









# ASPIRATION 2030

## 2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**Building a Foundation:** During this period, we laid the groundwork for a sustained increase in UVic’s research capacity. This included creating new internal funding and support programs and making changes to existing services to improve efficiency.

ASPIRATIONS	 RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT	 RESEARCH COMMUNITY	 COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIP	 GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT	 SOCIETAL IMPACT
<p><b>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</b> 2022 / 2023</p> 	<p><b>Priority Action: Invest strategically to support research excellence, incentivize interdisciplinary collaboration and raise the profile of our impact areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Received \$84M Canada First Research Excellence Fund award for Accelerating Community Energy Transformation (ACET)</li> <li>Received \$8M Canada Excellence Research Chair in Decolonial and Transformational Indigenous Art Practices</li> <li>Received a \$1.65M NSERC CREATE grant to launch a new Coastal Climate Solutions Leaders graduate training program</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority Action: Provide internal matching funds as leverage for major external opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal match fund application process</li> <li>Received a \$2.5M SSHRC Partnership Grant to advance a sustainability framework for economic development in Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Action: Create dedicated support programs for early career researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and individuals from equity-deserving groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created new REACH Early Career Award for Excellence in Research</li> <li>Revised university policy to give postdoctoral fellows employee status with benefits eligibility</li> <li>Launched new Aspiration Postdoctoral Fellowships Program and recruited 16 new early-career researchers through first two intakes</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority Action: Enhance research-inspired learning for undergraduate students and create more research opportunities beginning in first year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valerie Kuehne Undergraduate Research Awards were launched to provide first-year undergraduate students with research-enriched and applied experiences in their field of study. Ten of the 50 awards went to individuals who are members of underrepresented groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Action: Increase the profile of Indigenous research through new awards and recognitions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created new REACH Indigenous Scholar Award for Excellence in Research</li> <li>Funded two new Aspiration Research Clusters in Indigenous Economics and Indigenous Language Revitalization</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority Action: Increase funding for the Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE) to support dedicated staff positions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded two new Associate Director positions and provided additional support for equipment, training and resources</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Action: Increase capacity for research data analytics by fostering greater linkages among relevant units across campus and investing in new databases/tools and staff positions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created new Research Intelligence unit that prepared global rankings submissions and provided expert data analysis to 11 units across campus</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority Action: Plan and execute international research engagements to develop strategic links and promote UVic research strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruited UVic’s inaugural Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Healthy People and Planet</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Action: Increase our capacity to communicate research successes and strengths in real time to broad audiences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created a new Research Profile team to help build UVic’s research reputation and increase awareness and impact of core strengths</li> <li>Showcased research strengths at Canadian Science Policy Conference in Ottawa</li> <li>Hosted high-profile campus visits from federal funding organizations (SSHRC, NSERC, CFI, PacifiCan)</li> <li>Made 12 major research announcements, including a record number of Royal Society of Canada Fellows and College members</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority Action: Create new research institutes and clusters to enable research progress on pressing societal issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched Aspiration Research Cluster Program and funded nine interdisciplinary research groups in first two rounds of competition</li> </ul>

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<p><b>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</b> 2022 / 2023 CONTINUED</p>	<p><b>Priority Action: Increase research infrastructure and develop modern new research and creative spaces on campus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded Health Core Facility with four bookable research spaces, including a new human bio-specimen collection facility and flagship 1,400 sq-ft lab</li> <li>Received a \$1.25M CFI Innovation Fund grant for a new Environmental Simulation Facility for climate impact research on plant health</li> <li>Received \$16.4M to fully upgrade UVic's Arbutus Cloud national high-performance and cloud computing infrastructure</li> <li>Opened new UVic BioInnovation Hub to enhance collaboration in BC's life sciences sector and support early-stage entrepreneurs</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Priority Action: Reduce research-related administrative load by digitizing and streamlining internal processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched Pivot-RP, a new external funding search tool</li> <li>Created new Research Finance ticketing system to more effectively triage incoming requests from researchers, distribute administrative workload and improve response times</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Action: Embed equity, diversity and inclusion in research processes and activities to overcome systemic barriers and build and support a diverse research community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EDI Research Officer facilitated a series of workshops for faculty and organized expert training on gender diversity</li> <li>Two OVPRI units participated in UVic Equity Action Plan implementation pilot program</li> <li>Supported the development of EDI actions for major strategic initiatives (CFREF/CERC)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Priority Action: Allocate Canada Research Chairs and other institutional chairs according to strategic priorities and pursue cluster hires when possible to build capacity in strategic areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted eight successful preferential/limited Canada Research Chair (CRC) searches across different disciplines</li> <li>Created three new Impact Chairs in ocean ecosystem change and conservation, transformational governance for planetary health and Indigenous art practices</li> <li>Created inaugural Chief Mungo Martin Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Action: Create Relational Knowledge grants to facilitate relationship building with Indigenous Nations, communities, collectives and organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relational Knowledge grants program created and adjudicated through CIRCLE</li> <li>Created an Indigenous Research Advisory Committee</li> </ul>		<p><b>Priority Action: Support research activities that directly advance the UN SDGs and systematically track our progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placed in the top ten globally for climate impact and sustainable cities and communities with an overall ranking of 9th in the world (2023)</li> <li>Research Profile team wrote 24 research impact stories and identified 50 others in the media to support the THE Impact Rankings submission</li> </ul>

