



# THE Living Lab

Spring 2021 Newsletter

[www.livinglabproject.ca](http://www.livinglabproject.ca)



University  
of Victoria

Greetings to all. After a rather long COVID-y winter it feels good to have Spring arriving and a slow steady return to face to face connections. Read on for some inspiring news!



## Living Lab Hub and Network News

**Living Lab** has now set up a more formal secretariat / hub in the School of Child and Youth Care / Faculty of Human and Social Development with a Management and Steering Cttee and a network of campus and community partners supported by local elders and knowledge keepers. Check out the Team and network online. Nick Claxton is the Living Lab Academic Director and is the Co-Chair of Living Lab and the Steering Committee with Leslie Brown (UVic School of Social Work Professor Emeritus). Maeve Lydon is the Program Director. Spring and Summer 2021 activity includes creating a longer term vision for Living Lab and a community-based action plan.

Besides core funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education's Aboriginal Service Plan funding, Living Lab is fortunate to have recently received renewed funding for 2021 and 2022 from the National Science and Engineering Research Council's (NSERC) Promo Science Program. UVic Education Professor Kathy Sanford is the lead academic applicant on the grant which will be focused on connecting teacher education, curriculum and student accreditation with land-based learning, environmental-science monitoring and community / Indigenous driven restoration projects. This will be piloted in SD#61 (Victoria area) and connected to Living Lab programming in the wider region. This summer we are also starting the first regional Indigenous youth eco-stewardship program; even with COVID restrictions we hope to be able to have some fun and engaging outdoor and land-water learning activities led by priorities of youth and communities. Plans are also underway to re-launch the Tl'Ches Songhees community-led archaeology-ethnobotany project and field programming with Darcy Mathews (UVic Env. Studies Prof.) and Songhees Nation youth and community members.

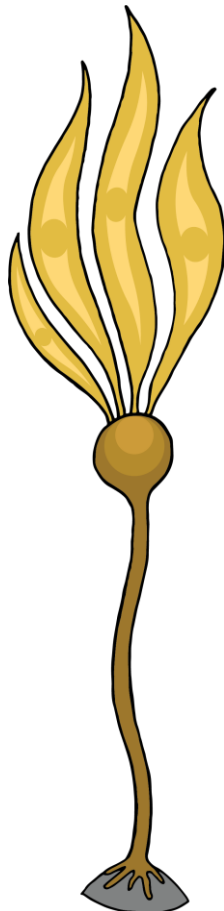


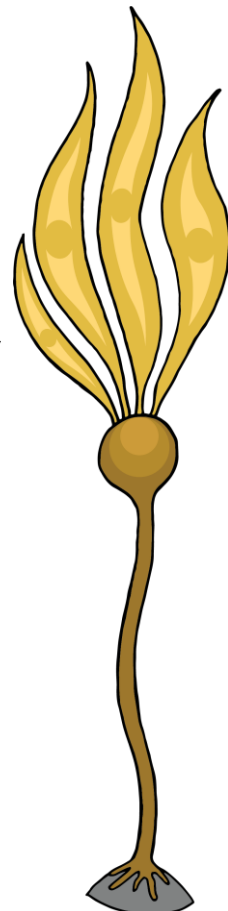


Photo: Lekwungen Living Lab Camp 2020

**Staff/Communications Website** – Stacie Thiessen is Living Lab's new Communications Coordinator and will focus on public engagement based on the website and on-line media while also helping to create new multi-media learning resources. We will be creating new quarterly newsletters and monthly updates so stay tuned.

## **Campus News**

Indigenous Resurgence Research Project: Living Lab is supporting / managing the new Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) academic Partnership Development grant for 2020-2023 entitled, Indigenous Resurgence on the Salish Sea: A Collaborative study of Tribal and Settler Schools, awarded to Professor Nick Claxton in partnership with Nick Stanger, Professor from Western Washington University with WSANEC and Lummi Nation (US) members and schools as key partners. How does teaching and learning about Indigenous history, sovereignty, and cultural revitalization contribute to Indigenous resurgence in settler and Indigenous learning settings? is the key guiding question to date. Currently the leads (Nick C and Nick S) are working on the partnership agreements and community-driven priorities and hoping to start the participatory community research by the summer / fall.





## Learning Resources

**Coast Salish Plant and Marine Guides!** After two years of development we are launching the new Living Lab Coast Salish Plant and Marine Field Guides featuring local species with Lekwungen, SENCOTEN, English, and Scientific names. The guides are 8 1/2" x 11" double sided and will be laminated for school and community use.

Check them out here – [\[Marine Guide\]](#) [\[Plant Guide\]](#). Contact us to get some copies for your group. Many thanks to the Songhees Nation and PEPÁKĒN HÁUTW\_ and local Indigenous languages translator Ivy Seward. Darlene Joseph and the Songhees Academic Youth Leadership Team with Charlotte Charlie along with John Taylor and Talen Rimmer / Morgan Black from UVic helped pull this together!

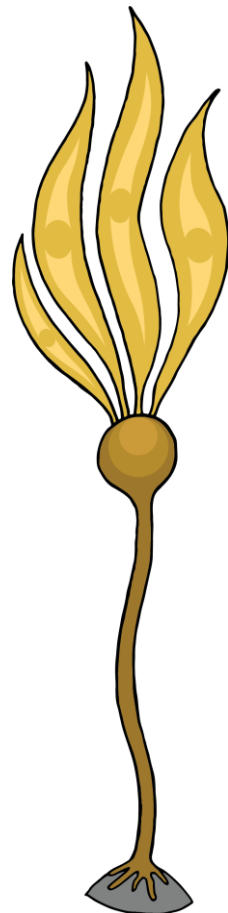


Page 1 of the Marine Guide, and page 1 of the Plant Guide



## Community News

Living Lab working together with School District #61 Indigenous Education is continuing to support the Shoreline school based Big Canoe Program which supports outdoor classroom learning on the Gorge. With Aboriginal Service Plan funds, we were able to buy outdoor rain gear for students which can also be used for summer time camps. Big Canoe is also working with other schools in the SD#61 area to expand the Gorge waterway learning program and tie it to ecosystem restoration and Lekwungen (Esquimalt and Songhees Nation) priorities.







## PEPÁKEN HÁUTW\_ News

(from Judith Lyn Arney, PH Ecosystem Director)

"The PEPÁKEN HÁUTW\_ team has been busy over the past autumn and winter doing ecosystem restoration and building educational resources for WŞÁNEĆ youth. At SNIDŹEŁ (Tod Inlet, Gowlland-Tod Provincial Park) we planted over 200 native plants that were grown and taken care of at the PEPÁKEN HÁUTW\_ native plant nursery by our staff and Tribal School students. We made an exceptional amount of progress in our restoration objectives; especially given the fact we were not able to host volunteer groups or classes due to pandemic restrictions and community safety protocols. A lot of capacity was developed within our staff members to lead and accomplish this work. Due to ongoing construction at the Tribal School we have paused our work on the ŁTS ŹIKEL restoration site, however we are still propagating lots of beautiful wetland plants for this project and we look forward to resuming this healing work with students again this autumn!



Photo: PEPÁKEN HÁUTW\_ planting at SNIDŹEŁ

We have also been creating new educational resources to support students in their distance learning, creating videos and print resources that encourage WŞÁNEĆ youth to get out on the land and build their skills and resiliency through connection to traditional and healthy foods and medicines. Check out [pepakenhautw.com](http://pepakenhautw.com) (currently unavailable as we are working on the site! It should be up in early April) as well as our social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#)) to see our posts and learning resources!"

