



Education *is key to* Reconciliation

Territorial Acknowledgement

Camosun College is located in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia with campuses on the Traditional Territories of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge on these lands.



Janice Simcoe, Anishinaabe (Rama), Director of Eyē? Sqā'lewen

In 2014 we were honoured to be given the name Eyē? Sqā'lewen by Songhees Elder, Mr. Elmer George. Elmer told us that this name references good heart, good mind, and good spirit. By accepting this beautiful name, we took on great responsibility – to the students we serve, the communities we work with, and all the other people we meet and engage with to ensure our important work gets done in a good way. We are grateful for your interest in what we do and hope that you will join us. By walking with us, you are engaging in reconciliation.



Skip Dick, Songhees Member

Welcome to Lekwungen territory. My hands go up to Camosun college as they have built strong relationships with local communities and created a place that is welcoming to Indigenous students. Indigenous culture and ways are valued and honoured in the programs and services at Camosun. Now, instead of dragging our young ones to school they are running ahead of us because they are not being institutionalized, they are holding on to their own, home values and taking a step, and creating space for themselves and their families. Camosun is a place where our young people feel good about what they are doing in their education, work, and careers. This encouragement and support of our young people is crucial to continue with hope for the future.



Sherri Bell, Camosun College President

Education is a journey driven by discovery and curiosity down a path of enquiry and learning. Here at Camosun, we are focused on providing accessible, quality programming that serves all learners in our regional communities. We acknowledge, recognize and value the strength and resilience of Indigenous students and their communities.

Our goal is to make the college as relevant and welcoming to Indigenous learners as possible, and to prepare non-Indigenous students, alumni and employees to better understand, live alongside of, and work with Indigenous peoples.

The college's action plan to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Report reflects the depth of our commitment and passion to educate and to learn. A growing awareness of Indigenous ways of knowing and being throughout our college community is enriching our lives and our daily work.

I believe all Canadians need to deepen their understanding of our history to reconcile our past and move forward.

Education is Key to Reconciliation

Camosun College is one of the largest public colleges in BC and serves 1,300 Indigenous students. Camosun, pronounced 'ca-mo-sun', is adapted from a Lekwungen word 'camosung' that references a place where waters meet and are transformed. Indeed, Camosun is a place where students meet and are often transformed. The college was established in 1971 and offers 19,000 students per year upgrading, certificate, diploma, bachelor's degree, post-degree diploma and continuing education programs.

With hundreds of programs and courses, Camosun provides educational stepping stones and professional opportunities that make a real difference to Indigenous learners.

Eyē? Sqā'lewen – The Centre for Indigenous Education & Community Connections

Eyē? Sqā'lewen is a Lekwungen word that references "good heart, good mind, and good spirit" and is pronounced 'Eye: Sh-Kwaw-leh-win'. Eyē? Sqā'lewen offers support services and specialized programs for Indigenous students and facilitates connections amongst Camosun College, local Indigenous peoples, and Indigenous organizations. It also works with community and industry partners to provide on demand programming to meet specific needs. Eyē? Sqā'lewen works with the college and other organizations to support deeper understanding and connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

