



# ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

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

**Objective:** Realize greater engagement and strong, mutually supported and productive relationships with Aboriginal communities

**Purpose:** Relationships with Aboriginal communities and organizations are critical to every aspect of UBC's progress on Aboriginal initiatives. Those relationships begin with UBC's relationships with the Musqueam and Okanagan communities upon whose traditional territories our main campuses stand and with whom we have Memoranda of Affiliation. They extend to Aboriginal communities and organizations in British Columbia and beyond. It is critical that the process of building relationships be recognized as one that requires long-term commitment and frequent interactions, and that individuals, communities, and organizations remain engaged if they see that their participation has resulted in meaningful action.

**Definition:** Many relations with communities and organizations operate through collaborative research relationships and curricular initiatives. Others operate through projects to coordinate or deliver services or exchange information. These and other such projects are important ways of meeting community needs, and of assuring that community perspectives are solidly in focus for university scholars, practitioners, and strategists.

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

### 1: Courses offered in Aboriginal communities

- Courses offered through the Vancouver campus: 18 (5 Education, 4 Language, 9 Forestry)
- Courses offered through the Okanagan campus: 3 courses – 2 at En'owkin Centre (1 Education and 1 Indigenous studies), 1 at Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (Writing 009)

**Next Steps:** Capture data on community-based research projects and initiatives, and youth participation in summer programs and internships.

## 2. Other key initiatives

- With the support of Indian residential school survivors, UBC continues to work to establish a West Coast Centre affiliated with the National Research Centre on Residential Schools established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at the University of Manitoba. Currently, fundraising continues for the Centre at UBC. For more information, visit <http://aboriginal.ubc.ca/indian-residential-school-centre/>
- The Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health, launched in early 2014, continues to 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/>
- The Community-Based Research initiative continues to be developed on both campuses, with the goal of developing a structured and evaluative approach to collaborative research partnerships with communities.
- First Nations concentrations in the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies, in the School of Community and Regional Planning, and in research practica in the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program and other curricula, build capacity for collaborative work with communities.