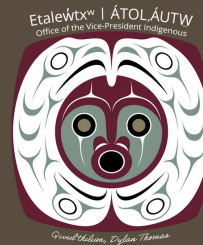


Newsletter

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



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

Teachings

Hé?əkʷ ʔə cə čələnən ʔə
HÁEQ ŁTE OL TFE ČELÁNEN ŁTE
**Remember our ancestors and
birthright**

Nəcəmaat kʷəns čə?i
ČANEUEL OL
Work together

Nəwəs šxʷ cən ʔá? šqʷeləqʷən
ÁMEKT TFEŃ ÍY, ŠKÁLEČEN
Bring in your good heart and mind

Le?t šxʷ helə ʔə cə makʷ sčə?i sə?
S, HOL ET MEQ EN ENÁ SE ŠČÁ
Be prepared for the work to come

Ləkʷəŋən – top
SENČOFEN – middle

In this issue

- Meet the new faces of OVPI
- Indigenous Citizenship Declaration Policy Committee
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Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and WŚÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Meet the team and new faces of Etalewtxw | ÁTOLÁUTW Office of the Vice-President Indigenous

We are excited to share some important updates regarding the team within the Office of the Vice-President Indigenous (OVPI). These updates reflect our ongoing commitment to strengthening relationships and supporting Indigenous initiatives across campus. We invite you to learn more by visiting our website: uvic.ca/ovpi



**Qwul'sih'yah'maht,
Robina Thomas**
Vice-President
Indigenous



Paul Whitinui
Special Advisor to
the VP Indigenous



Lottie LeBlanc
Executive
Assistant



Lalita Kines
Director of
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Margaret Charlie
Director of
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Relations



Julianna Nielsen
Acting Director of
Indigenous
University
Initiatives



Hannah Mashon
Director of
Indigenous
University
Communications



Peyton Juhnke
Project Manager



Leah Shumka
Director of
Capacity Building



Kalaya Point
Senior
Development
Officer



Outside the newly named residence building—siʔčəŋəʔ ʔéʔlən.

Residence building is given a new Ləkʷəŋən name—siʔčəŋəʔ ʔéʔlən

At UVic, we are committed to making things right and ensuring that we move forward in a good way, guided by the teachings of the local nations. The renaming of siʔčəŋəʔ ʔéʔlən—formerly known as Lansdowne 1, was marked by a heartfelt ceremony following local Coast Salish protocol. The renaming ceremony was a small, intimate event, bringing together the students, their families and members of the community who share pride in this meaningful step towards ʔetalnəwəl | ÁTOL,NEUEL—being in right relationships with all things and upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Lansdowne Residence 1 building was once named after Joseph Trutch, a historical figure known for his racist policies, including the reduction of Indigenous reserves and the disregard for Indigenous land rights. This painful history is in direct conflict with the values that the University of Victoria strives to uphold. Recognizing this misalignment, UVic students took action by formally requesting that the name be removed. Their advocacy was rooted in a desire to create a campus environment that truly reflects our commitments, our actions and our pledge to ʔetalnəwəl ÁTOL,NEUEL.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Songhees Elder Seniemten, Dr. Elmer George, for granting us the privilege to use the Ləkʷəŋən name. siʔčəŋəʔ is a Ləkʷəŋən village near Cattle Point in the coastal area of Oak Bay, known today as Willows Beach. This area is part of the northern region of the čeqʷəŋin (Cheko'nien) territory. siʔčəŋəʔ refers to the driftwood that washes up on the beach, symbolizing the connection between the land, the water and the original stewards of these lands—the Ləkʷəŋən peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

Choosing siʔčəŋəʔ is a reflection of our commitment to reconciliation, fostering a deeper understanding of the rich history of these lands and increasing representation of Indigenous languages and culture.



**Pronunciation
of siʔčəŋəʔ**

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 affirm declarations of Indigenous identity, citizenship and membership at UVic where these claims result in material advantages. This policy supports the university's commitment to respect and verify the ways that Indigenous Nations, Peoples and communities determine their citizenship.

Over the summer, OVPI shared an online survey and hosted two in-person engagement sessions as part of the Phase 1 rollout. There was a significant amount of input and attendance given the time of year. Phase 2 of the engagement process is underway with the next in-person, online and one-on-one sessions being scheduled for September and October.

