



Etalewtxw | ÁTOL,ÁUTW
Office of the Vice-President Indigenous

University of Victoria
Michael Williams Building Room A220
PO Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria BC V8W 2Y2 Canada

MEMO

To: UVic faculty, staff and students

From: Etalewtxw | ÁTOL,ÁUTW | The Office of the Vice-President Indigenous

Date: April 29, 2024

Subject: Development of an Indigenous Citizenship Declaration Policy

Dear UVic faculty, staff and students,

The University of Victoria's (UVic) renewed [Xwkwənenjstəl | WÇENENISTEL | Helping to move each other forward Indigenous Plan \(2023\)](#) outlines a strong commitment to align the university with Indigenous laws and protocols. This commitment extends to ensuring that the eligibility requirements for opportunities designated for Indigenous Peoples are consistent with the ways that Indigenous Nations, Peoples and communities determine their citizenship.

UVic, like many other post-secondary institutions, is revising the terms of eligibility for opportunities designated for Indigenous people. Where these opportunities result in material gain, institutions are shifting away from a process of self-identification to process of affirming citizenship.

The Office of the Vice-President Indigenous (OVPI) has brought together an expanded subcommittee of the Indigenous Strategic Leadership Advisory (ISLA) group to develop an engagement process that includes diverse voices and results in clear policy directions and implementation guidelines. Colleagues from Faculty Relations, the University Secretary, University Systems and General Counsel have partnered with the OVPI to provide Canadian legal and logistical support for this work.

We have heard from our Elders the importance of this work in upholding integrity, truth, respect and accountability. This work must be grounded in Sk'wes | TFE SKÁLs I, TFE S, XENANs | The Laws and Philosophies of these lands, and it must affirm the authority of Indigenous Peoples to determine their citizenship in accordance with their own legal orders, governance structures, customs and traditions.

As we move forward, we are committed to providing regular updates and receiving feedback. This work is undertaken with our doors open and with the understanding that effective collaboration requires trust and confidence in the process. We encourage you to reach out if you have any questions, concerns or insights that you would like to share.

Contact: Etalewtxw | ÁTOL,ÁUTW | The Office of the Vice-President Indigenous
Indigenous Citizenship Declaration Committee | vpicd@uvic.ca
Website: www.uvic.ca/ovpi/ways-of-knowing/policies-and-guidelines/index.php