



MEMORANDUM

Date	June 13, 2025
To	Board of Governors
From	hagwil hayetsk (Charles Menzies), Chair, Indigenous Engagement Committee
Subject	Chair’s Report to Board from Indigenous Engagement Committee June 2, 2025 Open Session

The Indigenous Engagement Committee met in open session on June 2, 2025. Items approved by the Committee under delegated authority, discussed, or received for information at that meeting are listed under the open Consent Agenda for the June 20, 2025 Board of Governors meeting.

The Committee received and discussed the following information briefings:

- ***Indigenous Language Fluency Degree Programs at UBC Okanagan***

The Committee received a presentation highlighting the Indigenous language revitalization program at UBC Okanagan, focusing on the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency and partnerships with the Syilx Nation and other Interior Salish language groups (Nleʔkepmx, St’át’imc, and Secwepemc). Initiated in 2005, the program has expanded to include four language fluency degrees. It emphasizes community-based learning, Indigenous methodologies, and technology integration, such as digital dictionaries, to preserve cultural and ecological knowledge. The Indigenous Knowledges theme supports graduate research, and the proposed Interior Salish Study Center aims to centralize resources, enhance teacher training, and address intergenerational language trauma, fostering a broader research field that redefines community, environment, and health perspectives.

- ***Academic Presentation: Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship Program***

The Committee received a presentation on the Bachelor of Indigenous Land Stewardship program at UBC’s Faculty of Forestry, launched in 2024 with 75% Indigenous students and growing interest across Canada. Co-developed with Indigenous communities over a decade, the program, supported by an \$8.5 million Mastercard Foundation grant, prepares students for careers in land resource management rooted in Indigenous knowledge and earth-based ethics. The Indigenous Center of Land Stewardship aims to integrate Indigenous land ethics with modern governance, management, and economic systems, fostering a global movement for sustainable land stewardship. The program emphasizes multi-access delivery, community engagement, and a repository for Indigenous stewardship knowledge, with plans for field schools and professional development modules to drive transformative change.