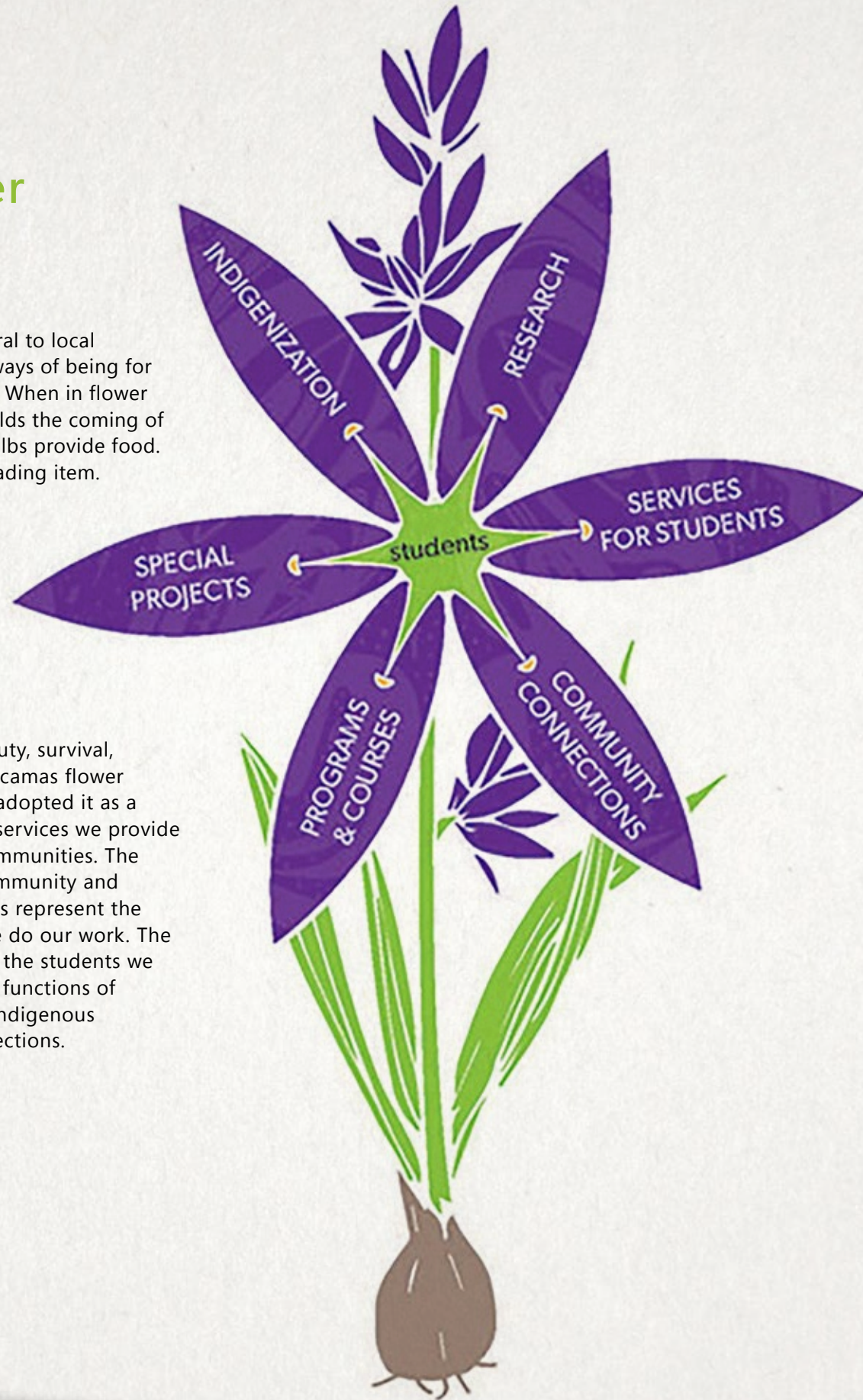


Camas Flower Model

The camas plant has been central to local Indigenous peoples' lives and ways of being for as long as can be remembered. When in flower the camas is beautiful and heralds the coming of summer. Later in the year its bulbs provide food. Traditionally it was used as a trading item.

Those who tended camas fields needed to know what they were doing. Camas was an indicator of rights and responsibilities, of ceremonies and knowledge.

Honouring the qualities of beauty, survival, utility and sustenance that the camas flower embodies, Eyē? Sqā'lewen has adopted it as a visual model to symbolize the services we provide to Indigenous students and communities. The bulb represents Indigenous community and knowledge. Its stems and leaves represent the relationships through which we do our work. The centre of the flower represents the students we serve. The petals represent the functions of Eyē? Sqā'lewen: the Centre of Indigenous Education & Community Connections.



Services for Students

Eyē? Sqā'lewen helps Indigenous people access education. We provide educational, financial, and cultural support to assist Indigenous students reach their goals.

Our Indigenous Advisors offer advice and program details, help create an education plan, and then continue to offer support to students throughout their time at Camosun.

We help students navigate various funding systems and provide advice about student loans and other government initiatives.

As well, we offer more than \$50,000 in the form of donor-funded awards, scholarships and bursaries to students every year.

Cultural activities and events support students who may deeply miss being surrounded by Indigenous culture, or who are just beginning to learn about themselves as an Indigenous person. These include a Welcome Feast, Elders' teachings, the Songhees Pit Cook Demonstration, and other events to support emotional and spiritual well-being.

Community Connections

We develop and nourish working relationships with Indigenous communities to support Indigenous students and community initiatives. Our community partners include the Saanich Adult Education Centre and other WSÁNEĆ community organizations, Songhees Nation, the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and Métis Nation Greater Victoria, and the Indigenous education units of the 4 local school districts, University of Victoria and Royal Roads University. We also work with other First Nations and Indigenous organizations on special projects as requested.

Programs and Courses

We deliver the Indigenous Studies diploma program, the Indigenous Family Support certificate program and Indigenous College Prep. We support other Indigenous programs and courses across Camosun College, and are in partnership with the Maori-based Ara Institute in New Zealand co-developing a shared Indigenous leadership development program, which we plan to start joint delivering in September 2022. We also, from time to time, provide special delivery of programs to communities outside of Victoria. In 2020/2021 we are delivering a special First Nations Family Support worker training program in Whitehorse, YK in partnership with the Council of Yukon First Nations.

