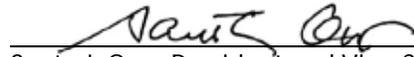


SUBJECT	UBC OKANAGAN COMMITMENTS TO TRC CALLS TO ACTION
MEETING DATE	JUNE 13, 2019

Forwarded on the Recommendation of the President

**APPROVED FOR
SUBMISSION**



 Santa J. Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor

FOR INFORMATION

Report Date	May 1, 2019
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Presented By Deborah Buszard, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan
 Ian Cull, Associate Vice-President Students, UBC Okanagan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UBC Okanagan, through its Aboriginal Advisory Committee, has developed a set of commitments in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action. Working groups of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee recommended a series of five commitments following a period of consultation with the UBC Okanagan community, external groups and specific content experts during the 2017-2018 academic year. The scope of the working groups’ consideration included three expansive areas: language fluency and culture; curriculum and scholarship; intercultural understanding, professional development, and cultural orientation.

The commitments are as follows, and have been accepted by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor:

1. *Develop and deliver an Indigenous culture orientation program for all faculty and staff at UBC Okanagan*
2. *Create a Senior Advisor role on Indigenous Affairs for UBC Okanagan*
3. *Develop and implement activities that support the revitalization of language fluency, including through initiatives such as:*
 - a. *The Language Fluency/Proficiency Degree Framework;*
 - b. *Pathways to language teacher training through the Faculty of Education; and*
 - c. *Signage and wayfinding on campus which represents Okanagan language and culture*
4. *Advance Indigenous teaching and research through positive incentives and strategies that support:*
 - a. *Faculty hires;*
 - b. *Curriculum development support; and*
 - c. *Land-based learning and teaching spaces, such as an outdoor classroom and nature interpretation in the Okanagan language*
5. *Expand health and wellness services to better support Aboriginal students*

Attachments

1. UBC Okanagan Declaration of Truth and Reconciliation Commitments

STRATEGIC CORE AREAS SUPPORTED

- a People and Places a Research Excellence a Transformative Learning a Local / Global Engagement

DESCRIPTION & RATIONALE

UBC Okanagan was founded, uniquely, in partnership with local Indigenous peoples, the Syilx Okanagan Nation, with a pledge to build a long-term relationship and work together on education, including on Okanagan Indigenous culture, history, philosophy and knowledge.

In accordance with that commitment, and in alignment with UBC’s Indigenous Strategic Plan, the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan, prioritized efforts to develop a set of recommendations for the campus to respond to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.

The committee reviewed the Calls to Action, and established working groups to consider the following areas:

1. Language fluency and culture;
2. Curriculum and scholarship;
3. Intercultural understanding, professional development, and cultural orientation.

The three working groups consulted with the campus community, external groups and specific content experts to develop reports and recommendations, which were presented to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee in late 2018. After consideration, the Committee recommended the following be considered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal:

1. *Develop and deliver an Indigenous culture orientation program for all faculty and staff at UBC Okanagan*
2. *Create a Senior Advisor role on Indigenous Affairs for UBC Okanagan*
3. *Develop and implement activities that support the revitalization of language fluency, including through initiatives such as:*
 - a. *The Language Fluency/Proficiency Degree Framework;*
 - b. *Pathways to language teacher training through the Faculty of Education; and*
 - c. *Signage and wayfinding on campus which represents Okanagan language and culture*
4. *Advance Indigenous teaching and research through positive incentives and strategies that support:*
 - a. *Faculty hires;*
 - b. *Curriculum development support; and*
 - c. *Land-based learning and teaching spaces, such as an outdoor classroom and nature interpretation in the Okanagan language*
5. *Expand health and wellness services to better support Aboriginal students*

These commitments have been endorsed by the UBC Okanagan Leadership team and the UBC Okanagan Senate.

An implementation plan is currently under development, and an event is planned in the fall to recognize the commitments.

BENEFITS Learning, Research, Financial, Sustainability & Reputational	The Okanagan campus of UBC has a memorandum of understanding with the Okanagan Nation Alliance, focusing on educational cooperation and programming. The TRC commitments made by the campus build on this foundation of cooperation, as well as advance UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan.
SCHEDULE Implementation Timeline	UBC Okanagan will work to implement the TRC commitments over a five-year timeframe.
CONSULTATION Relevant Units, Internal & External Constituencies	Consultation has taken place with the UBC Okanagan community via the Indigenous Caucus comprised of faculty, staff and students, as well as with the Okanagan Nation alliance.

UBC Okanagan Declaration of Truth and Reconciliation Commitments

In accordance with its pursuit of excellence in research, learning and engagement, The University of British Columbia is deeply committed to working closely with and in support of Indigenous peoples and communities to address the legacy of colonialism and to co-develop knowledge and relationships.

As part of this commitment, UBC's Okanagan campus was founded, uniquely, in partnership with local Indigenous peoples, the Syilx Okanagan Nation, with a pledge to build a long-term relationship and work together on education, including on Okanagan Indigenous culture, history, philosophy and knowledge.

The university is equally committed to meeting the challenge issued to Canadians by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to engage in an ongoing process of reconciliation.

Per the goals of UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan and 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:

1. *Develop and deliver an Indigenous culture orientation program for all faculty and staff at UBC's Okanagan campus*
2. *Create a Senior Advisor role on Indigenous Affairs for the Okanagan campus*
3. *Develop and implement activities that support the revitalization of language fluency, including through initiatives such as:*
 - a. *The Language Fluency/Proficiency Degree Framework;*
 - b. *Pathways to language teacher training through the Faculty of Education; and*
 - c. *Signage and wayfinding on campus which represents Okanagan language and culture*
4. *Advance Indigenous teaching and research through positive incentives and strategies that support:*
 - a. *Faculty hires;*
 - b. *Curriculum development support; and*
 - c. *Land-based learning and teaching spaces, such as an outdoor classroom and nature interpretation in the Okanagan language*
5. *Expand health and wellness services to better support Aboriginal students*

Working groups of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee developed these recommendations following a period of consultation with the Okanagan campus community, external groups and specific content experts during the 2017/18 academic year. The scope of the working groups' consideration included three expansive areas: language fluency and culture; curriculum and scholarship; intercultural understanding, professional development, and cultural orientation.

UBC Okanagan will implement the above Truth and Reconciliation commitments within a period of five years. The university will engage in appropriate consultation with Indigenous peoples, communities and partners during the implementation period per the advice of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

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.

Signed,

Santa Ono
UBC President and Vice-Chancellor

Date

Deborah Buszard
UBC Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Principal, Okanagan campus

Date

Ian Cull
Chair, UBCO Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Date

Ian Foulds
Co-Chair, UBCO Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Date