



The District of Saanich Indigenous Relations Learning Curriculum

Check out Saanich's Indigenous Relations Learning Curriculum for staff!

Self-Paced Learning

- » **Indigenous Canada online training program offered by the University of Alberta**

[Click to learn more](#)

The program explores the different histories and perspectives of Indigenous peoples all around Canada including Indigenous-settler relationships, land claims, environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts, Indigenous activism, and contemporary Indigenous life.

[Click to start now. We will be covering the cost of completion certificates for the first 50 staff.](#)

- » **Book Club: we're reading [Saltwater People as told by Dave Elliott Sr.](#)**

[Click to learn more](#)

Click the link above to start reading the book and join us in our discussion sessions to talk about our experiences and perspectives reading the book as well as our learning outcomes. Book Club discussion sessions will be on:

October 28 10:00 a.m.-10:55 a.m.

Experiential Learning

- » **Ləkʷəŋən Territory Tours**

[Click to learn more](#)

Staff will learn about the boundaries of the Ləkʷəŋən territory as well as history and Indigenous stories about these lands we are on.

September 17	9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
October 9	9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

- » **Community Lunch Volunteering**

[Click to learn more](#)

Staff will have the opportunity to build relationships with Indigenous people as well as give back to the community.

September 12	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
October 17	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
November 14	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
December 5	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

- » **Indigenous Drumming Session**

[Click to learn more](#)

October 22, 2025	8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
December 3, 2025	8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
February 11, 2026	8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
April 8, 2026	8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
June 10, 2026	8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m.

[Click to view sessions by date](#)

Click here to email Mais.Hajaij@saanich.ca and register

Spaces are limited so please RSVP as soon as possible.



The District of Saanich Indigenous Relations Learning Curriculum

Sessions by date

Friday, September 12, 2025	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Volunteer at the community lunch
Wednesday, September 17, 2025	9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Ləkʷəŋən territory tours
Thursday, October 9, 2025	9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Ləkʷəŋən territory tours
Friday, October 17, 2025	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Volunteer at the community lunch
Wednesday, October 22, 2025	8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Volunteer at the community lunch
Tuesday, October 28, 2025	10:00 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.	Saltwater people book club
Friday, November 14, 2025	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Volunteer at the community lunch
Wednesday, December 3, 2025	8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Indigenous drumming session
Friday, December 5, 2025	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Volunteer at the community lunch
Wednesday, February 11, 2025	8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Indigenous drumming session
Wednesday, April 8, 2025	8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Indigenous drumming session
Wednesday, June 10, 2026	8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Indigenous drumming session

[Click to view session descriptions](#)

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Self-Paced Learning

Indigenous Canada Training by the University of Alberta

Purpose

The purpose of this training is to:

- Offer an in-depth exploration of the diverse histories and worldviews of Indigenous peoples in Canada, including their cultural traditions, spiritual practices, and relationships to the land.
- Equip participants with the knowledge to engage meaningfully in reconciliation efforts, recognizing the importance of Indigenous rights and the need to address historical injustices.

Learning Outcomes

- Gain a broad understanding of the diverse histories, traditions, and worldviews of Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- Critically analyze the effects of colonization on Indigenous communities, including policies such as the Indian Act, residential schools, and other colonial practices that continue to shape Indigenous experiences today.
- Learn about the current social, economic, and political challenges faced by Indigenous communities, including issues related to land rights, governance, health, and education.
- Develop greater cultural awareness and sensitivity, learning how to engage respectfully and thoughtfully with Indigenous peoples, cultures, and knowledge systems.
- Become equipped with the knowledge and skills to support meaningful actions toward repairing historical injustices and fostering respectful relationships.

Certification

While the training program is free of charge, we will be covering the cost of completion certificates for the first 50 staff members. Please email [Mais Hajaj](#) once you've completed the program and want your certificate to be issued.

[Click to view session descriptions](#)

Book Club: Saltwater People by Dave Elliott Sr.

Purpose

The purpose of this book club is to:

- Provide an important perspective on the history, culture, and experiences of the Coast Salish peoples.
- Create a forum for open discussions where staff can share their thoughts, reflections, and insights while unpacking the themes and lessons from the book in a safe and supportive environment.

