

Newsletter

The Office of the Vice-President Indigenous and
The Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement



Words of Welcome: Elders' Blessing for new and returning students

Teachings

Hé?ək̓w̓ ?ə cə čəlénən t̓ə
HÁEQ TE OL TFE ČELÁ EN TE
Remember our ancestors and birthright

Náčəmaat k̓wəns čeʔi
ĆANEUEL OL
Work together

Nəwəs šx̓w cən ?áy šq̓wələq̓wən
ÁMEKT TʔEN ÍY, ŠKÁLEČEN
Bring in your good heart and mind

Leʔt šx̓w helə ?ə cə mak̓w̓ sčeʔi sə?
S,HOI EI MEQ EN ENA SE SĆĀ
Be prepared for the work to come

Lək̓wəŋən – top
SENĆOŦEN – middle

Coast Salish Elders teach us that there is an imaginary hook outside sacred spaces to hang our negative thoughts and feelings so we can enter with a good mind and a good heart. As you enter this space, we encourage you to follow this advice.

Háy sx̓w qə
HÍŠWKE SIÁM
Thank you!

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.

Etalew̓tx̓w | ÁTOL ÁUTW

Centre of respect for the rights of one another and all beings

We are thrilled to reveal the new name and logo for the Office of the Vice-President Indigenous. Rooted in the teachings of the local Nations, the name and design encapsulate our mission to foster collaboration, respect and shared learning.

The logo was created by Qwul'thilum, Dylan Thomas, a Coast Salish artist and member of the Lyackson First Nation with familial connections to the Songhees Nation.

For the full story, visit: www.uvic.ca/ovpi

Etalew̓tx̓w | ÁTOL ÁUTW
Office of the Vice-President Indigenous



Qwul'thilum, Dylan Thomas

X̓wk̓wəŋəŋ istəl | W̓ČENENISTEL

Helping to move each other forward | Indigenous Plan 2023

Keep a look out for the renewal of the Indigenous Plan, *X̓wk̓wəŋəŋ istəl | W̓ČENENISTEL | Helping to move each other forward*, using local teachings to represent an essential foundation for UVic's future, alongside the new strategic plan, *Distinctly UVic | A Strategy for the University of Victoria*. This plan was created in collaboration with UVic, ICEC, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, stakeholders, Indigenous staff, faculty and students.



Welcome, Julianna Nielsen!

Project Manager, OVPI

Hello! I am excited to step into the role of Project Manager with the OVPI, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue working with colleagues across campus.

In this role, I will be providing research support and developing collaborative implementation strategies for university-wide Indigenous initiatives, including the renewed Indigenous Plan. I grew up as a guest on Mowachaht/Muchalaht territories in the village of Gold River, and I'm thankful to have been living, learning, and working on Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ territories since 2015. I bring with me Cree, Métis, and Ojibwe ancestry through my mom, and Danish and English-settler heritage through my dad. I am grateful for the support and mentorship I've received as a graduate student through both the Co-op and LE,NONET programs, and I'm eager to support the good work to come!



Photo: Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Robina Thomas, VPI Indigenous.

Building Naming

UVic's new student housing and dining buildings have Ləkʷəŋən names! We are honoured that the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations have given us permission to use these names as a way to bring to life the language and the history of the People and land on which these buildings sit. Čeqʷəŋín ʔéʔlən (Cheko'nien House) is named after the territory that is now known as Oak Bay and Sŋéqə ʔéʔlən (Sngequ House) after a village in what is now known as Cadboro Bay. The name means "snow patches" in Ləkʷəŋən.

The university announced the names at a ceremony attended by members of local First Nations, including Songhees Elder Seniemten Dr. Elmer George, one of the few remaining fluent Ləkʷəŋən speakers.

For more info, and how to pronounce these names visit: uvic.ca/naming

The good work to come

- OVPI website launch (Sept 7)
- Indigenous Plan launch (Sept 25)
- OVPI launch (Oct 25)

Community Scholarships

On behalf of UVic and Etalewtxw | ÁTOL ÁUTW, Dorothea Harris and Diane Sam presented the following Indigenous Student Awards to W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Secondary School and Stelly's Secondary School Students. Awards were given to Indigenous students with a focus on scholastic achievement and community and/or cultural involvement. Congratulations to the following students!

W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Secondary School

- ✦ Grade 7: Jasmine Henry \$200
- ✦ Grade 7S: Amelia Bartleman \$200
- ✦ Grade 8: Ethan Bartleman \$250
- ✦ Grade 8/9S: SEM,SEMÍYE Leland \$250
- ✦ Grade 9: Darren Joseph \$300
- ✦ Grade 10: Billy Sampson \$500
- ✦ Grade 11: Miracle Bartleman \$500
- ✦ Grade 12: Charles Alphonse \$1000



Stelly's Secondary School

- ✦ Grade 9: Kiera Cooper
- ✦ Grade 10: Silas Olsen
- ✦ Grade 11: Gillian Daniels



Mini-University Indigenous Summer Camp

Mini-U aims to introduce young students of Indigenous ancestry (status, non-status, First Nations, Métis, Inuit) to the university environment and experience, and to encourage them to think about attending a post-secondary institution. It also aims to give participants the opportunity to experience what it is like to be away from home, to understand the importance of community, culture and education, as well as the importance of balancing these factors. It is hoped that this experience will allow participants to envision their future, begin to make plans for life after high school and build Indigenous student enrollment at Uvic.

