



Living Lab Network

Youth Eco-Stewardship

Program

2024 Report

Living Lab is a community-school-campus partnership supporting land-based learning/healing, eco-cultural restoration and Indigenous resurgence.

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Highlights of 2024 CAMP



Congrats to Summer
EcoYouth Interns Ava
George, Katessa Rice, Ethan
Farrell, Rylan Thomas and
Harmony Lecoy.
Great Job!



Living Lab hosted its first-ever March Break camps, engaging 18 Lekwungen youth in exploring Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ regional lands. Over two weeks, activities included ecosystem restoration at SNIDÇEŁ, harvesting 50 pounds of clams at Bamberton, fishing at the Breakwater, visiting the Royal BC Museum and IMAX, and preparing a community feast.

The summer camps involved 23 youth in fishing, creative arts, island exploration, traditional food preparation, and activities focused on climate action, archaeology, and local history. The program concluded with an end-of-summer feast attended by 80 family members.



BOTTOM: Youth on the water, exploring the vibrant waters of Tl'ches (Discovery Island Marine Park)

The Eco-Stewardship Youth Camps program started in the summer of 2017 between the Songhees and the University of Victoria. Since its inception, it has grown to include the Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) and Pauquchin Nations, PEPÁKEN HÁUTW Foundation, the WSÁNEĆ School Board, School District #61 Indigenous Education, Parks Canada, Science Venture, Camosun College and many other communities and NGO partners. Our Eco-Stewardship Youth Camps program supports local Indigenous youth to restore and maintain the environment and traditional food systems through outdoor, creative, and “fun science” activities. We also aim to establish and strengthen generational bonds, grow friendships, and recover ancestral connections to local Indigenous community histories, languages, lands, and waters.



OUR GOALS

Educational Transformation

Develop land-based learning and school programs connecting sustainability and environmental/science education with student well-being and success.

Restoration and Resurgence

Organize community-driven ecosystem and climate action projects which affirm Indigenous knowledge, rights, and access to/use of traditional lands and waters.

Community -Driven Research

Lead and support community-driven research projects based on Indigenous and community knowledge and priorities, healing and wellness, and restoring the connection to lands and waters.

Capacity Building and Engagement

Create community skills, capacity-building activities, and a regional Indigenous eco-stewardship program focused on children and youth.

OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS



Songhees

Aboriginal Service Plan
Ministry of Advanced
Education



University
of Victoria



SD 61 Indigenous
Education Department



Office of Indigenous Academic
and Community Engagement
(UVIC)



TETÁCES
Restoration
Initiative



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada



WSÁNEĆ
SCHOOL BOARD



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