Learning Outcomes

- Gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous histories, cultures, and traditions, particularly those of the Coast Salish people.
- Understand and reflect on the long-lasting impacts of colonization on Indigenous communities, including social, cultural, and economic challenges.
- Develop greater empathy and respect for Indigenous perspectives and lived experiences.
- Strengthen skills in engaging in respectful and meaningful conversations about complex issues related to Indigenous relations including the ability to listen, share perspectives, and challenge assumptions.

Location and Registration

Discussion sessions are available virtually via Teams. Please email [Mais Hajaj](mailto:Mais.Hajaj) to sign up. This event is open to all staff members.

[Click to view session descriptions](#)

Experiential Learning

lək'wəŋən Territory Tours

Purpose

The purpose of this tour is to:

- Provide staff with knowledge about the location of the lək'wəŋən peoples' territory and deepen their understanding of the rich history and cultural significance of these lands.
- Offer a unique perspective on life on these lands both before and after colonization, enabling staff to learn directly from local Indigenous voices and histories.

Tour Guide

We are pleased to have Mark Albany who is from the Songhees Nation. Mark is a social worker, knowledge keeper and educator. For many years, Mark's work has focused on raising awareness of the effects that colonization has had on the lək'wəŋən peoples and their traditional lands.

Learning Outcomes

- Gain a deeper understanding of the cultural significance of various locations within the lək'wəŋən territory, including their roles in community gatherings, traditional practices, and historical events.
- Learn about the effects of colonization on the lək'wəŋən peoples including changes to their way of life, land use, and cultural practices.
- Develop greater empathy and respect for the challenges faced by Indigenous communities and the importance of their cultural heritage.

Location and Registration

The tour is held in-person around the lək'wəŋən territory including PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park), Cadboro-Gyro Park, Willows Beach, Beacon Hill Park, Songhees Point, and Craigflower-Kosapsum Park. Please email [Mais Hajaj](mailto:Mais.Hajaj@vcc.ca) to sign up. This event is open to all staff members, but please note that availability is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible.

[Click to view session descriptions](#)

Community Lunch Volunteering

Purpose

The purpose of this volunteering opportunity is to:

- Create a space for meaningful interactions, relationship-building, and cultural exchange in a welcoming environment.
- Support Indigenous-led efforts to promote wellness and social cohesion within the community, as well as practice active allyship by acknowledging the importance of Indigenous-led spaces and initiatives and offering support in a meaningful way.

Learning Outcomes

- Develop the ability to communicate respectfully and effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds, particularly within Indigenous communities.
- Understand the significance of participating in Indigenous-led initiatives as part of the larger reconciliation process, recognizing the value of allyship.
- Feel more connected to the local Indigenous communities and cultures.

Location and Registration

In-person at the Gym at [Victoria Native Friendship Centre](#) (231 Regina Avenue). Please email [Mais Hajajj](#) to sign up. This event is open to all staff members, but please note that availability is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible.

[Click to view session descriptions](#)

Drumming Sessions

Purpose

The purpose of the drumming session is to:

- Introduce staff to the significance of drumming in Indigenous cultures, exploring its historical and contemporary roles in ceremonies, storytelling, and community bonding.
- Honor and respect Indigenous traditions by participating in a practice that is deeply rooted in cultural heritage, acknowledging the importance of preserving and revitalizing these traditions.

Learning Outcomes

- Gain insights into the historical and contemporary roles of drumming in Indigenous cultures, including its importance in ceremonies, storytelling, and community gatherings.
- Experience the meditative aspects of drumming, fostering a sense of mindfulness and presence that can contribute to improved mental well-being.
- Cultivate empathy and emotional connection with others, fostering a sense of community and shared experience.
- Deepen appreciation for Indigenous music and cultural practices, recognizing the value of preserving and honoring these traditions.

Location and Registration

Drumming sessions are held in-person at the Kirby Room on the ground floor at the Police Department. Please email [Mais Hajaj](mailto:Mais.Hajaj) to sign up. This event is open to all staff members, but please note that availability is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible.

[Click to view session descriptions](#)