Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect 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.

Indigenous Citizenship Declaration Policy

The Office of the Vice-President Indigenous (OVPI) is in the early phases of drafting a policy and developing a process to verify declarations of Indigenous identity, citizenship and membership at UVic where these claims result in material gain. This policy supports the university’s commitment to respect and affirm the ways that Indigenous Nations, Peoples and communities determine their citizenship. In April, the OVPI circulated a memo to UVic Indigenous students, staff and faculty to communicate the development of an Indigenous Citizenship Declaration Policy at UVic. To read this memo and additional information and resources, please visit: uvic.ca/ovpi/ways-of-knowing/policies-and-guidelines

Collaboration Agreements

The University of Victoria (UVic) and the Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation (formerly known as Lake Cowichan First Nation) have created a collaboration agreement that will unite the work for shared land. A collaboration agreement signing ceremony will take place this summer on the Simpson property in Ts'uubaa-asatx territory. With the Ts'uubaa-asatx culture, language and land at the heart, the Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation and 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. If you are interested in learning more about a Collaboration Agreement with UVic, please contact the OVPI office at vpiadmin@uvic.ca.
Gathering Our Voices 2024

In March, the Office of the Vice-President Indigenous (OVPI) proudly participated in the Gathering Our Voices (GOV) Indigenous Youth Leadership Training Conference in partnership with the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE). It was an enriching experience where staff connected with Indigenous youth, chaperones and various organizations.

At our booth, adorned with OVPI and IACE branding, we offered an array of exciting swag including canvas totes, pens, buttons, stickers and resources. Plus, we stirred up some extra excitement with a draw for a brand-new iPad! We were pleased to announce the winner of the iPad on the last day of the exhibitor showcase.

Engaging with attendees was a highlight as we shared information about the support services available through IACE and showcased exciting university-wide initiatives guided by the OVPI.

Given the audience at this event, we took the opportunity to promote the upcoming Mini-University Summer Camp event this July. This outreach effort was met with enthusiasm and we anticipate a strong turnout.

The event was overall a success, providing us with valuable connections and opportunities to amplify our commitment to Indigenous youth and higher education. We eagerly anticipate future collaborations and look forward to returning to this event next year.
Dzēnes hot’ie! My name is Michelle Gregoire and I am excited to introduce myself as this year’s Mini-University Summer Camp Coordinator. I have just finished my Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work degree at UVic and I am committed to creating a diverse and inclusive space where campers can discover new passions, make cherished memories and see what it is like to be a student in our beautiful Indigenous community we have here at the University of Victoria.

Student feature!

Throughout her first year, Tiffany has embraced every opportunity for growth, both academically and personally, with unwavering enthusiasm and resilience. Tiffany’s involvement in the Indigenous Living Learning Community at UVic exemplifies her commitment to cultural engagement and community building. Her active participation not only showcases her leadership skills but also highlights her deep-rooted connection to her Indigenous heritage. Tiffany, a first-year student, participated in a UVic photoshoot and soon became the face of the recent university wide Indigenous Living Learning Community (LLC) Campaign promoting Indigenous-specific housing on campus. We are so proud of her and her achievements!

The Indigenous LLC offers a fantastic opportunity to live in a community that connects students while away from home, sharing culture and traditions together. All first year, undergraduate and graduate students who self identify as Indigenous are welcome to apply to this community, regardless of field of study.

Welcome our newest Elder in Residence

In February we were thrilled to announce and celebrate the newest addition to our Elders in Residence Program: Takohikena, Ann Rose Kerkovius! With open arms, we welcome Ann Rose, whose wisdom and experience has undoubtedly enriched our community. Ann Rose, brings a wealth of knowledge and a compassionate spirit to the Elders in Residence program.

Her journey, beginning in an igloo on Kikkitaukyuk Island, speaks volumes of resilience and determination. Despite enduring hardships, including the painful legacy of residential schools, Ann Rose remained steadfast in her pursuit of education and service. During the winter semester Ann Rose provided virtual drop-in support for Indigenous students every other Tuesday.

