



The Living Lab Project



University
of Victoria

Summer 2021 Newsletter

www.livinglabproject.ca



Network News

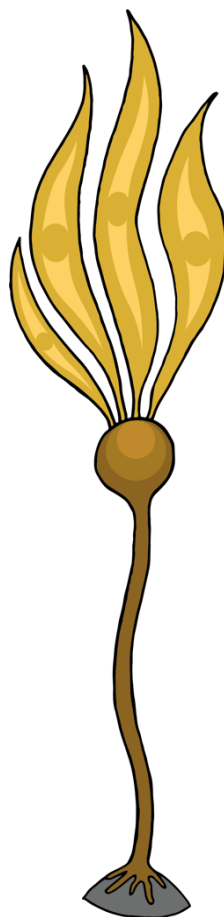
Network Gathering - Living Lab held our first (on-line) Network Partners gathering on May 26th and almost everyone made it! ([Team Page](#) & group screenshot [here](#)). We heard intros from network partners and shared updates on our organizational and program/ research activities. Living Lab plans to complete a three year plan and vision process by the Fall of 2021 and will closely engage the Network (hopefully face to face now that COVID is subsiding!))



At our Network gathering, Lorna Williams, Wánosts'a7, (who is part of Living Lab's Advisory, Chair of the First People's Cultural Council, recent recipient of the Order of Canada and UVic Professor Emerita), shared her perspective on why the work of Living Lab matters especially right now in Canadian history and within the context of community-campus partnerships. Lorna has spent her life's work trying to change education systems (school and campuses and especially teacher education and curriculum) to include Indigenous knowledge, communities and students. She believes the current effort by Living Lab and others to transform mainstream science,

research and curriculum to include Indigenous knowledge/ worldview and land-based/ experiential learning, is vital and timely. The two editions of Knowing Home: Braiding Indigenous Science with Western Science, which documents this work focused on British Columbia, are available free, downloadable and on-line thanks to the support of the UVic Library. Read the transcript of Lorna's presentation to our Living Lab network on our website, [here](#).

New Living Lab Staff - We are thrilled to welcome two UVic students and local community members to our team as Research and Program Assistants: Desiree Jones and Lyndsey TE, TES,Æ Joseph. Desiree is from Pauquachin and Lummi First



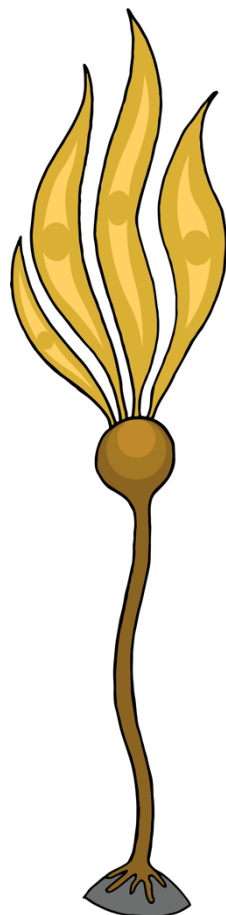
Nations and is an Indigenous Studies student and Lyndsey is a Songhees Nation member doing her Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Language Revitalization. They are focused on the Living Lab Indigenous Resurgence research project which supports community-led educational systems change in the Salish Sea. They are also taking part in organizing hands-on land and ocean learning and projects in W̱SÁNEĆ and Lekwungen Territories. Desiree is part of the summer 2021 W̱SÁNEĆ youth Reefnet Program which Nick Claxton is co-leading; Lyndsey is supporting the Lekwungen Summer Camps and Tl'Ches Restoration planning as the Songhees Living Lab staff liaison. Check out Lyndsey and Desiree's profiles on our [Team page](#) and their latest Blogs [online](#).



