

DECLARATION OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMITMENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA OKANAGAN
2020 ANNUAL REPORT





On September 24, 2019, students, faculty and staff gathered with community members to witness UBC Okanagan's declaration of Truth and Reconciliation commitments.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal



In 2019 UBC Okanagan pledged to support Indigenous students, culture and scholarship through a public declaration of five Truth and Reconciliation commitments. We have worked steadfastly in the last year toward realizing these commitments and are proud to share our progress thus far. Over the next four years, we will continue to work relentlessly until we reach all our promised commitments. However, we know that the work of reconciliation does not end there.

UBC Okanagan has the distinct privilege of being founded in partnership with Indigenous peoples on whose territory the campus is situated. We deeply value the collaborative relationship that we have with the Syilx Okanagan Nation and its member communities and vow to continue to work together with the support of UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan to advance Indigenous rights and scholarship long after we have achieved the commitments outlined below.

PROFESSOR LESLEY CORMACK

Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs

Last fall, many of you witnessed UBC Okanagan's formal declaration of commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. This year also marks the 15th anniversary of UBC's Okanagan campus. On opening day in September 2005, UBC was welcomed to these lands by the Syilx Okanagan Nation communities and Chiefs and at that time a Memorandum of Understanding on Educational Cooperation and Programming was signed by the Okanagan Nation Alliance Chiefs Executive Council and UBC leaders.



As we work towards fulfilling our commitments, I respectfully acknowledge the collective work that has occurred over the last 15 years since UBC was welcomed to Syilx Okanagan Nation territory. We have much to do across UBC, and at UBC Okanagan we are working each day to deliver on our commitments to the TRC Calls to Action and Indigenous Strategic Plan. I look forward to connecting with you in person when we are able and will provide further updates as our essential work continues.

Thank you for your support and friendship.

ADRIENNE VEDAN

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMITMENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA is committed to meeting the challenge issued to Canadians by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to engage in an ongoing process of reconciliation.

As part of the university's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, UBC Okanagan commits to supporting and implementing the following five recommendations received from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal regarding meaningful support for reconciliation:

Develop and deliver an Indigenous culture orientation program for all faculty and staff at UBC's Okanagan campus

Create a Senior Advisor role on Indigenous Affairs for the Okanagan campus

Develop and implement activities that support the revitalization of language fluency, including through initiatives such as:

- The Language Fluency/Proficiency Degree Framework;
- Pathways to language teacher education through the Faculty of Education; and
- Signage and wayfinding on campus which represents Okanagan language and culture

Advance Indigenous teaching and research through positive incentives and strategies that support:

- Faculty hires;
- Curriculum development support; and
- Land-based learning and teaching spaces, such as an outdoor classroom and nature interpretation in the Okanagan language

Expand health and wellness services to better support Aboriginal students

These actions build on the foundation of UBC's relationship with the Syilx Okanagan Nation and provide direction for efforts at the Okanagan campus to work with and in support of the Indigenous peoples of the Southern Interior region of British Columbia and other Indigenous communities in Canada and worldwide.

Develop and deliver an Indigenous culture orientation program for all faculty and staff at UBC's Okanagan campus

The Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (FCCS) continue to support the appointment of two Syilx Okanagan Nation Elders, Eric Mitchell and Christine Marchand, as Adjunct Professors. Elders Eric and Chris support the offering of FCCS-specific Cultural Safety Training for faculty, staff and students who are interested, including colleagues from different faculties.

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SAFETY TRAINING

Indigenous culture orientation material has been developed and has been piloted in small groups with the AVP Students, Enrolment Services and Residence & Housing at this time. Plans are being made to expand capacity to deliver the program to all faculty and staff.

Health and Wellness staff are participating in the San'yas: Indigenous Cultural Safety Training Program delivered by the Provincial Health Services Authority in British Columbia.

The Office of the Vice-Principal, Research and Innovation (VPRI), in collaboration with the Eminence Clusters supported and co-funded a two day Cultural Competency Training. The material was co-created by Interior Health Authority facilitators, Leslie Bryant and Vanessa Mitchell, along with Elders Christine Marchand and Eric Mitchell from the Syilx Okanagan Nation, and Elder Roberta from the Snuneymuxw and Cowichan First Nations, and Chris Macklin, a member of the Métis Nation of BC. The workshop was delivered January 20 and 21, 2020 to 45 people: 14 UBC research faculty, 4 cluster coordinators, 15 student researchers/trainees, 8 VPRI staff, and 4 Interior Health staff.