Special Projects

We lead externally funded projects that enhance Indigenous student success, support Indigenous community development, and enable organizations to build capacity in Indigenous cultural awareness and reconciliation planning. We also partner with the Camosun Foundation to raise funds for special initiatives that create a welcoming environment for Indigenous students, offer specialized educational and training programs to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for Indigenous students, and support sustainable economic development within Indigenous communities and organizations.

Indigenization

Indigenization is the process by which Indigenous ways of knowing, being, doing, and relating are incorporated into educational, organizational, cultural, and social structures of the institution. We work to provide training and experiential learning to staff and faculty to ensure that Indigenous students see themselves in their educational experience at the college and that non-Indigenous students come away from Camosun better prepared to develop good relationship with Indigenous people and communities. We can adapt this training to serve the needs of external organizations.

Indigenous Research

We are in the process of developing a virtual Indigenous research space that will respond to research opportunities instigated by Indigenous communities, agencies and scholars. This research space will work in partnership with Camosun Innovates and other internal partners, along with community partners to engage in research using culturally appropriate approaches to the development of knowledge that supports Indigenous peoples' and communities' goals and visions.



Partnered Programs

Eyē? Sqā'lewen works in partnership with others at Camosun College as they serve the learning and knowledge needs of Indigenous students and communities.

Empowering Indigenous People in Trades

Empowering Indigenous People in Trades is designed to provide a full support system for Indigenous students in trades throughout their apprenticeship journey to becoming Red Seal certified. It also provides support to employers to help with cultural understanding, and employee retention.

When students are fully supported throughout their apprenticeship they have a much higher rate of Red Seal completion and staying gainfully employed with less movement between employers.

Students

Integration of programming, services, and connections with the land and Elders to support holistic student experiences is of utmost importance to Camosun. A growing number of students have taken part in land-based learning, as well as engagement with Elders, as part of their educational programs. The Cultural Camp offers on-the-land experiential learning and is now a core course in the Indigenous Studies Program. Sections of the Indigenous Peoples' Health course include cultural and spiritual practices, such as the sweatlodge, providing holistic, culturally relevant, experiential learning for students.

Community

Camosun has developed deeply entrenched relationships with community partners. Ongoing engagement with our community partners and organizations is essential for authentic consultation and to ensure we are meeting the real needs of community. Camosun offers programs and courses at our Community Learning Partner sites, demonstrating that the college is willing to bring programming to community.

Organization

Camosun Indigenous programs (Indigenous Family Support, Indigenous Health Care Assistant, and Indigenous Studies) are well established and provide proven post-secondary education and training. Camosun has contributed to supporting students in these programs by offering cultural connections and engagement with Elders and Indigenous Advisors, as well as tutoring opportunities.

Camosun Creates Leaders

"If it was not for the supports offered through Eyē? Sqā'lewen I do not think I would have continued in my college education."

Shane Baker

*(Gitxsan) Indigenous Studies
- Alumni*

As a young man, Shane started working as a graphic designer and was a rugby player with Velox Valhallians Rugby club. In 2003, a serious accident left him blind and with a traumatic brain injury. Over the next four years, Shane experienced several health challenges until he reached out to an Elder and began using the medicine wheel to improve his overall wellness. After embarking on a healing journey through a culturally-relevant training program, Shane went on to facilitate this program with a group of First Nations middle school students. As part of this journey, Shane decided to take the Indigenous Studies program with Eyē? Sqā'lewen at Camosun College. He has been a top student and plans to continue his studies at the University of Victoria and complete his Master's degree. In 2020, Shane received the B.C. Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Inclusion, Democracy and Reconciliation for his work to engage students through sharing circles and helping create a citation guide for visually impaired students.



Camosun Creates Leaders

"Camosun really helped me grow as a young adult and helped me get to where I am today."

Stephanie McMahon

(Snuneymuxw) Nursing – Alumni

In 2010 Stephanie McMahon became the first of her family to receive a high school diploma. Seven years later, she completed her Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing. This was an enormous moment for a family that was deeply affected by the legacies of colonization and residential schools. Generations fought addictions as a result. "At a young age, I used alcohol to deal with my emotions, good or bad," says Stephanie. "It took a few years before I was able to come out of that dark place in my life." She leaned on her family for strength and when she arrived at Camosun in 2012, Stephanie received support from Eye? Sqâ'lewen and the college's Indigenous Advisors. "They provided me with a great sense of community and belonging," says Stephanie. "I learned ways to cope with stress and to share my story, giving me courage and strength." Now Stephanie realizes the amazing opportunities she has in being a registered nurse. "Working in a First Nations community where I understand the customs and culture is a huge benefit," says Stephanie. "It allows me to relate to my clients better and gives me great satisfaction to be able to help my people."



