Guidelines for Protocol, Hosting and Payment for səlxʷéyn/SELWÁN ŁTE (Elders), Knowledge Keepers and Community Members

Acknowledgement

The University of Victoria acknowledges with respect Lekwungen speaking 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.

The University of Victoria acknowledges and affirms the value of Indigenous knowledge and teachings. The University of Victoria recognizes that səlxʷéyn ṭə/SELWÁN ŁTE (Elders) and Knowledge Keepers are very important members of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and have valuable knowledge to share with Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and communities.

Introduction

This document outlines guidelines for appropriately acknowledging the contributions made by səlxʷéyn ṭə/SELWÁN ŁTE and Knowledge Keepers in regards to their engagement with the UVic community (students, faculty, staff, visitors and volunteers) by ensuring consistency in extending invitations, respectful hosting and honoraria and/or compensation. These guidelines are for the members of the UVic community who are working with səlxʷéyn ṭə/SELWÁN ŁTE and Knowledge Keepers both on-and off-campus for university purposes.

While səlxʷéyn ṭə/SELWÁN ŁTE and Knowledge Keepers are not currently regular employees of the university (i.e., they are not on salary), they hold an essential and valued role in leading the work of the University of Victoria and the Office of Indigenous, Academic and Community Engagement (IACE). The university’s Indigenous Plan states, “Elders are the caretakers of cultural wisdom. They are pivotal in protecting the Indigenous ways of knowing and being that have been passed down to them for generations from the ancestors...Elders know it is their responsibility to share their guiding wisdom with students, staff, faculty and the broader community.” As we move forward, we aim to appropriately acknowledge the contributions that the səlxʷéyn ṭə/SELWÁN ŁTE and Knowledge Keepers have made and continue to make.

Terminology

*We are including both phonetics of Lekwungen and SENĆOŦEN dialects respectively.

*səlxʷéyn ṭə / SELWÁN ŁTE (sull-whane-łta) means “Elders” səlxʷéyn ṭə in Lekwungen and SELWÁN ŁTE in SENĆOŦEN. səlxʷéyn/ SELWÁN requested that we use “səlxʷéyn/SELWÁN ŁTE or Elders when we address them. Within Indigenous communities, səlxʷéyn ṭə/SELWÁN ŁTE are held in high esteem and are seen as custodians of our histories, traditions, language, and culture.

səlxʷéyn/ SELWÁN (sull-whane) means “Elders.” The title of səlxʷéyn/SELWÁN is bestowed upon individuals who demonstrate character, knowledge of traditional ways, generosity of spirit and connection to community.
səlxʷéyn ñta/SELWÁN LTE (skae-puth tthe sull-whane-ñta) means “meeting place of the Elders’-in-residence.

səlxʷéyn sqʷél /SELWÁN SKÁL (sull-whane skwale) means “Elders’ Voices” formerly known as Elders’ Voices Program.

səlxʷéyn/ SELWÁN -in-Training means “Elders-in-training” and is a younger individual who has spent a significant amount of time with a grandparent and/or other səlxʷéyn/SELWÁN learning the traditional ways through active engagement in the community.

Knowledge Keepers are individuals who are well respected members of the community and are recognized for the specific gifts, talents, and knowledge they possess. They pass on valuable knowledge from generation to generation. They not only keep knowledge but more importantly they share their knowledge.