The Salish Sea / TETÁĆES



Decolonize, Decarbonize!: Connecting Local and Global Land-Based Learning to Indigenous Resurgence and Climate Justice - On June 30th LL staff and network members combined efforts for a 90 minute presentation to the Living Knowledge Network's (LKN) (<https://www.livingknowledge.org>) on-line global Festival. LKN is the EU-based community-campus Research/Science shop movement hub. Check out this amazing presentation on our [website](#). Lyndsey TE, TES, ʔE Joseph welcomed participants to the territory, followed by Salish Sea maps and context by Nick Stanger from Western Washington University and a Global -Local Climate Justice focus by Deb Morrison from the University of Washington/ TETÁĆES project-Pender Island/S'DAYES. Beautiful slides and sharing about their work in eco-cultural restoration and land-based learning in Lekwungen and WSANEC territories was provided by John Harris from SD#61 and Sarah Jim / Judith Lyn Arney from PEPÁKĒN HÁUTW.





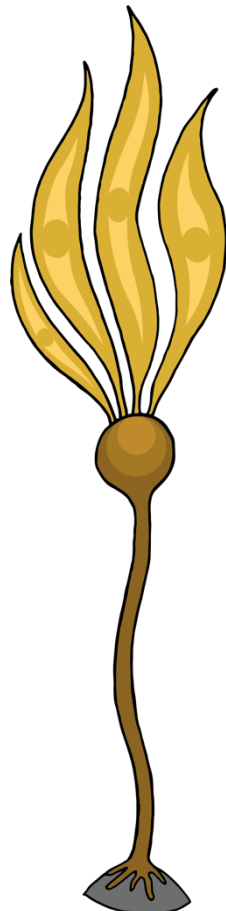
Campus News

Community Engaged Learning and TI'Ches - With support from a UVic Community Engaged Learning Grant, Living Lab is working with Assistant Professor (UVic, Environmental Studies) Darcy Mathews and Songhees Nation members & staff. The work focuses on community-led restoration and educational programming on the Songhees reserve lands of TI'Ches (Chatham and Discovery Islands off the coast of Oak Bay).



TI'Ches Gathering with Songhees Elders Joan Morris and Bangus George, June 2021

Schools / Teacher Education Outreach - As part of our NSERC Promo-Science grant, Education Professor Kathy Sanford and Ph.D. student Tracey Murphy have interviewed many local teachers to hear their passions and visions for expanding land-based learning in our community, focused for now on School District #61. This includes an inventory of current land-based learning projects led by teachers, along with NGOs. This summary report will be on our website by mid-July 2021. Based on this report, Living Lab will continue to support the development of a local community of practice and teacher education/program / curriculum supports for the coming 2021-2022 year. This will build on existing School District #61 environmental and SD#61 Indigenous Education programs and regional- BC best practices and expertise /resources via the LLab network. Outdoor education, place and land-water based learning and restoration work which supports Indigenous resurgence and knowledge, is rapidly growing in its relevance and popularity especially among students and communities. However, more support is needed to tie it to curriculum outcomes, accreditation and to include opportunities for all schools and kids/ youth in our region.



