Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Welcome back!

We also want to welcome new students of 2023! IACE and the OVPI look forward to meeting you and supporting you any way that we can.

First Peoples House

The First Peoples House is a home-away-from-home for Indigenous students and provides a safe space for learning, sharing and community building. We want to ensure this is a safe and comfortable space and students are able to find supports.

We raise our hands in gratitude to the communities that supported this work and have given the Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement permission to use the following teachings and carry them with us in our work.

When acknowledging the teachings from these territories, one must enter the House with a good mind and good heart and do so with respect for the Ancestors - the original caretakers of this land and for each other.
Office of the Vice-President Indigenous (OVPI)

The Office of the Vice-President Indigenous (OVPI) provides guidance and oversight of UVic’s Indigenous portfolio, which includes student support services and programming, policy and procedural developments, and the implementation of the Indigenous Plan. The OVPI also leads and supports strategic planning and communications on UVic Indigenous initiatives. The OVPI works closely with local Indigenous communities, including Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and WSÁNEĆ Peoples, the WSÁNEĆ School Board, the leadership of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, Elders, as well as faculty, staff and student representatives.

Meet the OVPI team

Qwul’sih’yah’maht, Robina Thomas  
Vice-President, Indigenous

Lalita Kines  
Director, Indigenous Strategic Priorities & Community Engagement

Candice Work  
Executive Assistant

Dorothea Harris  
Director, Indigenous University Initiatives

The team at the Office of the Vice-President Indigenous is excited to work alongside IACE to guide and support the University of Victoria to ensure that Indigenous values are reflected and integrated across campus.

Our way as Indigenous people is to work together. We know we can only build on our successes and carry on a legacy of transformative change by collaborating, because each of us has a unique role to play in creating an environment where students, staff, faculty and community can flourish together.

Qwul’sih’yah’maht, Robina Thomas  
Vice-President Indigenous

Please feel free to contact us if you have suggestions, concerns, questions.

To learn more about the OVPI, visit: www.uvic.ca/vpindigenous

The good work to come

- The OVPI is new to UVic, so we have begun the process of finding a traditional name for the OVPI and establishing a brand, including artwork for a logo.

- To coincide with the new branding of the OVPI, communications teams across UVic are busy working on the development of a new website to highlight the important role that the OVPI has in University priorities.

- The OVPI team has been working incredibly hard in collaboration with community, partners and executive leadership to develop, design and launch the new Indigenous Plan in Fall 2023.

- The naming of the new student housing & dining buildings in LÁK’EMAN.

- The Indigenous Recognition Ceremony honouring Spring 2023 graduates.
Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement (IACE)

The Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement (IACE) is based out of the First Peoples House. IACE provides Indigenous student support services, events and academic programming. IACE strives to create an environment where students, faculty and community members experience the university as a welcoming, supportive and safe environment in which Indigenous values, language and culture are well respected. All of our work is guided by our deep connection to our teachings and the local Nations of this territory.

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

Working together

The OVPI and IACE offices work together in partnership to create a community of belonging, wellbeing and accountability that honours and supports diverse Indigenous identities, experiences and teachings. The OVPI and IACE live by the teachings of local Elders and communities to ensure we carry out our work in a good way.

Integrating Indigenous ways of knowing and being into the work that we do reminds us to remain attentive and accountable in our words and actions to ensure that we show up for ourselves, for each other and for our work in a good way.

Meet the IACE team

Kundoq, Dr. Jacquie Green
Executive Director

Mary McCue
Director’s Assistant/OFFICE Administrator

Dr. Rob Hancock
Associate Director Academic

Carly Cunningham
FPH Building Operations Coordinator

Hannah Mashon
Communications Officer

Diane Sam
Interim Community Engagement Manager

Nolan Willie
Events Coordinator

Matthew Simpson
Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator

Justin Brooks
Indigenous Student Support Coordinator

Renée Lienroche
LE,NONET Experiential Learning Coordinator

Chelsea McMenamie
LE,NONET Student Engagement and Support Coordinator

Darlene Masso
FPH Administrative Assistant

Yowtz! And a Happy New Year to all! As we prepare and continue on this pathway of Indigenous education, our common goals are to support Indigenous students from all backgrounds, and our home is your home! Our students are priority, our community partners are necessary and our Elders are key to cultural and educational success. Please do not hesitate to come visit the First Peoples House, meet our staff and engage with student events! Wa.

Kundoq, Jacquie Green
Executive Director, IACE
Looking back at 2022

With the lifting of COVID restrictions, IACE events saw a tremendous increase in participation this year. Although this has been a very busy year, it also means more opportunities to connect and provide support for the Indigenous students across campus. Check out some of the events IACE supported last year:

- Week of Welcome (September & January)
- Indigenous Student Orientation
- Welcome Ceremony for Australian exchange students
- Indigenous Recognition Ceremony (Spring / Fall)
- Honorary Doctorate (Victor Underwood & Late Charles Elliott)
- WSÁNEĆ School Board Collaboration Agreement
- Monday Lunches
- Noon Networking
- Virtual and in-person workshops for students
- Acupuncture
- Good Food Box
- Crafternoon
- BMO lunch & networking
- Drop-in student supports
- Indigenous Student Education Fair
- Campus Cousin events
- 215+ honouring event for the discovery of unmarked children's graves at former Residential Schools
- Orange Shirt Day (OSD)
- Victoria Forum - Iakʷənən Declaration
- Wellness Circles
- Men's Circle of Support
- Standing Nation pow wow drum group
- Drum making workshop
- All Nations Feast
- Summer sports camp with ISPARC
- Community visits
- Career Fair and Mock Interview Clinic
- Holiday Brunch with the Elders-in-Residence
- Snotty Nose Rez Kids Q&A
Photo highlight reel

Kunaloq, Jaque Green & Mercedes Nadaslos emcee at OSD

'Old one' Victor Underwood receives Hon. Doctorate

Snotty Nose Rez Kids perform at UVic Forequhar

215+ event in the Quad

Elders' Holiday Brunch

Degrees Catering

Indigenous Recognition Ceremony

Winter 2023 Newsletter
Save the Date!

Indigenous Mini-University Summer Camp - this July 10-14!

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

Office of the Vice-President Indigenous
Michael Williams Building A220
3800 Finnerty Rd, Victoria, BC V8P 5C2
vpiadmin@uvic.ca | 250-721-6503 | uvic.ca/vpindigenous

Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement
First Peoples House, University of Victoria
PO BOX 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2
iace.receptionist@uvic.ca | 250-853-3720 | uvic.ca/iace

Follow us

@ uviciace
facebook.com/uviciace
twitter.com/uviciace
lists.uvic.ca/mailman/listinfo/iace