Camosun Creates Leaders

"The biggest thing Camosun gave me was confidence."

Adam Olsen

(Tsartlip) Green Party, MLA - Alumni

"I blew high school," says Adam. "When you do that, the next step is tough." Fortunately, Adam found success through Camosun's non-traditional pathways to education. He went from upgrading classes, to university transfer courses, to learning applied skills in the Applied Communications Program (ACP). He was offered an internship with the Victoria Salmon Kings through the ACP program, and then went on to work at TSN in Toronto, before shifting his career from sports to politics. "Camosun gave me the skills and confidence I needed," says Adam. "Camosun offered an alternative; a different way to access information that allowed me to refine real life skills, redefine myself, build confidence, and prepare me for my next steps." Those next steps for Adam have included becoming an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly and stepping in as the interim leader of the Green party of Canada.



Camosun Creates Leaders

"I overcame the barriers by not giving up"

Shannon Evans

(Tsartlip) Bachelor of Sport and Fitness Leadership
- Student

With her grandfather and several family members suffering from diabetes, Shannon was passionate about health, wellness, and nutrition. "I wanted to learn ways to prevent it for the future," says Shannon. It wasn't easy and there were many struggles. As a mother of three, she needed to balance school-life with mom-life, as well as tackling new and difficult courses. With the support of her community and Camosun's Eyē? Sqā'lewen, Shannon endured, completing her Diploma in Exercise and Wellness, and continuing for a degree in Sport and Fitness Leadership. "It gave me a sense of belonging, considering I was in classes where I was there learning for myself, by myself," says Shannon. My community has many plans for me to come in and help with programming," says Shannon. "One day I will be able to help my community move."



Camosun Creates Connections

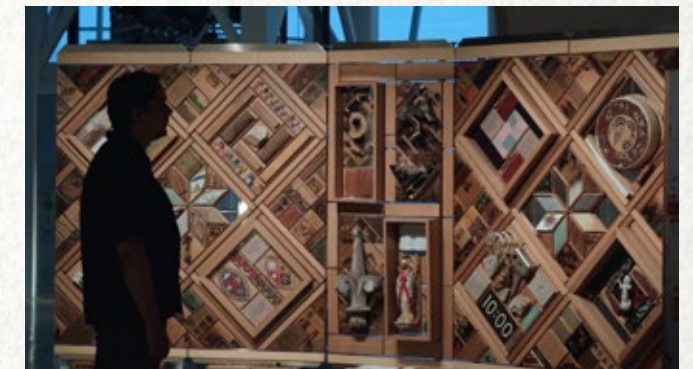
When we come together, we can make great things happen. Our students, faculty and staff have the ambition and dedication to succeed. By becoming donors and sponsors at Camosun, you are not just investing in the success of our students and our programs, your support is a symbol that you too believe Education is key to Reconciliation, and that you are our partner on this journey.

Camosun Innovates

Camosun Innovates is a Canadian leader in practical problem solving and the first Technology Access Centre in British Columbia. Working with small and medium-sized companies they connect applied learning and applied research, design thinking and interdisciplinary inquiry. Camosun Innovates has partnered with several Indigenous communities and artists to help realize important projects.

Witness Blanket

Camosun College, working with Carey Newman, Media One, and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights collaborated on a project that will see the Witness Blanket as part of a synthetic realities experience, involving VR reproduction of the entire artwork and its affiliated artifacts.



Language Revitalization Pole

Camosun College and the First Nations Education Foundation (FNEF) are partnering to expand and enhance Indigenous language revitalization through contemporary educational practices and interactive technologies. It will provide an accurate extended reality (XR) experience of the Nuu-chah-nulth people's native language (Nootka), and one of its dialects (Yuutu?it?ath).



S'TENISTOLW: Where the Waters Meet

The S'TENISTOLW Indigenous Adult & Post-Secondary Education Conference is a gathering for educators, administrators, helpers, and staff in Indigenous programs, as well as community leaders, scholars, students and allies in the field of Indigenous adult and post-secondary education. The goal of the conference is to build and strengthen relationship and networks of reciprocity – to share, learn and exchange with each other.

