



Living Lab Project

www.livinglabproject.ca

Fall 2021 Newsletter



Fall Strategic Planning & Visioning Underway

After a fun and energizing coming-out-of-COVID summer featuring the launch of our new Youth Eco-Stewards Program, this fall Living Lab is focused on sustaining our work by hosting Network conversations and events to build our long-term plan and vision for the future.

New Staff & Team Members

Welcome to Jess Joseph, our new Arts and Community Engagement Programmer from the Songhees Nation, and Bruce Kilpatrick, former Executive Director of Communications + Marketing for UVic who has joined our Advisory Committee.

[View team bios >](#)

A New Chapter for LLab Network Member

Mavis Underwood from the WSÁNEĆ Nation, and a LLab Advisory member, has started a new chapter as a student at UVic, starting her Ph.D. in Anthropology after decades of community work.

[Read her blog >](#)



Songhees youth and community boat at Tl'Ches (LLab Lekwungen Youth Camp July 2021)

Living Lab Hubs Expand to Schools & Youth

Victoria educators gathered on Oct. 7 at UVic to create a Living Lab schools team and network hub. Youth from the new Eco-Stewards Program are creating their own hub to design youth activities and inform LLab programs.

[Read more >](#)

Funding News

The Ministry of Advanced Education's Aboriginal Service Plan grant was recently awarded to Living Lab for the 2021-2022 period.

[Read more >](#)

Communications

Thanks to Jessica Joseph for launching our new Facebook and Instagram pages!



Upcoming Webinar Series

Transforming Educational Landscapes through Land-Based Approaches to Learning. Chelsea Bonhert, Living Lab Curriculum Coordinator, is putting together a fall webinar series to explore local/regional/national educational transformation through land-based learning approaches which place healing at the centre.

The series will explore eco-cultural healing and restoration, the national landscape of land-based learning and reconciliation, and Indigenous resurgence in the Salish Sea.

Stay tuned!



Campus News



LLab Youth Eco-Stewards Jess, Caleb and Chris creating a new UVic Camas garden, August 2021

Indigenous Resurgence on the Salish Sea, Research Project Update

This spring, Nick Claxton, Darcy Mathews, and Nick Stanger were successful in a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, a large project that is the lead research initiative in the Living Lab Network.

[Read more >](#)



Community News



Lekwungen Youth on the Gorge with Sonya McRae, Shoreline teacher / Big Canoe Project

Eco-Steward Youth Program Launched!

We did it.... the first-ever Living Lab Eco-Stewards Youth Program was launched.

For two weeks at the beginning and end of summer, 14 youth stewards aged 15-30 came together from Pauquachin, WSÁNEĆ, Esquimalt, and Songhees Nations, and PEPÁKĒN HÁUTW. Together, they led 2 weeks of Living Lab-focused camps for 15 other youth aged 12-25. Over the Fall and Winter 2022 plans for camps and the overall program will be happening, led by the youth and based on the feedback and ideas for activities shared by all.

In between that time, the youth worked in their communities and coordinated their own summer camps; the Pauquachin youth coordinated 4 weeks of community camps, and the Lekwungen youth led 2 weeks of Living Lab-focused camps for 15 other youth aged 12-25. Over the Fall and Winter 2022 plans for camps and the overall program will be happening, led by the youth and based on the feedback and ideas for activities shared by all.



Robert Clifford (WSÁNEĆ and UBC Law Professor), Indigenous Law students, and others at SNDZEL Sept 30

PEPÁKĒN HÁUTW Update

On September 30th, UBC and UVic Indigenous Law students came out to participate in healing work on the WSÁNEĆ homelands in honour of Truth & Reconciliation Day.

[Read more >](#)



WSÁNEĆ youth with SXOLE Reefnet Project, Summer 2021

SXOLE- The WSÁNEĆ Reefnet Project

Desiree Jones, a LLab Research and Program Assistant with the Indigenous Resurgence in the Salish Sea Research Project writes about her experience this summer with the Reef Net Project.

[Read more >](#)



Truth and Reconciliation National Day - Oak Bay/Lekwungen Territory Sept 30, 2021

ReconciliACTION Oak Bay Launch

A new network of community organizations has the coming together to advance the process of Truth and Reconciliation in the District of Oak Bay and the Living Lab is a core partner supporting its public engagement and resurgence activities.

ReconciliACTION Oak Bay, launched Sept. 24, is a collaboration of Oak Bay-based organizations committed to building community-to-community relationships with the Songhees and Esquimalt peoples and taking concrete action to build a just future together. Its activities in the coming year will include developing Oak Bay's own calls to action and a public engagement and action strategy.

Advisory committee member Bruce Kilpatrick (250-920-6413), the former Executive Director of Communications + Marketing for UVic, is the Living Lab liaison with this new citizen-led effort.

Visit reconciliatioonoakbay.ca for more information.