“A Handshake” is an expression that Coast Salish people use to show appreciation, in the form of cash, for the work that someone has done for them. For example, when we offer an honorarium to the səlxʷéyn/SELWÁN we are not “paying them” per se (i.e., giving knowledge in exchange for their time or knowledge) we are shaking their hand to show our appreciation for the work they completed and knowledge they shared.

səlxʷéyn sqʷél /SELWÁN SKÁL – Elders’ Voices

səlxʷéyn sqʷél /SELWÁN SKÁL is an independent body of səlxʷéyn ñta/SELWÁN LTE from the Coast Salish, Nuu-chāh-nulth, Mētis and Kwakwaka’wakw Nations on Vancouver Island who have provided support to UVic since 2007. səlxʷéyn sqʷél/SELWÁN SKĀ members believe in the importance and value of working together as one with a good mind and heart. səlxʷéyn sqʷél/SELWÁN SKĀ members have offered support and guidance in the following ways:

- Increasing awareness and providing education about Indigenous ways of knowing, and being;
- Providing encouragement to Indigenous students, faculty and staff;
- Creating space at the First Peoples House where Indigenous students, faculty and staff feel safe and encouraged to practise their cultures and to learn about others; and
- Encouraging and developing opportunities for non-Indigenous students, faculty and staff to learn about Indigenous histories and cultures in a safe and non-judgemental environment.

səlxʷéyn ñta/SELWÁN LTE and Knowledge Keepers are often called upon to provide the following on behāīf of the university:

- Welcomes to the territory;
- Opening prayers or blessings;
- Facilitation of cultural activities or sharing circles;
- Classroom visits;
• Words of encouragement;
• Advice at meetings; and
• Speaking, singing, or dancing at a traditional Indigenous event.

There are currently ten members of salxʷéyn sqʷél/SELWÁN SKÁL, some of whom have formal roles as sq̓épəɫ salxʷéyn ṭa.SKÁPEȽ TŦE SELWÁN LTE (Elders-in-Residence). sq̓épəɫ salxʷéyn ṭa.SKÁPEȽ TŦE SELWÁN LTE are on campus on weekdays from 10 am to 2 pm between September and April. It is anticipated that salxʷéyn sqʷél /SELWÁN SKÁL will grow to increase availability of salxʷéyn ṭa/SELWÁN LTE on campus and will include Knowledge Keepers and salxʷéyn/SELWÁN -in-training who will work alongside the salxʷéyn ṭa/SELWÁN LTE.

Respectful Care
Where salxʷéyn ṭa/SELWÁN LTE are invited to on or off campus events on behalf of UVic, the person responsible for organizing the event shall host the salxʷéyn/SELWÁN and his or her escort, if any. Please be considerate of the fact that many salxʷéyn ṭa/SELWÁN LTE have mobility issues and their needs are very important. As such, the host is responsible for

• Ensuring appropriate transportation to and from the event (this may include providing a parking pass or code and meeting the salxʷéyn/SELWÁN at the parking lot with a golf cart for direct transportation to the event);
• Greeting and meeting the salxʷéyn/SELWÁN upon arrival;
• Taking care of the salxʷéyn/SELWÁN until his or her departure; and
• Escorting/transporting the salxʷéyn ṭa/SELWÁN LTE to their vehicle and/or pick up area.

In respect of health considerations, salxʷéyn ṭa/SELWÁN LTE are typically available on campus for UVic events for a maximum of 6 hours. Where a feast, meal or refreshments are served, cultural protocol requires that salxʷéyn ṭa/SELWÁN LTE be served first. It is recommended to keep low-sugar and low-sodium snacks and water available to salxʷéyn ṭa/SELWÁN LTE during events. It is also acceptable to ask salxʷéyn ṭa/SELWÁN LTE if they have any health issues that may require special considerations.

Photographs, audio, and/or video recordings are often not acceptable when an salxʷéyn/SELWÁN is performing a spiritual ceremony. In respect of the salxʷéyn/SELWÁN always ask permission.