The training provided a basic level of Indigenous cultural competency in order to:

- 1 create an inclusive culture within the research community that values Indigenous peoples, perspectives, and ways of knowing; and
- 2 create a learning and research environment where Indigenous students feel a sense of welcome and belonging.



Create a Senior Advisor role on Indigenous Affairs for the Okanagan campus



IAN CULL

In January 2019, Ian Cull was appointed as the inaugural Senior Advisor to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal on Indigenous Affairs. Ian is a member of Dokis First Nation and served as Associate Vice- President Students for 15 years at UBC’s Okanagan campus before his appointment as Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs.



ADRIENNE VEDAN

Adrienne Vedan, member of the Syilx Okanagan Nation from the Okanagan Indian Band, was appointed Senior Advisor to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor as of July 1, 2020 following Ian Cull’s retirement, and will maintain oversight of Aboriginal Programs and Services.

Develop and implement activities that support the revitalization of language fluency, including through initiatives such as:

The Language Fluency/Proficiency Degree Framework

BACHELOR OF NSYILXCN LANGUAGE FLUENCY

The Okanagan campus has approved the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency. The degree builds on a degree framework agreed upon by various post-secondary institutions in the province as well as Aboriginal organizations and institutions: the En’owkin Centre, IAHLA (Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association), FNEC (First Nations Steering Committee), and Wilp Wilxo’oskwhl Nisga’a.

The degree will respond to the urgent need to revitalize Indigenous languages and deliver language speakers at a high proficiency level through full immersion in their communities. Following approval from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, the degree will be implemented in 2021. Community leadership is fundamental to the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency, with courses taught in the community by Elders and native speakers, allowing for the full immersion of students.



Pathways to language teacher education through the Faculty of Education

The Nsyilxcn Language Fluency program is collaborating with the Okanagan School of Education on a pathway for language fluency program graduates to have an admission pathway to the Bachelor of Education program.

Signage and wayfinding on campus which represents Okanagan language and culture

Welcome signs in seven Indigenous languages of the Interior have been installed on the doors of Community, Culture and Global Studies faculty members. The aim is to welcome and be inclusive to Indigenous students who may be far from their home territories.

Campus Planning is working with the En'owkin Centre on an initiative to update existing street signs with the English translations of their Syilx names. The purpose of this project is to foster an inclusive public realm that supports the understanding and promotes the learning of the Syilx Okanagan Nation. The project will include the translation of eleven street signs that exist throughout campus.



The artwork of Csetkwe Fortier, a member of the Okanagan Nation from Upper Nicola, was permanently installed in the Commons building in March 2020. The artwork was produced from her involvement in the British Columbia wine industry identity workshops, held across B.C. in 2018 as part of a wider project on the industry's socio-economic development.

The Faculty of Management's Dean Roger Sugden, Marcela Valania, Dr. Malida Mooker, Dr. Jacques-Oliver Pesme and Kim Buschert organized the workshops and offered a space for reflection and dialogue about the identity of the B.C. wine territory among wine industry actors. In particular, they focused on the industry's relationship with the land, and on history, culture, heritage, and business approaches.

Csetkwe was invited to illustrate her perspective on what the workshops brought to the surface. She was asked to witness, observe, and listen to the discussions, and to translate her individual interpretations in her own style, through her art, however she saw fit. She worked at the workshops in real time, and shared her art with the participants.

Csetkwe's pieces are titled: "Grander than the Grand Canyon: kilawna", "Underground: senpinkten", "Siblings: n'kmip", and "Sophisticated Systems: Kwantlen".

Advance Indigenous teaching and research through positive incentives and strategies that support:

Faculty hires

THE OKANAGAN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION welcomed **DR. BILL COHEN** to the faculty in the position of Assistant Professor on July 1, 2020. Dr. Bill Cohen is from the Okanagan Nation with extensive kinship ties throughout BC and Washington. He specializes in the areas of Indigenous knowledge, research, education, and transforming pedagogy. The focus of Dr. Cohen's continuing research is to identify, understand and theorize the transforming potential of Indigenous and Okanagan knowledge and pedagogy through organic language and cultural knowledge revitalization.

