



ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

GOAL 2: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT AND STRENGTHEN MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

UBC is committed to these action items:

- Develop critical community partnerships centered on initiatives of high value and priority for Aboriginal communities
- Strengthen and expand research of benefit to Aboriginal communities developed with significant community collaboration
- Strengthen and expand student involvement in Aboriginal community-based research and service learning with Aboriginal organizations
- Create venues for dialogue with Aboriginal communities, and the broader public, on significant issues
- Provide faculty and staff with the means and professional development opportunities to effectively collaborate with Aboriginal individuals and communities

Though by no means exhaustive, the following metrics and descriptions are some leading indicators of the university's progress towards these commitments.

Courses Offered in Aboriginal Communities

- Courses offered through the Vancouver campus: 28 (12 Education, 1 Health, 7 Language, 8 Forestry)
- Courses offered through the Okanagan campus: 9 courses (5 Education, 1 English, 3 Indigenous Studies)

This year marks the first cohort delivery of courses in Education as part of the final component of the **Developmental Standard Term Certificate in N'syilxcen Language & Culture** offered in partnership with the En'owkin Centre and UBC Okanagan. The Developmental Standard Term Certificate program is a 3 year, 92 credit program which can lead to certification of N'syilxcen (Okanagan) Language and Culture teachers through the B.C. Teachers Regulation Board. The Certificate consists of accredited courses which can ladder into a Professional Teaching Certificate. These courses are taught at the En'owkin Centre in Penticton, BC. For a full description, please visit http://www.enowkincentre.ca/programs_dstc.html.

Other Key Initiatives

- UBC's Vancouver Senate took the extraordinary step of suspending classes on September 18 as part of encouraging staff, faculty, and students to attend the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's event in Vancouver and otherwise reflect on the subject of Indian residential schools and reconciliation. Additional campus events included two major art exhibits and many other related initiatives. For a more complete account of this engagement see <http://irsi.aboriginal.ubc.ca>.
- Initiatives at the Okanagan campus to promote education and intercultural understanding regarding Aboriginal cultures: In conjunction with the Truth and Reconciliation's National Event in Vancouver on September 18th, a year-long series of events were hosted at the Okanagan campus as a joint planning effort

that included the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, the Indigenous Studies department, Aboriginal Programs and Services, the Indigenous Student's Association, and student representatives. The purpose of these events were to provide campus and community-wide educational opportunities on the topics of Canada's Indian Residential School system, intergeneration effects, and processes of reconciliation. A total of ten (10) events were held both on campus and in the Kelowna community and ranging from documentary speaker series and performances to commemorative events. Okanagan campus students also had the opportunity to travel to Vancouver with faculty and staff to attend the National Event in Vancouver (for more information see <https://news.ok.ubc.ca/exchange/2013/09/03/road-to-reconciliation/>). Planning for the 2014-15 series of Truth and Reconciliation events on campus is currently underway at the Okanagan campus.

- With the support of Indian residential school survivors, UBC is working to establish a West Coast Centre affiliated the National Research Centre on Residential Schools established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at the University of Manitoba. Currently, fundraising is underway for the Centre at UBC. For more information, visit <http://aboriginal.ubc.ca/indian-residential-school-centre/>
- The Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health was launched to support and develop Aboriginal health programs, curriculum, research and advocacy with Aboriginal communities and partners on local, national and international levels. For more information, visit <http://health.aboriginal.ubc.ca/>
- Following from an initiative underway, a Faculty Forum on Community-Based Research was held at the UBC Vancouver Campus as a first step in developing a more integrated approach to collaborative research partnerships with communities. A significant proportion of the researchers attending were active in or working towards partnerships with Aboriginal communities.