



2026 ITIKI GATHERING

International Traditional Indigenous Knowledges Institute

Sacred Lands and Waters

EVENT PROGRAM

JULY 27-30, 2026 | Victoria, B.C. Canada



Hosted by the University of Victoria's
Office of the Vice-President Indigenous

UVIC
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
uvic.ca/ovpi/itiki

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2026 ITIKI Gathering

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

Message from Dr. Angela Jaime, Vice-President Indigenous, OVPI

On behalf of Etalewtxʷ | ÁTOL,ÁUTW | the Office of the Vice-President Indigenous, it is my honour to welcome you to the third International Traditional Indigenous Knowledges Institute (ITIKI) Gathering. I am grateful to join you in gathering on the beautiful homelands of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples, that we are fortunate to call home. We are honoured to host Indigenous graduate students, Elders, Knowledge Holders, and scholars from around the world and we hope you feel the warmth of these lands, waters and communities throughout your time here.

As Indigenous graduate students and emerging leaders, you are helping to shape the future of Indigenous research, scholarship and community. Your work carries the teachings of your Nations while creating new pathways for future generations. ITIKI offers a space to slow down, listen deeply and learn from one another through Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing. As we gather on the land, share stories and experience the richness of Coast Salish culture, may this time strengthen relationships, inspire new collaborations, and remind us that our most meaningful knowledge is built through reciprocity, respect and our responsibilities to one another. I hope you leave this gathering with renewed purpose, lasting connections and teachings that will continue to guide your work long after you return home.



ABOUT

The 2026 International Traditional Indigenous Knowledges Institute (ITIKI), hosted by the University of Victoria's Office of the Vice-President Indigenous, provides a land-based space for Indigenous knowledge holders, Indigenous leaders (both academic and cultural), and Indigenous graduate students from across the globe to gather and share traditional knowledges, praxis, ontologies, and pedagogies by exercising inherent rights and implementing traditional ways of being, knowing, and doing through cross-cultural, reciprocal exchanges between Indigenous Nations and Peoples.

THEME



Sacred Lands and Waters

In this design, Nulis, Carey Newman, has represented the concept of ITIKI's theme "Sacredness of Land and Water" with the idea of water connecting us all, giving life, sustaining life. The title of this design is gālka'wīłala, a Kwakwaka'wakw word that translates to "swimming across".

About the Artist



Carey Newman OBC, MSM, FRSC whose traditional name is Nulis, is a multi-disciplinary artist, carver, filmmaker, author, and scholar. Through his father, he is Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish. Through his mother his ancestors are English, Irish, and Scottish Settlers. In his artistic practice he strives to highlight social, and environmental issues as he examines the impacts that colonialism and capitalism have on Indigenous people and culture.

Perhaps his most influential work, The Witness Blanket, made of items collected from residential schools, government buildings and churches across Canada, deals with the subject of Truth and Reconciliation. It is now part of the collection at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Newman is the inaugural Impact Chair of Indigenous Art Practices at the University of Victoria. In 2023 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws by Royal Roads University, and at a traditional ceremony in July 2025 he was transferred the name Nulis, making him a hereditary chief within the Kwakwaka'wakw nation. Follow [@blueravenart](https://www.instagram.com/blueravenart)



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PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



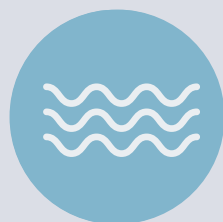
JULY 27
MONDAY

- Welcoming Ceremony: Canoeing Protocol at Maple Bank
- Lunch at X^wsepsəm/ Esquimalt longhouse
- Lahal with Sandy and Christine Morris, and Wool Weaving with Lydia Jim



JULY 28
TUESDAY

- A Place of Medicine tour with Loreisa Lepine and Drew Elves
- Student research presentations
- ŁÁU, WELNEW hike and lunch
- WŚÁNEĆ creation stories with MENEŦIYE Elisha Elliott



JULY 29
WEDNESDAY

- Birding with Special Bird Service, Trenton Schulz-Franco and PEPAŦIYE Ashley Cooper at ȚIKEL (Maber Flats)
- Lunch at Friendship Hall: VNFC presentation by Kari McLay
- Workshops: clamshell rattle making, wool weaving, painting paddles and beading