THE INDIGENOUS STUDIES program in the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences welcomed **DR. GABRIELLE LEGAULT** to the faculty in the position of Assistant Professor on July 1, 2020. Dr. Legault is Métis, originally from Saskatchewan, and her areas of research specialization include Contemporary Métis culture and identity, Métis history, Indigenous territories and homelands, Indigenous research methodologies, community-based research methods, Indigenous knowledge and Indigeneity.

THE FACULTY OF CREATIVE AND CRITICAL STUDIES welcomed **DR. KERRIE CHARNELY** to the faculty in the position of Assistant Professor of teaching English and Cultural Studies on July 1, 2020. Dr. Charnely is from Katzie First Nation and her teaching and courses will be in Indigenous Communication, Rhetoric, and Pedagogy.

The Faculty also welcomed **DR. MONICA GOOD** who has roots in the Comanche peoples residing in Coahuila state, Mexico, where she developed her passion for language instruction and study as instruments of social justice. In the last few years, she has developed strong ties with Indigenous communities in Oaxaca State, Mexico, culminating, in 2019, with her organization of a major conference for Indigenous interpreters and teachers in partnership with the Centro Profesional Indígena de Asesoría Defensa y Traducción. Dr. Good joined the Department of Languages and World Literature on July 1, 2020 in the tenure stream, teaching courses in Spanish, Mayan Language and Culture, and Indigenous voices of meso-America.

THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING will welcome **DR. MICHAEL BENOIT** in January 2021 in the position of Assistant Professor (tenure track). Dr. Benoit is Métis and is a Manufacturing Engineer. The Faculty will also welcome **DR. CHRISTOPHER COLLIER** starting July 2021 in the position of Assistant Professor (tenure track). Dr. Collier is Métis and is an Electrical Engineer.

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING welcomed **ELDER JANE TAYLOR** from the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation who has worked in many areas of urban and on-reserve communities within the North, Central, and South Okanagan over the last 40 years in health wellness, homelessness, mental health, cultural safety and trauma care. She will be taking on the role of Indigenous health and cultural safety education and Elder Research Advisor.

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Faculty Hires cont'd

The School of Nursing would like to acknowledge and thank **ELDER JESSIE NYBERG** for her many contributions over the last fifteen years following her retirement in July 2020. Elder Jessie is a member of the Secwepemc Nation from the Canoe Creek Band and a registered nurse. She was a founding member of the Indigenous Health cultural safety modules curriculum offered through the School

of Nursing and as an undergraduate/graduate campus-wide course. She is an Adjunct Professor in the delivery and evaluation of these courses. Elder Jessie was also a mentor for several students from all disciplines, and the Elder Research Advisor on several nationally funded urban and acute care patient experience Indigenous health research studies and initiatives at UBC Okanagan.

Curriculum development support

During the 2019/20 academic year, UBC Okanagan offered 79 courses with Indigenous content across graduate and undergraduate curricula. UBC Okanagan continues to work towards the creation of Faculty advisory committees to support curricular changes as well as Indigenous initiatives across campus. This initiative includes the hiring of new Faculty members who can serve as Indigenous Liaisons across disciplines.

FACULTY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The School of Social Work is working on increasing the amount of field education sites so that students can be placed in Indigenous community settings to fulfill their 450 hours of practical learning. The School's goal is to reach a proportion of 25% of sites in Indigenous communities over the next five years. To support this goal, an instructor will be recruited to help with these relationships and support Indigenous students.

The School of Nursing is currently reviewing and mapping its curriculum to intentionally weave more Indigenous content through an undergraduate curriculum committee including Indigenous students and faculty members.

OKANAGAN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The Okanagan School of Education (OSE) Indigenous Education Council provides advice, recommendations and guidance that promote, advance and support interweaving of Indigenous teachings, learning and First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) across the Teacher Education program.

