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FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Approval Authority	Board of Governors
Primary Contact	President
Related Policies / Legislation	Board policy direction University Planning and Directions (BPD-200)

PHILOSOPHY

The University of the Fraser Valley embraces its responsibility to peoples of Aboriginal ancestry to provide respectful, relevant and responsive post-secondary education and training that support their personal development, career success, and their participation in the social, cultural and economic development of our communities. The University is also committed to promoting knowledge of and respect for aboriginal history, language, culture, values and indigenous ways of knowing in its educational, research and service programs, and to including Aboriginal voice in its planning and decision-making.

The University recognizes the harmful impacts of colonialism and the residential school system and acknowledges the Canadian federal government's statement of this system involving genocide. UFV supports ongoing work towards reconciliation including efforts to meet objectives listed in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.[1]

POLICY

The University establishes an environment that is welcoming to students of Aboriginal ancestry and provides support services that address the barriers and challenges uniquely faced by Aboriginal learners in their access, participation and success in higher learning and in their preparation for employment or further education. These services include, but are not limited to, assistance with the transition into post-secondary education and training, educational and career guidance, academic support, mentorship, and counselling. In addition, students of Aboriginal ancestry are welcomed, encouraged and supported in their participation in the full breadth of student life, including recreational and leadership activities at the university.

The University develops respectful and ethical educational, service and research protocols and guidelines for addressing Aboriginal knowledge systems, language and culture. It establishes an environment that respects, promotes and celebrates knowledge of aboriginal history, language, culture, values and indigenous ways of knowing. These are incorporated into curricula and other training opportunities for students, into University events, presentations, and celebrations, and into the design and décor of University facilities, where possible and practical given the University's mandate, strategic directions and resources. The University acknowledges publicly its location on traditional Stó:lō territory.

The University supports employment opportunities for people of Aboriginal ancestry by seeking applications from qualified aboriginal candidates for positions at the university and by assisting Aboriginal employees with transition into the work environment, career development and learning opportunities, in accordance with formal agreements between the University and its employees. The

[1] https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf.

University also encourages students, faculty and staff of Aboriginal ancestry to participate in the leadership and management of the University through service on committees, councils and governing bodies.

The University affirms that the denial, minimization, or misrepresentation of the harms and realities of the Residential School system is inconsistent with UFV's commitments to truth, reconciliation, Indigenous self-determination, and respectful learning environments.

The University does not endorse, legitimize, or provide institutional platforms for conduct or expression that denies or distorts the documented impacts of Residential Schools or undermines the dignity and lived experiences of Indigenous Survivors, families, and communities. In achieving these goals, the University seeks partnerships and counsel from Aboriginal elders, leaders and communities.

The University develops and maintains information-reporting structures for the Board about Aboriginal student recruitment, retention, and success, strategies and steps taken to indigenize UFV, as well as the collaboration with elders, aboriginal leaders and communities.