Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation | University of Victoria

Collaboration Agreement

2024–2029
Acknowledgements

The University of Victoria wants to begin by acknowledging and respecting the Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation on whose territory the Simpson property resides on.

Place name: Ch’itupt nit - grass used for basketry

The University of Victoria acknowledges and respects the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.
tiitiichawi | tiibaqsti
Please bring in your good heart and mind

Collaboration Statement
With Ditidaht culture, land and language at the heart, the Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation and the University of Victoria (UVic) are committed to working together for the benefit of our students and communities, prioritizing community-based education to enhance community capacity-building and economic development.

Guiding Principles
The partners will maintain a respectful and reciprocal relationship that is learner and community focused, culturally rooted, goal oriented and transparent in practice. The collaboration will build on the strengths of Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation and UVic to encourage and enhance the programs and services of both partners.

The partners will carry out their respective and mutual goals, and objectives, with the following values to help guide their actions and decisions:

- **ISAAK CAMIS (RESPECT)** for all partners involved in the programs and services
- **COLLABORATIVE** decision-making
- **COMMITMENT** to each other and neighbouring communities
- **TRANSPARENCY** in all dealings with respect to the programs and services
- **CULTURE** is honoured with respect to traditional and sacred knowledge
- **EDUCATION** opportunities
- **VALUING** the lands, waters, and ecosystems
Ts’uubaa-asatx Territory

Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation (formerly known as Lake Cowichan First Nation) have lived around the shores of the Cowichan Lake for millennia, long prior to the arrival of Euro-Canadians. Ts’uubaa-asatx have always made their primary home on Cowichan Lake. The English translation of the name Ts’uubaa-asatx is “People of the Lake.”

The Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation is committed to building a strong and healthy community, connected to our lands and culture. We strive to build capacity for effective economic growth, planning for the now, and well into the future.

Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation

Ts’uubaa-asatx is a self-determining, innovative and prosperous Nation. We are a distinct tribe who continues to govern in a harmonious and balanced way, inclusive of all members, valuing relationships, customs and traditions, with honour and respect for our culture and the environment, continuing for future generations. We govern in a harmonious way that prioritizes inclusivity for all members, our culture and environment to ensure that future generations can thrive on our lands.

We strive to build a solid foundation for our current and future generations to grow and prosper while acknowledging our culture and heritage as distinct people of Lake Cowichan.

Ts’uubaa-asatx Strategic Priorities

All collaboration initiatives with Ts’uubaa-asatx will ensure alignment with the following strategic priorities:

- Ts’uubaa-asatx is economically self-sufficient through sustainable economic development
- Ts’uubaa-asatx provides housing opportunities for members and controls ownership and responsibility of the land and infrastructure decisions in the community
- Ts’uubaa-asatx members have access to education and skills development to achieve meaningful and sustainable jobs and careers
- Ts’uubaa-asatx is a self-determining Nation governing in a harmonious and balanced way inclusive of all members
- Ts’uubaa-asatx members are healthy and socially connected through strong relationships and community programs
The University of Victoria is a comprehensive research university that sees community engagement as a key part of our success. We work closely with our community partners to foster respect and reconciliation, promote sustainable futures and uphold our values of equity, diversity and inclusion.

Our commitment to Indigenous education and community engagement is reflected across the full range of our institutional strategic documents (including the Strategic Plan and Indigenous Plan), highlighting the responsibilities that all members of the university have to contribute to this work.

Xʷk̓ə̓n̓ə̓q̓istəł | W̱C̱EN̓EMISTEL | Helping to move each other forward, Indigenous Plan 2023, specifically commits to developing land stewardship initiatives and plans to heal and restore lands occupied by the university in partnership with local Indigenous communities (1.4.1b)

Moving this important work forward will require challenging conversations about what we value and prioritize as an institution and how we contribute to decolonization in a good way.