To learn more about this process and how to get involved, visit: uvic.ca/ovpi/ways-of-knowing/policies-and-guidelines

UVic signs collaboration agreement with Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation

UVic and Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation (formerly known as Lake Cowichan First Nation) have signed a five-year collaboration agreement—a significant step towards a shared future of mutual respect, learning and growth. This agreement outlines a framework for joint initiatives, including educational programs, research projects and community engagement activities.

By working together, both partners commit to developing and prioritizing educational programming and services that promote the growth and development of students, community-based education and economic development, while upholding the values of Ditidaht culture, land and language.



UVic President, Kevin Hall and Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Robina Thomas, Vice-President Indigenous standing with Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation after signing the Collaboration Agreement.

Indigenous Recognition Ceremony

This past June, we had the privilege of hosting the Indigenous Recognition Ceremony, a special event honouring the Indigenous graduates of UVic. Held over two evenings in the Ceremonial Hall at the First Peoples House, the ceremony was a beautiful celebration of achievement, strength and community.

The graduates, surrounded by their families, friends, and Elders, were honoured in a traditional Coast Salish blanket ceremony. The warmth of the blankets, symbolizing protection and care, reflected the deep sense of pride and love that filled the room. It was a moving tribute to the hard work and dedication of our graduates, who have overcome challenges and embraced their cultures throughout their academic journeys.

To all the graduates, we hope to see you again and look forward to witnessing the positive impact you will continue to make in your communities and beyond.



Indigenous Recognition Ceremony graduates during traditional Coast Salish blanketing ceremony.



Indigenous Recognition Ceremony graduates after receiving acknowledgements and gifts.



Group shot of the Mini-U Summer Campers



Mini-U Camper sewing a ribbon skirt.

Mini-University Indigenous Summer Camp

This July, the Mini-University Summer Camp (Mini-U) brought together Indigenous youth from across B.C from grades 9-12 for an unforgettable week of learning, culture and fun at UVic. Mini-U was packed with exciting activities, from hands-on science experiments and cultural workshops to outdoor adventures that allowed campers to connect with the land and each other.

Campers had the chance to participate in traditional teachings led by local Knowledge Keepers, learn about environmental stewardship and explore their creativity through artistic and cultural workshops.

The highlight for many was the opportunity to bond with peers and mentors, building lasting friendships and gaining valuable insights into university life.

One of the campers shared, "I liked the workshop [Ribbon Apparel] and how we got to connect with everyone, working groups, and connect with all the materials."

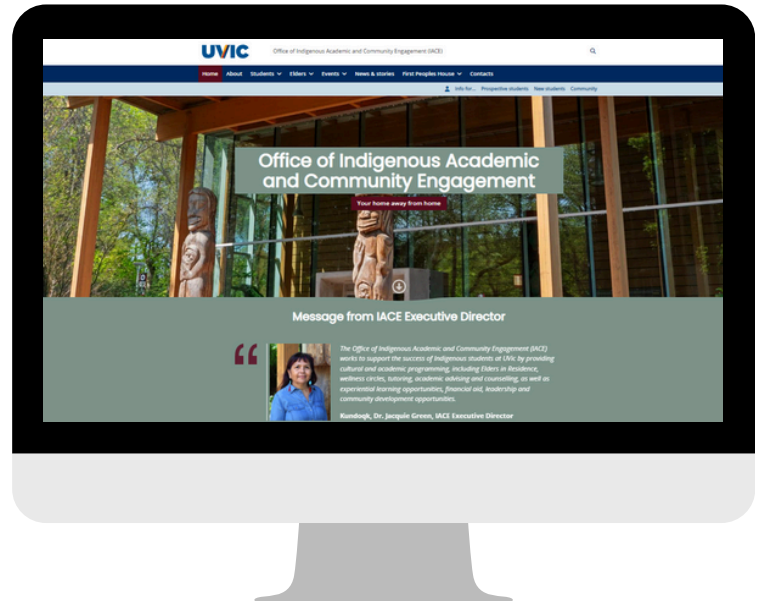
The Mini-University Summer Camp was more than just a week of activities—it was a celebration of culture, community and the potential within each camper. We can't wait to see what these bright young minds will accomplish in the future!

IACE launches a new website!

We're excited to announce the launch of the new IACE website! Designed with students in mind, this website is your go-to resource for all things related to Indigenous student life at UVic. Whether you're looking for support, community, or opportunities to get involved, the new IACE website has it all.

