



WSÁNEĆ School Board | University of Victoria

COLLABORATION AGREEMENT | 2022-2030

The University of Victoria acknowledges and respects the lək'wəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



**WSÁNEĆ
SCHOOL BOARD**





ÁMEKT TFEN ÍY, ŚKÁLEZEN | Bring in your good feelings

COLLABORATION STATEMENT

With WŚÁNEĆ culture, land, and SENĆOFEN language at the heart, the WŚÁNEĆ School Board (WSB) and the University of Victoria (UVic) are committed to working together for the benefit of our students, prioritizing community-based education to enhance community capacity.

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 the WSB 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 a view to the following principles:

COLLABORATIVE decision-making

RESPECT for all partners involved in the programming

TRANSPARENCY in all dealings with respect to the programming

EXCELLENCE in teaching and a high-quality learning environment

HONOURING cultural customs and practices with respect to traditional and sacred knowledge

ĆANEUEL OL | Work together

COMMITMENTS

The WSB and UVic will work together to support the educational success of Indigenous learners in the communities we serve. This work will be grounded in SENĆOFEN 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 WŚÁNEĆ communities.

VALUES THAT INFORM OUR WORK

HIWEST EN SNÁTW | Honouring one another's gifts

ĆELNEUEL OL | Collaboration, not competition

HIWESTEW | Ceremony and celebration

ĆELIMET | Balance



WŚÁNEĆ SCHOOL BOARD

The mission of the WŚÁNEĆ School Board, working with the WŚÁNEĆ Nation in service to children, families and communities, is to ensure the continued immersion of our learners in WŚÁNEĆ culture and SENĆOFEN language within a strong and leading education system. We are committed to giving learners the knowledge, skills and emotional capacity to progress through their learning goals and aspirations with dignity, purpose and options in order to embrace the socio-economic and political opportunities of life.

wsanecschoolboard.ca

WŚÁNEĆ ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE

Our mission is to enhance educational opportunities for WŚÁNEĆ Nation adults living on and off reserve and in neighbouring communities by offering courses and programs that are community based and driven and which link to the WŚÁNEĆ Nation's longer range community development plans, to advance development, self-sufficiency and self-reliance. wsanecschoolboard.ca/saec

TU LÁTES MEQ EN SCÁ SE Be prepared for all 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 institution. The partners will explore the future development of programs and initiatives 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 communities we serve

The partners are committed to working together on the following initiatives to enhance educational programming and services for Indigenous learners:

HONOURING cultural values and protocols

RESPECTING language beliefs, local territories, and traditional knowledge

STRENGTHENING our presence in the communities we serve

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

HÁEQ ŁTE OL TFE ĆELÁÑEN ŁTE Remember our ancestors/birthright

PROTOCOL

All partners agree that in engagement with WŚÁNEĆ people, appropriate respect will be given to WŚÁNEĆ culture, language, knowledge and values, and to the standards used by WŚÁNEĆ people to legitimate knowledge. In areas of collaboration, both partners agree to use their best efforts to:

- Uphold WŚÁNEĆ cultural values
- Understand and acknowledge appropriate aspects of WŚÁNEĆ culture
- Ensure that WŚÁNEĆ cultural protocols are respected
- Ensure that WŚÁNEĆ people are consulted and have given clear direction on all relevant cultural activity before, during and after educational programming and initiatives

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

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 Framework, the Indigenous Plan and the Strategic Enrolment Management Plan), highlighting the responsibilities that all members of the university have to contribute to this work. uvic.ca



WŚENĆOFEN IST Instructors: JSINTEN Dr. John Elliott and FKOLEĆTEN Joe Seward (December 2021). FKOLEĆTEN is an alumnus of the WŚENĆOFEN IST program and is honoured to now be co-teaching IED 159 A: Indigenous Language I (SENĆOFEN) alongside his WUCÍSTENEK (language mentor) JSINTEN.

PROTECTION OF CUSTOMARY INTANGIBLE PROPERTY

The partners will respect customary SENĆOFEN 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 WŚB informed of the development and implementation of research projects involving WŚÁNEĆ nations and territories, ensuring that the WŚB has the opportunity to review research outcomes and to consult with WŚÁNEĆ nations to ensure the protection of customary or intellectual property that might be disclosed within the research.

VICE-PRESIDENT INDIGENOUS

The Vice-President Indigenous (VPI) provides leadership and direction that furthers UVic's commitment to truth, respect and reconciliation as identified in our Strategic Framework (priority 4: Foster respect and reconciliation) and the Indigenous Plan. The VPI will seek guidance and direction from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, colleagues and community leaders to achieve this visionary direction. uvic.ca/indigenous

ITOTELNEWTEL ŁTE: | Learning from one another

The UVic Elders Engagement Fund carries the name, **ITOTELNEWTEL ŁTE: LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER**, in honour of Dr. Marie Cooper (SWETALIYE). The name was given to UVic by the Austin/Cooper family. Dr. Cooper had a 20-year career as an educational administrator, leading the transformation of Indigenous education at the K-12 and post-secondary levels. She was also a founding member of Elders' Voices at UVic and member of the Indigenous education advisory board in the Faculty of Education. Dr. Cooper received an Honorary Doctor of Education degree from the University of Victoria in 2010, in recognition of her many years of contributions in the field of education.

In the words of her Great-niece, Melissa Austin (Tsartlip First Nation):

"The fund carries on the work [Marie] was doing at UVic, by bringing knowledge keepers and Elders into classrooms not only so that courses can be more culturally relevant for Indigenous students but so that all students have the opportunity to learn about Indigenous history and culture. She was passionate about supporting all students in post-secondary. This will go a long way to carrying on her legacy so that we can build capacity and understanding, and really engage in reconciliation and move forward."



Dr. Marie Cooper, knowledge keeper

Collaboration Agreement

This agreement commences on the date of signing in May 4, 2022 and will remain in place until either the WSB or UVic 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 institute. 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 four WSÁNEĆ nations.

ROLES AND CONTACTS

In regards to this Relationship Agreement, the central contact person for UVic is the Vice-President Indigenous and the central contact person for WSB is the Director of the Saanich Adult Education Centre.

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

Kendra Underwood, Director, Saanich Adult Education Centre,
7449 West Saanich Road,
Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1R3

Robina Thomas, Vice-President
Indigenous, University of Victoria,"
3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

SIGNATORIES

Abraham Pelkey
Chairman, WSÁNEĆ School Board

Curtis Olsen
Administrator, WSÁNEĆ School Board

Robina Thomas
Vice-President Indigenous,
University of Victoria

Kevin Hall
President, University of Victoria