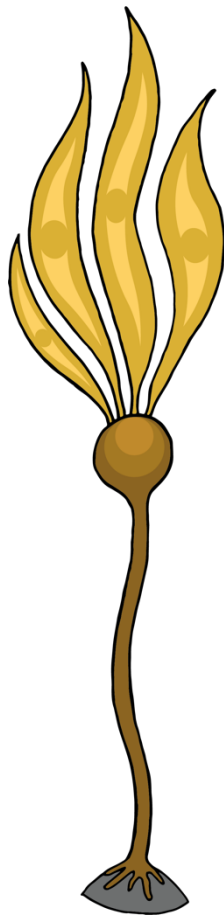


Community News

ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ Revitalization Project: Sharing W̱SÁNEĆ Traditional Knowledge with Southern Gulf Island Communities - ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ in SENCOTEN means 'Relatives of the Deep' and for the local W̱SÁNEĆ Nations it is their name for the Gulf – Salish Sea Islands. Building on the successful 2020 climate action project <https://www.sgicommunityresources.ca/climate-action-project/>, the W̱SÁNEĆ-Settler ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ Steering Ctte. was able to secure a new 75k grant from the Real Estate Foundation for their Revitalization Project to connect current South Gulf Island communities (focused on Pender, Mayne and Saturna) and the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. The project is a partnership between the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resources Centre (CRC) and the W̱SÁNEĆ School Board (WSB) to develop a series of educational videos, owned by the WSB, for use in WSB curriculum. Funding support is provided by a number of community partners including the WSB, CRC, W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council, Raincoast Conservation Foundation, our UVIC Living Lab Project, the South Pender Historical Society and the Capital Regional District. The central video will include a presentation by Dr Nick Claxton (TSAWOUT Community-Living Lab Academic Director) and retired UVic history professor John Price of the key findings in their seminal paper "Whose Land Is It? "Rethinking Sovereignty in British Columbia" published in BC Studies: The British Columbia Quarterly (Find it [here](#)). Stay tuned for more news on this exciting project.



TETĀCES Project Logo by PENĀC Underwood



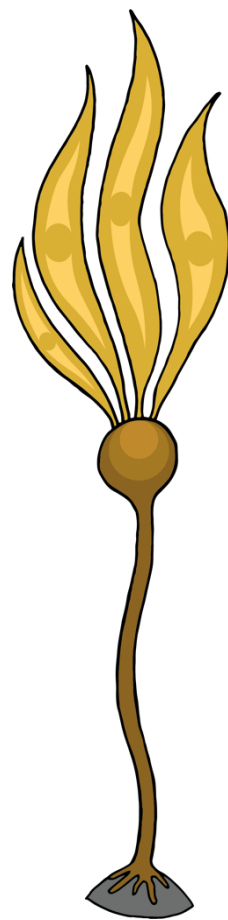
Indigenous Youth Eco-Stewardship Program Launch and Summer 2021 Youth Camps

- Over the past year Living Lab community partners from the Pauquachin, Esquimalt and Songhees Nations and PEPÁKEN HÁUTW came together to plan possibilities for local and regional youth and community land-based learning opportunities. Thanks to this collective effort, for Summer 2021 10-12 regional WŚÁNEĆ and Lekwungen youth aged 16-30 are now being hired as an eco-stewardship team to work and learn together, explore amazing places and to support local camps with their Nations. We hope/ plan to expand this work as a yearlong club and schools/ curriculum connected program.



Lekwungen Summer Camp 2020, Group posing in front of TI'Ches Islands.

Shoreline School: Living Lab June School Event - On June 4th approximately 25 students from Shoreline middle school and the Esquimalt Nation had a day out in Portage Inlet Park, adjacent to the Esquimalt and Songhees Nation. Shoreline teachers, organizer Jennifer Labelle, with Sonya McRae (who coordinates the Big Canoe Program) and TA Brenda Pohl; local Lekwungen elders; Living Lab staff; partners from Science Venture (Melisa Yestrau); and World Fisheries Trust (Yogi Carolsfield) came together to help. It was a hands-on, fun filled science and environmental awareness day to learn about the history and traditional knowledge of this Lekwungen territory, and to investigate plants, marine life and



water quality. Yogi, with Barri Rudolph from the CRD, Kristian Dubrawski (UVic Professor, Eng/Geog) and Nancy Shackelford (UVic Professor, Env. Studies/ Restoration) were able to help with having the middle-school aged youth sample the health of shellfish and ocean water, and then to view and discuss the lab results in their classroom (which came back a week later!). Lyndsey Joseph, John Harris and Nick Stanger had walkabouts in the forest and used LLab's new Plant Guides [Link to [Marine Guide](#)] [Link to [Plant Guide](#)]. There will be many more of these kinds of events thanks to the generosity of the partners involved, the enthusiasm of the students, and the commitment and passion of community members and educators such as Jennifer, Sonya and Brenda.



Jesse Rice Jr. (télæsítən), Lyndsey Joseph's son, enjoying digging clams



Shoreline School-Living Lab Day /Circle with Mary Ann Thomas, Esquimalt Nation elder