Guidelines for payment/gifts for salxʷéyn ṭa/SELWÁN LTE and Knowledge Keepers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territory Acknowledgement</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blessing for the table</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sq̓épəɫ salxʷéyn ṭa/SKÁPEȽ TŦE SELWÁN LTE (Elder in residence)</td>
<td>$40.00 an hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumming</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Gifts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something made by you</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A gift from your tradition or culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsweetened treats (treats for diabetics)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief - blanket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cash payment is required for the service being performed at the event. (e.g., drummer, speaker and ushers). Please contact the Cultural Protocol Liaison if you’re not sure when you would need cash payment.*

1. Providing Honoraria and/or Compensation – Short Term (e.g., guest speakers, welcomes, prayers)
   - The Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement recommends that səlxʷéyn Ḵ̕aan SELWÁN LTE and other knowledge keepers are provided honoraria for sharing their knowledge and gifts at a rate of $50/hour (minimum of $100, maximum of 6 hours). Note that this is the recommended acknowledgement for any səlxʷéyn Ḵ̕aan SELWÁN LTE or Knowledge Keeper who agrees to share their knowledge for university purposes (i.e., the rate is the same for an səlxʷéyn Ḵ̕aan SELWÁN LTE as for any other Knowledge Keeper who is not in a formal role at the University of Victoria).
   i. For səlxʷéyn Ḵ̕aan SELWÁN LTE / Knowledge Keepers who are in formal (i.e., paid) roles outside of the university and who are engaging in activities that fall within their formal role (e.g., the Chief of a Nation engaging in relationship/partnership building and/or discussing opportunities with the Nation), a handshake (shaking their hand with $100 cash) will acknowledge appreciation for their participation and contributions.
   ii. For səlxʷéyn Ḵ̕aan SELWÁN LTE /Knowledge Keepers who are in formal (i.e., paid) roles at the University of Victoria and who are engaging in activities that take place during their regular working hours, a small gift will acknowledge appreciation for their participation and contributions.
   iii. For səlxʷéyn Ḵ̕aan SELWÁN LTE /Knowledge Keepers who are in formal (i.e., paid) roles at the University of Victoria and who are engaging in activities that take place outside their regular working hours (for example sq̓épəɫ səlxʷéyn Ḵ̕aan SKÁPEȽ TŦE SELWÁN LTE are in from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm) any time before or after will require a handshake (shaking their hand with $100 cash) or $50.00 an hour (maximum of 6 hours)
   - In addition to the honoraria, a small gift may also be provided from the individual who made the request to show appreciation for the knowledge they shared.

2. Providing Honoraria and/or Compensation – Long Term (e.g., field school community facilitators, placement supervisors – participation of a day or longer) *Note that these
amounts may vary depending on the funding source and amounts for these activities. This may mean that the amount that we are able to provide for certain projects/initiatives is more or less than what the recommendations are below. This should be clearly communicated during initial conversations with the participants.

- A daily rate of $500 for səlxʷéyn ḣta/SELWÁN ŁTE/Knowledge Keepers who are taking on longer term roles. This acknowledges that the individual is being taken away from their community and family responsibilities. To provide further clarification based on potential formal roles of Elders/Knowledge Keepers:
  
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  ii. For səlxʷéyn ḣta/SELWÁN ŁTE /Knowledge Keepers who are in formal (i.e., paid) roles at the University of Victoria and who are engaging in activities that take place outside their regular working hours (for example sq̓épəɬ səlxʷéyn ḣta/SKÁPEŁ TŦE SELWÁN ŁTE are in from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm) any time before or after will require a handshake (shaking their hand with $100 cash) or $50.00 an hour (maximum of 6 hours)

Account Services

UVic recognizes the importance of making payments to səlxʷéyn ḣta/SELWÁN ŁTE and Knowledge Keepers in a culturally sensitive way. Account Services has established specific procedures, guidelines and forms to assist faculty and staff in making such payments.

For further information refer to the Step-by-Step Payment Guide to Indigenous payees: https://www.uvic.ca/vpfo/accounting/resources/indigenous-payment.php or contact Accounts Payable at 250-472-4525 or at askacct@uvic.ca.

Contact Information

If you are uncertain or have further questions, please feel free to contact the Cultural Protocol Liaison, at 250-472-4106 or at iacecpl@uvic.ca.