S'TENISTOLW delegates are change-makers and internationally involved in building community partnerships, influencing student success and leading Indigenization initiatives at institutions of higher education throughout Canada, United States, Aotearoa/ New Zealand and beyond. The 2017 Conference was held at Camosun College and the Songhees Wellness Centre, in partnership with the Songhees Nation. Delegates spent three days participating in workshops, distinguished keynote presentations, panels, wellness and cultural activities. Future conferences will build upon and expands this work, bringing delegates together for the theme 'Where the Waters Meet.'

For more information on the Conference please visit our website: stenistolw.ca

Lasting Legacies

Individuals, and organizations large and small, have made enormous differences to Indigenous students at Camosun and to the Indigenous communities we serve. Four examples are:

Wilna Thomas and Art Thompson: The Wilna Thomas Cultural Centre

In 1992 Camosun learned that Wilna Thomas, the founder of what is now the Early Learning & Care program, had left a sizable donation to Camosun College to build what she called a "cultural friendship centre." Camosun Foundation, International Education, and First Nations Education (later to become Eye? Sqá'lewen) came together to support Ms. Thomas' wishes. The Wilna Thomas Cultural Centre was envisioned and planned. Renowned Nuu Chah Nulth artist and Camosun alumnus Art Thompson, also known as Tsa Qwa Supp, worked with the college to raise more funds, eventually nearly matching the original donation. The Wilna Thomas Cultural Centre was opened in 1995. The Centre is home to cultural education, student gathering, and community events. It is an incredibly important part of Indigenous and International students' experience at Camosun.

Winona Wood: The Winona Wood Award for Indigenous Women

In 1995 Ms Winona Wood, one of the first female professors at the University of Saskatchewan endowed an award to provide support to Indigenous women engaged in education to make themselves independent and strong. As an endowment, Ms Wood's gift provides new awards every year and to date she has made a difference to over 120 women, sharing over \$51,000 with them. Her legacy will live on, in perpetuity.



How You Can Be Our Partner

Butch Dick: Na'tsa'maht Indigenous Gathering Place

In 2005 British Columbia announced that colleges could apply for funding for Indigenous student gathering places. Janice Simcoe mentioned this to Butch Dick, an artist and knowledge keeper from Songhees Nation. Within days Butch presented Janice with a drawing of what eventually became Na'tsa'maht, a name that references unity and communities being of one mind and good spirit. Na'tsa'maht is a beautiful space for ceremonies and cultural learning activities. It has become a place of quiet where students of all backgrounds contemplate and reflect, enriching their educational experience. Butch's gift of his knowledge and creativity left us with a precious jewel.

CIBC Award

In 2020, CIBC made a 2-year commitment to support first-year Indigenous students at Camosun through the CIBC Entrance Awards for Indigenous Students. 5 students in 2020 and 2021, will each receive an award of \$5,000 to help fund their education. Awards that are funded annually, and through endowments, allow students to focus on achieving their academic goals and transition into meaningful careers without the added financial stress. By contributing to Camosun awards and bursaries, donors positively impact students today so that they can build a better tomorrow.

Support Indigenous students studying at Camosun College through one of the following:

Awards and Bursaries

Set-up an award or bursary through the Camosun College Foundation to support student excellence and to help students in need. Bursaries are provided to full-time students who have a financial need. Awards are given to students to recognize academic achievement and/or community involvement. Awards and bursaries can be set-up annually over a 3-year pledge or through an endowment.

Student Programing

Program funding allows Camosun to continue to provide the best education for Indigenous students. You can provide funding to support Student Programming for Indigenous Students studying at Camosun College. This funding will allow Camosun to continue to offer support services and Indigenous programs for Indigenous students. Based on your interests as a supporter and donor, an Advancement Officer can help find the right program that matches your interests. Your organization may also choose to fund the delivery of new or existing programs, on campus or in a particular community setting.

Wrap-Around Supports for Students

At Camosun we recognize and acknowledge the strength and resilience of Indigenous students and their communities. Supporting students through Wrap-Around Supports means providing Indigenous students with guidance around their academic journey, cultural supports, and financial aid through Indigenous Student Advisors and Eyē? Sqā'lewen - The Centre for Indigenous Education and Community Connection.

Gifts-in-Kind Donations

Donations of classroom equipment, classroom materials, supplies, or artwork are accepted. A gift-in-kind donation can give students the opportunity to learn on the most up-to-date technology. Items can be donated as a gift-in-kind and a full tax receipt for the appraised value will be available if required.

S'TENISTOLW Sponsorship

With over 500 delegates anticipated to participate, S'TENISTOLW is the premiere Indigenous Adult and Post-Secondary Conference. The conference offers exhibitors, sponsors, and partners advertising opportunities throughout the conference both virtually and in-person on the Lansdowne Campus.





Camosun College Lansdowne

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