To learn more about Ann Rose, her full bio can be found on our website: www.uvic.ca/iace

Michelle Gregoire

Mini-University Summer Camp Coordinator

Dzēnes hot’ie! My name is Michelle Gregoire and I am excited to introduce myself as this year’s Mini-University Summer Camp Coordinator. I have just finished my Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work degree at UVic and I am committed to creating a diverse and inclusive space where campers can discover new passions, make cherished memories and see what it is like to be a student in our beautiful Indigenous community we have here at the University of Victoria.
Celebrating a Year of Vibrant Student Events!

What a year it's been! From educational workshops to cultural celebrations, the community in the First Peoples House has flourished thanks to the dedication of Lauren, the IACE Events Coordinator, IACE work study students, Campus Cousins and campus partners.

IACE supported events
- Welcome student event
- Noon networking
- Monday lunches
- Wellness circles
- Beading circles
- Mock interview clinic & career fair
- Crafternoon
- TD Lunch Series
- Valentine’s day celebration
- Yoga with Tanisha Nuttall
- Virtual beaded medicine pouch workshop
- Virtual beaded feather workshop
- Ribbon apparel workshop
- IndigiProm
- End of term celebration

Campus Cousin events
- Karaoke
- Candle making
- Paint night
- Spirit days!
- Vision board making

Native Students Union*
- Salve making workshop
- Reading and sharing circle
- Annual General Meeting

*IACE does not provide financial support for NSU events but as a campus partner IACE promotes NSU events through the IACE networks.

Upcoming events
Indigenous Recognition Ceremony - June 10, 11, 13
Mini-University Summer Camp - July (date TBD)
UVic Orange Shirt Day Events - Sept 27
Survivors’ Flag raising ceremony - Sept 27

Call for 2024/2025 Campus Cousins

Big shoutout to this year’s Campus Cousins for an incredible journey! Despite a late start, they’ve been the heartbeat of the First Peoples House, fostering community, support and unforgettable experiences.

From late-night gatherings to unwavering support for Indigenous students, our Campus Cousins have been the backbone of our community. Their dedication and passion have made a real difference.

Are you ready to carry on this legacy? Apply now to be part of something truly special. Help us continue building a strong, supportive community at the heart of our campus.

Submit an application to become a Campus Cousin! Let’s make memories and create lasting impact.

To apply: uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/lenonet
Deadline June 28, 2024 at 4:00pm
Elders’ Retreat

Staff from UVic, Royal Roads, and Camosun recently gathered at the Prestige Hotel in Sooke to honour and celebrate the Elders at a special retreat.

Recognizing the constant demands placed on Elders throughout the year, the retreat provided a rare chance for relaxation, connection and appreciation. We are so blessed for the invaluable wisdom and guidance the Elders impart, enriching our institutions and communities.

As we wrap up another semester, we bid farewell to our Elders for the summer with deep gratitude and heartfelt wishes for rest, renewal and happiness.

2023–2024 Yearbook!

As we bid farewell to another incredible year, we’re taking a moment to reflect on the amazing memories and strong community we’ve built in the First Peoples House. Huge shoutout to Sydney, Melanie, Kwidda, Michelle and the Campus Cousins for their outstanding work on the yearbook! Here’s to countless more memories and meaningful connections in the First Peoples House! Want to relive the moments?

Dive into the digital version of the yearbook by visiting: https://bit.ly/3UaG2EU

IndigiPROM

IndigiPROM was a such a blast. We raise our hands to the incredible efforts of the Campus Cousins and IACE for pulling together our second IndigiPROM ever! So grateful for everyone who joined us, danced, laughed and slayed the night away. Lots of love for our FPH community.
IndigiPROM

Valentine’s Day Celebration

Yoga with Tanisha Nuttall

Valentine’s Day Celebration

FPH Foyer

Valentine’s Day Celebration

Valentine’s Day Celebration

Valentine’s Day Celebration

Valentine’s Day Celebration
Indigenous Mini-University Summer Camp - this July, 2024

Mini-U is a week long Summer camp for Indigenous youth entering grades 9-12 filled with academic, physical, creative, cultural and social activities. It is a great way to learn about and explore the opportunities and supports at the University of Victoria and its surrounding communities! We hope to see you there.

Follow us for more information regarding registration.

To learn more, visit:
uvic.ca/services/indigenous/community/mini-u/index.php
or email the Mini-U Coordinator at miniu@uvic.ca

Contact us

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