The OSE continues to engage faculty, staff, prospective educators, practicing educators and community partners in the Syilx Okanagan Nation in conversations with and through Elders, Knowledge-Keepers and the rich resources of the greater Okanagan region. The aim is to co-design curricular experiences that foster educators' Indigenous knowledge alongside curricular embodiment of First Nations principles and practices in the classroom. This place-based approach holds potential for transforming the educational landscape locally and broadly. In addition, the School offered 20 workshops programmatically embedding broad range of topics oriented towards strengthening curricular Indigenousization.

The School is currently working with the Faculty of Education on the Vancouver campus with the aim of offering components of the already established Indigenous Teacher Education (NITEP) in the Okanagan by Fall 2020.

The OSE offered a new course at the graduate level introducing Indigenous perspectives grounded in Syilx knowledge.

- **EDUC 562 Coyote Stories: Pedagogy and Praxis**



IRVING K. BARBER FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Ongoing work continues to further integrate Indigenous perspectives and knowledge in curricula across the re-designed Bachelor of Arts, which includes mandatory Indigenous courses.

Community, Culture and Global Studies has created an 'Indigenizing the curriculum' working group that created a handbook for faculty members that maps out protocols for inviting Elders to classrooms or other departmental events. It also created a library of Okanagan resources (books) for faculty and staff. Additionally, the department of Anthropology recently hired a new Assistant Professor whose research interests are in post-colonial and Indigenous studies of cultural heritage; geospatial and digital methods and practice; landscape and settlement archaeology and the practice of archaeology.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has created a curriculum-related position on Indigenous Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing and has started the search process for this role.

IRVING. K. BARBER FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Ongoing work continues to further integrate Indigenous perspectives and knowledge in curricula across the Bachelor of Science which includes mandatory Indigenous courses.

FACULTY OF CREATIVE AND CRITICAL STUDIES

The Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies has created new courses focusing on Indigenous content:

- **WRLD 155 Introduction to Language and Culture: Modern Maya** A basic introduction to modern spoken Yucatec Maya, and key Indigenous intercultural and sociolinguistic concepts.
- **WRLD 340 Tales of Resistance: Indigenous Voices in Central America** Indigenous literature (including oral traditions, myths, legends, stories, songs testimonial narratives) from Indigenous nations in Southern Mexico and Guatemala.
- **ENGL 154 Indigenous Narrative** Introduces students to Indigenous narrative forms, including textual and oral storytelling in anecdotes, life-writing, films, histories, narrative poems, novels, performances and songs.

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT

Curriculum for the proposed Master of Management integrates Indigenous content with the help of Aboriginal Programs and Services. Awards will also be made available to Aboriginal students who are interested in the Master of Management.

Recent government funding was received by the Faculty of Management to engage with the Vancouver campus, co-op office and Aboriginal Programs and Services to explore current levels of engagement in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programming by Indigenous students towards a pilot project to achieve more equitable participation across BC. Additionally, the Faculty has collaborated with the Okanagan Nation Alliance on their application for funding for an Operations, Evaluation and Learning Framework to achieve goals identified by the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

The Faculty of Management continues to integrate experiential education and presentations by invited speakers through the engagement with Westbank First Nation's Sncewips Heritage Museum. The Faculty also continues to offer workshops on the historical occupations of the Okanagan for students and the community. A further result of this relationship is a chapter on the History of Occupations in the Okanagan written by Westbank First Nation member Councillor Jordan Coble, on a forthcoming publication of the Faculty.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

In 2019-20, the School of Engineering at UBC's Okanagan campus delivered the second phase of a project to prepare students to understand why and how to consult and cooperate with Indigenous communities in engineering contexts. For the second consecutive year, curricular content was delivered in core courses, mixing direct instruction with guest lectures and assessing student learning through reflections, projects, presentations, and reports. The courses are APSC 201 - Technical Communication, ENGR 303 - Engineering Project Management, and ENGR 413 - Law and Ethics for Engineers. In two years, the project has impacted more than 1500 students across all years of the undergraduate engineering.

LIBRARY

The UBC Okanagan Library continues to support and expand collections resources on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) since the launch of the Okanagan Special Collections in 2018. The collection includes the R.S. Sargent Collection, most of the catalogue of Theytus Books, and publications from the Okanagan Nation Alliance. The UBC Okanagan Library worked closely with the CCGS faculty to support the access and digitization of Indigenous literature. The Library is working with the En'owkin Centre to provide training to En'owkin Centre's staff for the archiving and digitization of unique literature and resources that will serve student learning in the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Fluency degree and the Indigenous Studies major, starting the summer of 2020.

