



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ACADEMIC PRESENTATION: INDIGENOUS STUDIES PROGRAM, UBC OKANAGAN</b>
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 5, 2020</b>

Forwarded on the Recommendation of the President

**APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION**

Santa J. Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor

**FOR INFORMATION**

<b>Report Date</b>	January 16, 2020
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**Presented By** Deborah Buszard, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan  
 Ananya Mukherjee Reed, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan  
 Jeanette Armstrong, Professor and  
 Canada Research Chair in Okanagan Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The presentation will discuss the program of Indigenous studies at UBC Okanagan and its work over the past several years in responding to the TRC Calls to Action. Professor Armstrong will offer her thoughts about the work at UBCO which aims to find ways to sensitise and decolonize curriculum and services for Indigenous students. In particular she will discuss the collaboration with the Okanagan Nation’s En’owkin Centre to develop a framework for a Bachelor’s degree in Nsyilxcn Language Fluency. The UBCO team is led by Dr. Michael Evans, who chairs the Provincial Consortium of six other public Institutes implementing the framework for their BC Indigenous language groups. The presentation will conclude with Professor Armstrong’s reflections on some broad reflections on this initiative, and its meaning for the community, especially in relation to the TRC commitments announced by UBCO in September 2019.

Jeannette Armstrong, Syilx Okanagan, is an Associate Professor in Indigenous Studies. She is Canada Research Chair in Okanagan Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy and leads the De-Colonization, Indigeneity and Adaptation cluster in the Institute for Community Engaged Research (ICER). Her CRC research collaborates with the Southern Interior Salish speaking nation groups to re-establish historical relationships based on food and resource sharing, trading and protection practices. She is a recipient of the Eco Trust USA Buffett Award in Indigenous Leadership and serves on Canada’s Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

**STRATEGIC CORE AREAS SUPPORTED**

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