honoured to work with the amazing OVPI team as an uninvited guest on these land.



Kai'a
Kau'ikamealoahaipono'ia
Anaiah Hill Brydon
Coordinator, Indigenous
and Human Rights,
Institutional Capacity
Building

My role centers on coordinating projects, supporting learning, relationship-building, and engagement, and developing inclusive, accessible tools and resources that translate institutional commitments and values into everyday lived practices across UVic.



Thasekiyahe,
Margaret Charlie
Director of Culture,
Protocol and Community
Relations

Returning to her role as the Director of Culture, Protocol and Community Relations, Margaret supports the Executive Council and other senior leadership with Indigenous culture, protocol and community relations. She is responsible for all university-wide cultural protocols, planning and operation activities.



Caitlyn
Murphy-Eagleson
Events Coordinator

As the Events Coordinator, I plan and implement land-based and event opportunities related to the goals and priorities of the OVPI in alignment with X^wk^wənənɪstəl | W̱CENENISTEL | Helping to move each other forward | Indigenous Plan 2023. I diligently foster and maintain relationships with local Elders and community members to ensure program alignment with cultural protocols.

Native Students Union (NSU) announces 2026-27 Council at Annual General Meeting (AGM)



The NSU is a non-profit organization run by Indigenous student volunteers and staff for their membership on UVic campus. Since 1969, they have been coming together to form community, support each other and local nations, advocate for Indigenous rights and wellness, and create spaces to safely exist while attending UVic. The NSU

congratulates and uplifts all members who submitted their names as nominees for the 2026 - 2027 council. All members are encouraged to attend NSU council meetings and events.

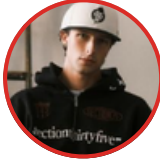
To learn more about the NSU and for the latest updates, follow them on social media.



Kwiadda McEvoy
Communications
Councillor



**K'sana Wood
Lynes-Ford**
Firekeeper



Leo Dougan
Administrative
Councillor



Amisha Mercer
Advocacy
Councillor



Christina Costa
Councillor-at-Large



Christobel Piché
Councillor-at-Large



Kaylee Oliver
Councillor-at-Large



Hillary Davies
Councillor-at-Large



IACE wraps another year of exciting student events

The end of term marks another successful year of student events hosted and supported by IACE. From cultural events to academic development opportunities, the First Peoples House is not only a home-away-from-home, but a hub for social, cultural, and community activities for Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, students, staff and faculty. Take a peek into this year's events.

Supported Student Events

- Week of Welcome
- Lunch Monday
- Crafternoon
- Noon Networking
- Soup Thursday
- Wellness Circle
- Yoga with Tanisha Nuttall
- Mock Interview Clinic and Career Fair
- Indigenous Student Artisan Market
- Beading Workshops (Virtual and in-person)
- Cedar Weaving Workshops (Virtual and in-person)
- Elders' Brunch
- IiWIL Welcoming and Blanketing Ceremony
- Indigenous Recognition Ceremony
- Move-In Day
- End of Term Celebration
- Indigiprom



Staff and faculty enjoy the April End of Term Celebration



Students sell their artworks at the Artisan market



Students come together at the Métis Dance Party



Students pose for Indigiprom

IACE student support schedule - summer updates

Each term, IACE hosts drop-in student support for Indigenous undergraduate and graduate students. From math tutoring, counselling, to the Office of Student life, supports are available from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday during the regular academic year.

Although regular drop-in supports are unavailable during the summer term, IACE student support coordinators are still available for drop-ins and by appointment. For the latest updates on student support, follow the IACE social media accounts.



Book with Andrea Thibodeau
Indigenous Student Support Coordinator



Book with Candice Cook
LE,NO_{NET} First Year Coordinator



Book with Izzy Ward
LE,NO_{NET} First Year STEM Coordinator

Upcoming events

- Indigenous Recognition Ceremony - June 8, 10, 12
- Mini-University Summer Camp - July 6-10











Contact us

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