JULY 30
THURSDAY

- Witness Blanket VR Experience or ACET Living Partnership Model Workshop
- Weaving Teachings Workshop
- Intergenerational Knowledge Sharing
- Reflection and evaluation
- Closing ceremony & dinner

PROGRAM SCHEDULE - GRADUATE STUDENTS

DATES/ TIMES	JULY 27 MONDAY	JULY 28 TUESDAY	JULY 29 WEDNESDAY	JULY 30 THURSDAY
MORNING				
8:30 AM	Breakfast at the Cove	Breakfast at First Peoples House	Breakfast at the Cove	Breakfast at First Peoples House
9:00 AM				
9:15 AM	Transportation to Songhees Nation	Place of Medicine tour at First Peoples House		
9:30 AM			Transportation to ȚIKEL	ACET Living Partnership Model (9:15-10:15)
10:00 AM	Welcome Ceremony: Canoeing Protocol at Maple Bank	Student research presentations at First Peoples House	Special Bird Service Birding at ȚIKEL	
10:30 AM				Elder’s Panel: Weaving Teachings
AFTERNOON				
12:00 PM	Lunch at X ^w sepsəm/ Esquimalt longhouse	Transportation to ŁÁU,WELŦEW	Transportation to Friendship Hall	Lunch at the Cove
12:30 PM		Hike and Lunch on ŁÁU,WELŦEW	Lunch at Friendship Hall: Victoria Native Friendship Centre presentation	
1:00 PM				
1:30 PM	Lahal with Sandy and Christine Morris, and Wool Weaving with Lydia Jim	ŦSÁNEĆ Creation Stories	Multi-station workshops: clamshell rattle making wool weaving painting paddles beading at Friendship Hall	
2:00 PM				
3:30 PM	Transportation to UVic	Transportation to UVic		
4:00 PM			Transportation to UVic	
EVENING				
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Optional dinner at FPH	Optional dinner at FPH	Optional dinner at FPH	Dinner and Closing Ceremony at First Peoples House

PROGRAM SCHEDULE - ELDERS AND STAFF

DATES/ TIMES	JULY 27 MONDAY	JULY 28 TUESDAY	JULY 29 WEDNESDAY	JULY 30 THURSDAY
MORNING				
8:00 AM		Transportation to UVic		Transportation to UVic
8:30 AM		Breakfast at First Peoples House		Breakfast at First Peoples House
9:00 AM				
9:15 AM	Transportation to Songhees Nation	Place of Medicine tour at First Peoples House	Transportation to ȚIKEL	Witness Blanket VR Experience (9:15-10:15)
9:30 AM				ACET Living Partnership Model (9:15-10:15)
10:00 AM	Welcome Ceremony: Canoeing Protocol at Maple Bank	Student research presentations at First Peoples House	Special Bird Service Birding at ȚIKEL	Elder’s Panel: Weaving Teachings
10:30 AM				
AFTERNOON				
12:00 PM	Lunch at X ^w sepsəm/ Esquimalt longhouse	Transportation to ŁÁU,WELŦEW	Transportation to Friendship Hall	Lunch at the Cove
12:30 PM		Hike and Lunch on ŁÁU,WELŦEW	Lunch at Friendship Hall: Victoria Native Friendship Centre presentation	Breakout groups: Intergenerational Knowledge Sharing – impacts of colonialism, capitalism and patriarchy at First Peoples House
1:00 PM				
1:30 PM	Lahal with Sandy and Christine Morris, and Wool Weaving with Lydia Jim	ȚSÁNEĆ Creation Stories	Multi-station workshops: clamshell rattle making wool weaving painting paddles beading at Friendship Hall	Reflection & evaluation forms at First Peoples House
2:00 PM				
3:30 PM	Transportation to hotels	Transportation to hotels	Transportation to hotels	
4:00 PM				
EVENING				
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM				Dinner and Closing Ceremony at First Peoples House
7:30 PM				Transportation to hotels

GATHERING DETAILS



CANOEING PROTOCOL

In alignment with the protocols of the ləkʷəŋən Peoples, participants will take a short canoe ride into the bay and return to shore to ask permission from local Elders from Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt to be on these lands.



FRIENDSHIP HALL PRESENTATION

Led by Kari McLay, participants will learn about the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and the Friendship Hall, as well as the programming and services offered to the urban Indigenous population in the Greater Victoria region.



