

# RDCO/EDC EDUCATION TOUR

VISIT TO UBC OKANAGAN

November 13, 2024



# About UBC Okanagan

- Established in 2005 in answer to a resounding call from the community for a world-class research university in BC's Southern Interior
- UBCO's identity is shaped by its foundational partnership with the Okanagan Nation
- The campus is known for combining a globally-recognized university education with a close-knit learning community

**11,913**      **Students enrolled**

**1,399**      **Graduate students**

**774**      **Self-identified Indigenous students**

**1 in 6**      **UBC Students study at the Okanagan campus**



# Indigenous engagement

- UBC Okanagan is situated in the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation
- The university was welcomed by Okanagan Nation Alliance Chiefs through ceremony (knaqs npi'ismist) and with the signing of an MOU (most recently renewed in 2023)
- Since 2005, UBCO and the Okanagan Nation have worked in partnership to enhance education and support Okanagan Indigenous culture, history, language, philosophy and knowledge
- Working collaboratively with the ONA and communities to realize Truth and Reconciliation commitments that advance Indigenous teaching, research, and language revitalization



# Teaching and learning

- Working with the Province to grow high-demand programs like Engineering, Nursing, Social Work and Data Science; launch new programs like the Master of Biotechnology
- Supporting cultural revitalization through Indigenous language fluency programs delivered in partnership with the En'owkin Centre and Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
- Diversifying credentials available on campus to support lifelong learning (e.g. micro-credentials to meet labour market needs)
- Targeted recruitment for key professional grad programs (e.g. Masters of Design; Management; Social Work; Data Science; Engineering; Education; Biotech)



# UBC Okanagan in the community

- We bring young, diverse and talented people (students, faculty and staff) into the community
- Students who learn here tend to stay here
- Nearly 30,000 UBCO alumni (cumulative)

**~25%** of UBCO students come from the Okanagan

**~50%** of UBCO alumni stay in the region

**69%** of UBCO Nursing graduates hired by Interior Health in last two years = 200 new nurses



# UBCO in the community

- Students learning in community
  - Health and medicine clinical placements
  - Indigenous language fluency partnerships
  - Co-op and experiential education
- Industrial and community research partnerships
- Convening civil discourse: UBC Okanagan Debates



# Local research with global impact

## Small Steps for Big Changes (SSBC) – Dr. Mary Jung

- Reducing type-2 diabetes risk through evidence-based behaviour-change counselling
- SSBC is more effective than oral medication at reducing Type-2 diabetes; 85% of participants no longer have Type-2 Diabetes
- It started right here in Kelowna and is now available at YMCA locations across Canada and Australia

## Battery Innovation Centre – Dr. Jian Liu

- Accelerating next-generation battery development and deployment
- Working with Kootenay-based industry partners to:
  - Develop new recycling methods to recover, repair and reuse materials from end-of-life lithium-ion batteries
  - Find ways to reuse tellurium from mining waste – reducing dependence on lithium/mining in other jurisdictions
- Fostering a circular economy and an Okanagan clean tech hub



# Local research with global impact

## Wildfire research – Dr. Mathieu Bourbonnais

- Pursuing solutions to help communities predict, plan for and prevent destructive wildfires
- Partnership with BC Wildfire Service, Rogers on sensor/camera network; early warning system for wildfires
- Proposal to expand impact by creating the **Okanagan Wildfire Lab**:
  - Testing: controlled combustion experiments to evaluate resiliency of home building and landscaping materials to wildfire; supporting further development of FireSmart guidelines
  - Training: hands-on experience in fire risk mitigation methods such as prescribed fire burns
  - Technology: specialized environment for developing and calibrating next-generation wildfire sensor technologies and systems

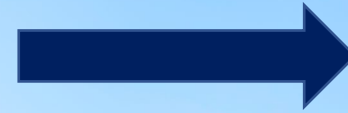




# Building the university



2005



2023



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- Completion late 2025
- 146,000 sq ft
- First new academic building in 10+ years
- Interdisciplinary research space for social sciences, natural sciences, humanities, creative fields and professional disciplines
- Includes 100- and 200-seat lecture theatres
- Supports Indigenous learning on campus, including Indigenous language fluency programs; home for Interior Salishan Studies Centre



# District Energy Decarbonization

- New CO2 air source heat pump plant
- **Will achieve a 30% reduction in total campus GHG emissions**
- Working with Vitalis – a local clean-tech firm founded by UBCO alumni and entrepreneur James Seabrook (BASc 2011)



# Student Housing

- Skeena Residence
  - Passive House Certified
  - Opened August 2021
  - 220 beds (1st year students)
- Nechako Residence and Commons
  - 400+ seat Pritchard Dining Hall
  - Opened August 2021
  - 220 beds (1st year students)
- What's next?
  - Upper Year/Graduate Student Housing
    - South campus area near Nonis Field/John Hindle Dr.
    - 250 studio and 2-bed units



# Athletics and Recreation

- UBCO Heat
  - Varsity Teams (Women's and Men's):
    - Cross Country/Track, Golf, Soccer, Basketball, and Volleyball
  - Competitive Sport Clubs:
    - Women's Softball and Men's Rugby
- Jr. Heat
  - Summer Camps
  - High Performance Jr Programs
  - Community Sport Events (e.g. jamborees, regional club tryouts)
- Academic Success
  - Academic All-Canadian



# Athletics Indigenous Engagement

- UBCO Heat Volleyball Nunavut Development Program
- UBCO Heat Women's Basketball Nisga'a Nation Clash of the Clans Development Program
- UBCO partners with Syilx Basketball for the Junior All Native Basketball Tournament



# Experiential education

## Taking learning beyond the classroom

- Guided research experience
- Classroom-based and development pedagogies
- Community-engaged learning
  - Service learning; Civic learning; Justice learning
  - Public scholarship
  - Facilitated volunteer placements
- Land and place-based learning
  - Adventure-based learning
  - Field trips; Outdoor and environmental education
  - International exchanges
- Work-integrated learning
  - Internships, practicums and community field experiences
  - Work study – a campus-based employment program
  - Clinical education
  - Co-op



# Athletics and Recreation

- Gym expansion
  - Concept: 2,300 sq m facility with two or three gyms, studios, change rooms, washrooms, and equipment storage
  - Will fill a significant gap in recreation and athletics space
  - UBCO students supported funding this expansion via referendum vote
- Nonis Field turf replacement
  - New artificial turf and infill meets FIFA Quality standards for competitive play





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