Land-based learning and teaching spaces, such as an outdoor classroom and nature interpretation in the Okanagan language

In the fall of 2019, Campus Planning retained the architectural services of Formline Architecture, an award winning Aboriginally owned architectural practices firm, to work with the university to generate a concept plan for an outdoor gathering space and classroom. Through a series of workshops, a draft concept design has been created that reflects both the tule mat house and winter home architecture utilized by the Syilx Okanagan people. Based on the concept plan, a Class D cost estimate was completed. Once funding is secured, next steps will include further site and functional programming work.



Research

On August 11, 2020, the T̓silhqot'in Nation and UBC signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and an Indigenous Knowledge Protocol Agreement (IK Protocol). The agreements were led by Chief Russell Myers Ross, Vice-Chair of the T̓silhqot'in National Government (TNG) and Helen Burt, AVP, Research and Innovation at UBC, with Chief Myers recognizing the central contributions of UBC Okanagan researcher Kevin Hanna in helping bring the partners together.

Kevin Hanna is an Associate Professor in the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Science. He played a leading role in building the university's relationship with the T̓silhqot'in, working with the TNG lands department in his capacity as Director of the UBC Centre for Environmental Assessment Research to conduct a variety of projects to improve understanding of T̓silhqot'in territory.

The MOU and IK Protocol are a first between UBC and the T̓silhqot'in Nation and set a path forward for collaboration, cooperation, and partnership grounded in respect for the Indigenous Rights of the T̓silhqot'in Nation and which ensures research is undertaken with cultural safety as a key consideration.

Effective April 2020, Associate Professor Ian Foulds with the School of Engineering was appointed as a Tier 1 Indigenous Reconciliation in Engineering Chair as part of the Principal's Research Chairs Program at UBCO. This program is aligned with the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair program criteria and recipients of the award are appointed to a renewable five-year term.

UBC Okanagan is receiving a \$1 million Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership grant to establish a partnership research initiative for the next five years. The project—Co-Curricular-Making: Honoring Indigenous Connections to Land, Culture and the Relational Self—is led by Professor Margaret Macintyre Latta, director of UBC Okanagan's School of Education. Community partners include the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Central Okanagan Public Schools, IndigenEYEZ, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna Museums Society and the universities of Alberta and Ottawa. The partnership will bring local Elders and Knowledge Keepers together with participating educators and the extended community. By the end of the five-year project, teachers and their students will have gained deeper understandings of Syilx culture with teachings that connect land, culture and understandings of self in the world. University and community partners will design and deliver learning opportunities that will help teachers in confronting and challenging the colonizing practices that have influenced education. These experiences will study the education conditions that challenge participation in reconciling conversations, grapple with personal narratives, and grow understandings of the histories of colonized and colonizers.

The Office of the Provost and Aboriginal Programs and Services have received an NSERC PromoScience Award for the Aboriginal Undergraduate Research Mentorship. The Aboriginal Undergraduate Research Mentorship program provides opportunities for Indigenous undergraduate students to be paired with faculty mentors and gain research experience. Financial support from the NSERC PromoScience program will allow for the continuation and expansion of programming offered through the Aboriginal Undergraduate Research Mentorship program.

Expand health and wellness services to better support Aboriginal students

Health and Wellness has hired a full-time and permanent Indigenous counsellor starting in September 2019. The role has office space in both Health and Wellness and Aboriginal Programs and Services.

The expansion of health and wellness services to better support Aboriginal students uses a holistic understanding and approach of health and wellness that serves the whole student. Initiatives supporting the financial wellbeing of Aboriginal students include:

The Community, Culture and Global Studies (CCGS) Department within the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences provided four \$500 awards to Indigenous students who are majoring in Indigenous Studies in the Winter 2019 academic session.

The CIBC Aboriginal Access Studies Award will provide five \$5,000 awards annually for students who have been admitted to an undergraduate degree program from the Aboriginal Access Studies program.

A bursary of \$3,450 has been endowed by the family of Mabel and Wilbur Hill for a student enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts Program.





THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Okanagan Campus