LAHAL AND WOOL WEAVING

Local community members, Sandy and Christine Morris will teach participants to play lahal, a traditional Indigenous game, while Lydia Jim will teach participants wool weaving techniques.



MULTI-STATION WORKSHOP

The following members of UVic's Elders Voices: Elder Kathy Horne, Elder Doug LaFortune, Elder May Sam, and Tsuu T'ina Nation member, Shelby Crowchild, will teach participants to make clamshell rattles, to weave a wool pouch, to paint paddles, and to bead a lanyard.



PLACE OF MEDICINE TOUR

UVic's very own inaugural Indigenous Land Steward will guide participants through a Place of Medicine, sharing her knowledge of native plants and providing an opportunity to participate in invasive species removal.



WITNESS BLANKET VR EXPERIENCE

Recent MFA graduate, Kylie Fineday, will guide participants through Carey Newman's powerful national monument through virtual reality. Inspired by a woven blanket, the Witness Blanket is a large-scale work of art. It contains hundreds of items reclaimed from residential schools, churches, government buildings and traditional and cultural structures from across Canada.

GATHERING DETAILS



STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Graduate student participants are asked to prepare a brief, informal presentation to share in small groups comprised of staff, Elders, and other graduate student participants. This will be an opportunity to receive guidance or feedback based on where individuals are at in their research journey.



ACET LIVING PARTNERSHIP MODEL

This session offers an honest look at the journey of bringing community-centered relationship models to a complex network of multi-university researchers. This presentation shares the practical learnings, friction, and breakthroughs that happen when embedding structural accountability into a massive, active initiative. Together, we will discuss how major projects can adapt in real time, turn institutional willingness into respectful action, and build genuine, long-term collaboration.



ŁÁU, WELNEW AND WSÁNEĆ CREATION STORIES

MENETIYE Elisha Elliott will take participants up ŁÁU, WELNEW, a culturally significant mountain for the WSÁNEĆ People. We will share food at the top of the mountain and learn about the WSÁNEĆ creation stories.



ELDER'S PANEL: WEAVING TEACHINGS

Elders are invited to share their knowledge about how to take up the responsibility of ensuring Indigenous cultural and traditional knowledges remain meaningfully at the forefront of our work as academics, and are not lost to colonialism.



SPECIAL BIRD SERVICE BIRDING

Situated in WSÁNEĆ territory, participants will be guided through the restoration partnerships and work underway at TIKEL (Maber Flats). Deepening intentional relationships with lands and waters, participants will learn about the many native and migratory bird species supported by the freshwater bog.



INTERGENERATIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING

This discussion-based workshop was conceptualized by UVic's Elders Voices to explore how we continue to experience the impacts of colonization, capitalism and the patriarchy within our communities and within academia as Indigenous Peoples.

EXPLORING LƏK^wƏŋƏN TERRITORY

Places to eat:

TORO Japanese Sushi (708 View St)
Pagliacci's (1011 Broad St)
MAiiz Nixtamal Gastroteca & Premium Tortilleria (540 Fisgard St)
Tacofino (760 Pandora Ave)
Boomtown (950 Yates St)
Pizzeria Prima Strada (230 Cook St)
Fisherman's Wharf
Sura Korean GrillHouse (1696 Douglas St) or Bistro Chi-Q (1669 Pear St)

Coffee, Bakeries and Treats:

WAIRUA (1040 N Park St)
Little June (1301 Gladstone Ave)
Torch Song (1812 Government St)
Parsonage Cafe (1105 Caledonia Ave)
Cold Comfort Ice Cream (200 Cook St #102)
Working Culture Bread (2506 Douglas St)
Demitasse Cafe & Garden Centre (2164 McNeill Ave)

Things to do:

Walk along Dallas Road and the breakwater
Explore mícəŋ (Beacon Hill Park) and the tallest free-standing totem pole
Royal BC Museum (675 Belleville St)
Walk through Chinatown Fan Tan Alley (between Pandora Ave & Fisgard St)
Hike P'q'als (Mount Tolmie) or PKOLS (Mount Douglas)
Willows Beach or Cadboro-Gyro Beach & Park
Saxe Point
Esquimalt Lagoon

Transportation:

BC Transit - UMO app
Uber
Yellow cab (+1 250-381-2222) or Bluebird cabs (+1 250-382-2222)

Event Organizers

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