Why you'll love the new IACE website:

- **User-Friendly Design:** Easily navigate through resources, supports and events tailored specifically for Indigenous students.
- **Comprehensive Support Information:** Access a wide range of academic, financial and personal supports in one convenient place.
- **Cultural Connections:** Learn about and participate in cultural events, ceremonies, and initiatives that celebrate Indigenous heritage.
- **Up-to-Date News & Events:** Stay informed with the latest updates, news, and events happening in the Indigenous community at UVic.
- **Interactive Features:** Connect directly with IACE staff, Elders, and peer supports through easy-to-use contact forms and scheduling tools.
- **Mobile-Friendly:** Access all the information you need on the go, with a site that's optimized for mobile devices.



Check out the new website today at www.uvic.ca/iace and explore the many ways IACE can support your journey at UVic!

Indigenous Student Supports & Resources

As the term kicks off, we are here to support your academic journey and well-being with a variety of drop-in services. Whether you need help with coursework, career advice, or just someone to talk to, we've got you covered.

Here's a snapshot of the support available throughout the week!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MATH TUTOR 2:30-4:30pm	CAL ADVISOR 2:00-4:00pm	TRI-FACULTY ADVISOR 9:00-11:00am NURSE/DOCTOR 11:00-1:00pm CO-OP & CAREER 1:00-3:00pm	CENTRE OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION 10:00-12:00pm OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE 1:00-3:00pm	MATH TUTOR 10:00-12:00pm INDIGENOUS COUNSELLOR 1:00-3:00pm

First Peoples House, Room 128 [More info uvic.ca/iace](http://www.uvic.ca/iace)

DID YOU KNOW?

There is an additional Indigenous Student Lounge is located in Sᓃᓂᓂᓂ ᓂᓂᓂᓂ (Sngequ House) beside the Cove dining hall.

@uvic_isl



Week of Welcome

Get ready to kick off the new academic year with IACE's Week of Welcome for Indigenous Students, happening from September 9-13 in the First Peoples House, Ceremonial Hall. Whether you're a new or returning student, this is your chance to connect with valuable resources, supports and the vibrant community at UVic.

Throughout the week, we'll be offering grab-and-go breakfasts each morning to start your day off right. On Tuesday, we're switching it up with a sit-down brunch with our Elders—a perfect opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations and build connections. To wrap up the week, we will have a fun-filled BINGO session over lunch on Friday, where you have a chance to win exciting prizes!

Don't miss out on this great chance to meet fellow students, connect with IACE, OVPI, co-op, tutors, the Native Students Union, Elders in Residence and more! Mark your calendars and join us for a week of community, support, and celebration.

Welcome ceremony for Indigenous students joining us from Australia!

We are thrilled to welcome Lachlan and Jai, two Indigenous students from Melbourne, Australia, who have joined us through UVic's Indigenous International Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Exchange program.

Their journey with us began in a truly special way, as they were formally welcomed to the UVic by means of a traditional Coast Salish blanket ceremony, surrounded by Elders, local community and the UVic family.

Join us in celebrating their arrival and wishing them all the best on this exciting new chapter! Let's show them the warmth of our community and the strength of our connections.



Left to right: Lachlan and Jai blanketed during the Welcome Ceremony—traditional Coast Salish protocol.

WEEK OF WELCOME
for Indigenous Students

SEPT 9
9 AM - 11 AM
Grab & Go Breakfast
11:30 AM - 1 PM
Student Supports
Info Fair

SEPT 10
11 AM - 1 PM
Elders' Brunch

SEPT 11
9 AM - 11 AM
Grab & Go Breakfast
11:30 AM - 1 PM
Noon Networking:
Co-op & Career

SEPT 12
9 AM - 11 AM
Grab & Go Breakfast
11:30 AM - 1 PM
Native Students Union
Meet & Greet

SEPT 13
9 AM - 11 AM
Grab & Go Breakfast
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Lunch & Bingo

First Peoples House
Ceremonial Hall

More info
uvic.ca/iace



Renée Livernoche, LE, NONET Experiential Learning Coordinator tying a headband on Jai.



Elder, Dr. Skip Dick providing encouraging words to the Australian students—Lachlan and Jai.

Learn more about the
WIL program:
[uvic.ca/coop/info-for/
indigenous/](https://uvic.ca/coop/info-for/indigenous/)







Contact us

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