Etalewtxʷ | ÁTOL,ÁUTW | Office of the Vice-President Indigenous

Etalewtxʷ | ÁTOL,ÁUTW | Office of the Vice-President Indigenous (OVPI) leads the university’s Indigenous initiatives and priorities. The OVPI’s vision and principles are rooted in the Coast Salish teaching of ḥeñəłnəwəł | ÁTOL,NEUEL | showing respect for the rights of one another and all living things. The OVPI names and teachings are provided in Ləkəʔən̓ən̓ | SENĆOŦEN | English to respect the territory upon which the University stands. uvic.ca/ovpi
Remember our ancestors and birthright

All partners agree that engagement with Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation will prioritize Ts’uubaa-asatx culture, language, knowledge and values, and to the standards used by Ts’uubaa-asatx people to legitimate knowledge. In areas of collaboration, both partners agree to use their best efforts to:

- uphold Ts’uubaa-asatx cultural values;
- understand and acknowledge appropriate aspects of Ts’uubaa-asatx culture;
- ensure that Ts’uubaa-asatx cultural protocols are respected
- ensure that Ts’uubaa-asatx people are consulted and have given clear direction on all relevant cultural activity before, during and after educational programming and initiatives.

Klut Sath | Good to each other

Work together

The Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation and UVic will work together to support the educational success of Indigenous learners in the communities we serve. This work will be grounded in Ditidaht language, and will follow clear and mutually respectful research, communication and cultural protocols. Both parties are committed to maintaining open discussion and a collective approach to all matters relating to the fulfillment of this Collaboration Agreement and related Service Agreements.

The partners will work together to develop and prioritize educational programming and services that promote the growth and development of Indigenous students, and that strengthen the foundation for capacity building amongst the Ts’uubaa-asatx community.

Remembering Hereditary Chief Sha e’ lum (Cyril Livingstone)

Chief Sha e’ lum worked tirelessly to put Lake Cowichan First Nation (Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation) on the map and bring his people home.

He was dedicated to providing opportunities for his community to grow, including actively pursuing treaty negotiations, economic development and housing for his people.
xa xa put | Education
Be prepared for the work to come

The partners will continue to enter into collaborative, community-based programming to work towards mutually determined goals and objectives, while respecting the mandate of each other. The partners will explore the future development of projects and programs in areas of mutual interest with a view to the following goals:

**FACILITATING** cooperation and establishing collaborations that will enhance our mutual educational goals.

**DEVELOPING** and promoting positive benefits for the community.

**HONOURING** cultural values and protocols.

**ENHANCING** transition opportunities in and out of post-secondary.

**PROMOTING** recruitment through local role models at the K-12 and post-secondary levels.

**CREATING** relevant communication, ethics, and research protocols.

**COLLABORATING** in program development, delivery, and evaluation.

**PROTECTING** intellectual property rights and copyrights.

Protection of Customary Intangible Property
The partners will respect customary Ts‘uubaa-asatx family property laws and family protocols in accordance with the terms and protocols set out in program-specific Service Agreements.

UVic will use its best efforts to keep the Ts‘uubaa-asatx Nation informed of the development and implementation of research projects involving Ts‘uubaa-asatx Nation and territories, ensuring that the Ts‘uubaa-asatx Nation has the opportunity to review research outcomes and to consult with their Nation to ensure the protection of customary or intellectual property that might be disclosed within the research.
Collaboration Agreement

This agreement commences on the date of signing, July 10, 2024, and will remain in place until either Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation or the University of Victoria wish to amend it. However, it will be reviewed and renewed at a minimum of five-year intervals and may be amended at any time. Amendments to this agreement must be agreed upon in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each partner. The partners shall have 30 days to respond to an amendment proposed by the other partner. Each partner may terminate this agreement for any reason at any time by providing written notice to the other partner. The termination of this agreement will not affect the terms of any Service Agreements entered between the partners.

Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as creating any legal relationship between the partners and the partners agree that this agreement is not enforceable in law or equity. This agreement does not limit or infringe upon the autonomy of the Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation.

Roles and Contacts

Regarding this Collaboration Agreement, the central contact person for the University of Victoria is the Vice-President Indigenous and the central contact person for the Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation is the Operations Manager.

Any notice of written communication required under this agreement may be directed to:

Ts’uubaa-asatx Nation
313B Deer Road
PO Box 159, Lake Cowichan BC V0R 2G0

Office of the Vice-President Indigenous
Room 220, Michael Williams Building
University of Victoria
PO Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Signatories

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