



INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES
FACULTY OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
UBC OKANAGAN

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Programs in place 2020/21:

- **Indigenous Studies** - a Program in the [Department of Community, Culture & Global Studies](#)

- 5 Tenure Track Faculty (1 CRC), 2 Lecturers
- Expertise:
 - Indigenous identity, knowledge & philosophy
 - Land-based knowledge systems
 - Indigenous health
 - Indian Residential Schools
 - Indigenous research methodology

- Student enrollments in Indigenous Studies courses:

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
630	732	588	701	909

- New BA requirement (2021) includes indigenous content, number will grow dramatically



Programs in place 2020/21:



- **BNLF** – Bachelor degree in [Nsyilxcn Language Fluency](#) – 1st program in Canada
 - 1st hire – [Assistant Professor](#), tenure track, starting Fall 2021
 - Collaboration with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) and the Okanagan Indian Education Resources Society (En’owkin Centre)
 - Community based, working with “elders” – faculty as a “coordinator”
 - Language = a core of culture, history & a way a being – “fluency in being”
 - BNLF Degree – can expand to all Indigenous language families in BC; ready for partnership to design and deliver a program
 - Language & knowledge archiving – research side of the BNLF program

Programs in place 2020/21:

- **Eminence research clusters**

- **Enhancing Ecosystem Sustainability**

- Contributing to reconciliation through the co-production of ecological knowledge from both Western and Syilx perspectives

- **Indigenous Led Impact Assessment**

- Working with Indigenous organizations to outline information management requirements, defining best practices, developing case studies and designing new approaches to impact assessments.



Programs in planning stage:



- **Interior Salish programming:**

- Bachelor in Native Language Fluency – expansion to Interior Salish languages
- Language intensive curricula – designed, delivered & assessed through communities & indigenous principles
- Language course content – developed, owned & copyright held by indigenous communities and/or Indigenous post-secondary institute
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration Innovation building (ICI) – newly built UBCO space, shared with other research clusters
 - Indigenous Studies, BNLF, Center for Interior Salish Studies, archive & library
- Collaborating institutions (Consortium)
 - Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a (WWN) Institute, UNBC, UBCO, UBCV, the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT), and the Okanagan Indian Education Resources Society (En'owkin) UVic, SFU

Programs in planning stage:

- **Canada Research Chair – Tier 2 (junior recruitment)**
 - Community health & well-being
 - Focus on Interior BC or BC in general
 - Land-based knowledge & health
 - Possibly joined with UBCO Southern Medical Program and/or Nursing with focus on Indigenous health
 - Connection between language loss & health – tied to BNLF programs



Programs in planning stage:



- **Indigenous Go Global**

- Study abroad for Indigenous students
- Connecting Indigenous students with Indigenous communities across Canada, N America & globally
- Virtual and in-person connections & community engagement
- Australia – leadership program in place, expansion, faculty capacity in place
- New Zealand – build-up from existing connections

Programs in planning stage:

- **Eminence research cluster**
- Indigenous Urban well-being research cluster
 - Research focus on health & wellbeing of 65-70% of indigenous population who live in urban settings
 - Interdisciplinary research – access to health services, to traditional healing practices
 - Attention to “well-being” - spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health
 - Urban Health Institute



Beginning a Conversation

- Distinguished Speaker Series – October 28, 2021:
 - [Justice Marion Buller](#) - National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