"My favourite workshop was drum making, I've never made a drum before. It was a great experience to have." - Camper

"The workshops were always engaging and interesting for the youth. The cultural workshops were amazing because the youth could get help from Elders, as well as their fellow students. This camp is an amazing family, where we learn from everyone." - Chaperone



Photo: Group shot of Mini-U campers after drum making workshop.



Photo: Mini-U campers on their way to a workshop.



Photo: Mini-U campers learning on the land.

Week of Welcome

Join us in the First Peoples House from Sept 11-15 where IACE will be hosting a series of events throughout the week to engage with new and returning Indigenous students.

These events include Student Support orientation, Meet and greet with the previous Campus Cousins, Meet the IACE team, Native Students Union, Elders in Residence and lots of food, fun and games throughout the week.

Virtual Workshop

On August 4, IACE hosted a virtual cedar bracelet weaving workshop hosted by Todd Gíihlgiigaa DeVries. Todd effortlessly wove together teachings and hands-on experience, leaving us with not just beautiful bracelets but also a deeper knowledge for the artistry and tradition of cedar weaving.

If you have any ideas you would like to share for an upcoming virtual workshop, please email iaceev@uvic.ca.



Photo: Bracelet created by Lauren McLean.

Welcome to the IACE team!

We are thrilled to extend the warmest welcome to our amazing new staff members who are embarking on this incredible journey with us!



Shawna McNabb
Associate Director



Lauren McLean
Events Coordinator



Thomas James
Indigenous Initiatives
Coordinator

For a complete list of staff contacts and supports, visit: www.uvic.ca/iace

Community Engagement

We had an amazing time hosting the Indigenous students and staff from the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Secondary School at the First Peoples House.

Thank you for joining us for a fun day of activities, building relationships and sharing a meal. The carved canoe by WENÁM, Curtis Henry from Pauquachin First Nation that you gifted us in exchange for our hospitality is not only a beautiful work of art but also a symbol of the strong relationship that we have developed between our two communities. We are grateful for this wonderful gift and will cherish it for years to come.

We hope that your visit had a positive impact on your students and that we see them here again in the future.



Photo: WSÁNEĆ students gifting a carved canoe to IACE.

Indigenous Recognition Ceremony (IRC) Spring 2023 Graduation

The Indigenous Recognition Ceremony (IRC) is a deeply meaningful event that takes place at UVic's First Peoples House. It is not only a celebration of academic accomplishments but also a testament to the resilience, determination, and cultural heritage of our Indigenous students.

Held in accordance with Coast Salish protocol and guided by the laws of these lands, the ceremony is a powerful representation of our commitment to recognizing and upholding the values and traditions of the Indigenous peoples.

We are seeing an increase of graduates every year! As a result we hosted the IRC over 3 evenings to celebrate the 63 registered graduates from 8 different faculties with their family, friends and special guests.



Photo: IRC Spring graduates



Photo: Indigenous graduates who have been blanketed and gifted.

Upcoming events

- Week of Welcome Sept 11-15
- Xʷkʷənəŋ istəl | WĀENENISTEL Indigenous Plan launch Sept 25
- Orange Shirt Day Sept 29
- OVPI official launch Oct 25

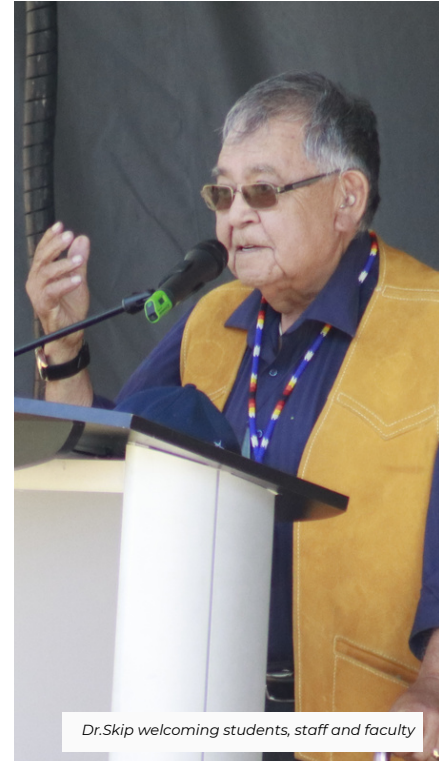
Campus Wide Welcome event on September 5 in the UVic Quad.



Westwind drum group



Lakw'agan dancers drumming and singing



Dr. Skip welcoming students, staff and faculty



UVic students in the Quad



Lakw'agan dancer & young one



Elder, May Sam giving a prayer



Tsartlip Drum Group



IACE executive director, Kundoqk, Jacquie Green and Dr. Skip



Native Students Union Council Members

Contact us

Etalewtxw | ÁTOL ÁUTW

Office of the Vice-President Indigenous

Michael Williams Building A220

3800 Finnerty Rd, Victoria, BC V8P 5C2

vpadmin@uvic.ca | 250-472-5510 | uvic.ca/ovpi

Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement

First Peoples House, University of Victoria

PO BOX 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

iacereceptionist@uvic.ca | 250-853-3720 | uvic.ca/iace

Follow us

 [uviciace](#)

 [uviciace](#)

 [uviciace](#)

 lists.uvic.ca/mailman/listinfo/iace