

UBCO SAGE/IGSS 2025

# “STRENGTH IN OUR STORIES”



**SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL  
GRADUATE ENHANCEMENT**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 28 2:00pm – 7:00pm  
SATURDAY, MARCH 29 8:15am – 6:00pm**

**22nd Annual Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium,  
a UBC and SFU Partnership**



The 2025 Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium is being hosted at the UBC Okanagan campus in the unceded territory of the syilx Okanagan Nation. Their stewardship over these beautiful lands is forever appreciated.

# 22nd ANNUAL INDIGENOUS GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

The IGSS conference provides Indigenous graduate students opportunities to learn and share multidisciplinary presentations and networking with student colleagues from near and far, in a comfortable, supportive community of scholars. This conference provides an opportunity for Indigenous graduate students to build relationships and connections to other Indigenous scholars across the globe.

The IGSS conference welcomes all Indigenous graduate students from across all faculties and institutions (regional, national, global), to present their work as they see it connecting to the theme, “Strength in Our Stories”, and/or any of the subthemes:

## STORIES ABOUT OUR...

### Ways of Doing

Indigenous Methodology in academia; story-telling within research; Indigenous knowledge revitalization

### Peoples

Community-based research; building partnerships; being Indigenous in the 21st Century; hope and resilience in uncertain times; evolution of identity and connection

### Land

Research about and within our lands and waters; land-based knowledge and practices; addressing environmental issues

### Future

Research that is forward-thinking; addressing issues ahead; the future of Indigenous research

## STRENGTH IN OUR STORIES

### Keynote Speaker

Saturday, March 29 9:30-10:15am

laḥlaḥtk<sup>w</sup>

Dr. Jeanette Armstrong

Associate Professor, Indigenous Studies

- BFA University of Victoria
- PhD University of Greifswald (Germany)



syilx scholar Dr. Armstrong is a professor in Indigenous Studies and academic coordinator of Interior Salish languages at UBC Okanagan. She is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and an Officer of the Order of Canada. She was born and grew up on the Penticton Indian Reserve. Dr. Armstrong is an award-winning writer, visual artist, researcher, educator, leader and activist. Her research is in Indigenous philosophies and Okanagan syilx thought and environmental ethics coded into syilx oral literatures. She collaborates with Salish speaking groups to re-establish Indigenous languages, historical relationships, and food resource ceremonies through gatherings, trading and protection of water and land practices. As an influential advocate for Indigenous peoples' rights, Dr. Armstrong has been a force of change and widescale community impact through her artistic, research and educational vision.

### Fireside Chat

Friday, March 28 5:30-6:00pm

Dr. Bill Cohen

Assistant Professor, Education

- Creative Writing, En'owkin Centre
- Bachelor of Arts and Science with Distinction, University of Lethbridge
- Master of Education: Administrative Leadership First Nations Focus, SFU
- Education Doctorate: Policy and Leadership, UBC



Bill Cohen is from the Syilx Okanagan Nation with extensive kinship ties throughout BC and Washington. He specializes in the areas of Syilx and Indigenous knowledge, creativity, and transforming pedagogy. He is an educator, artist, and story-teller. The focus of Bill's continuing research is to identify, understand and theorize the transforming potential of Syilx Okanagan kinship pedagogy, where teachers are in aunty-uncle roles with kinship responsibilities to students and tmix<sup>w</sup>, collectively appreciating difference and diversity, appreciating the gifts from the tmix<sup>w</sup> (water, earth, plant and animal life forces) and ensuring those gifts continue for the children now and peoples to be.



# 22nd ANNUAL INDIGENOUS GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

## Program Overview

### FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Time	Program Description	Location
2:00 - 4:00pm	Cedar Rose Making	University Centre Building (UNC) 334
2:30 - 3:30pm	Campus Nature/Culture Walk	UBC Bus Stops Near EME Building
4:00 - 5:00pm	Mingling & Food Featuring Catering from Kekuli Cafe	UNC 200 (Ballroom)
5:00 - 5:30pm	SAGE Evaluation Update: Dr. Shawn Wilson, Dr. Margaret Kovach and Dr. Harpell Montgomery	UNC 200 (Ballroom)
5:30 - 6:00pm	Fireside Chat with Dr. Bill Cohen	UNC 200 (Ballroom)
6:00 - 6:15pm	Discussion and Q&A	UNC 200 (Ballroom)
6:15 - 7:00pm	Further Mingling Before Ending	UNC 200 (Ballroom)
7:00pm	End of Day	UNC 200 (Ballroom)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Time	Program Description	Location
8:15 - 9:00am	Registration and Breakfast	Commons (COM) Building (2nd Floor)
9:00 - 9:05am	Opening Remarks (MC Eli Kelly, Indigenous Graduate Student Advisor)	COM 201
9:05 - 9:15am	Opening Prayer	COM 201
9:15 - 9:30am	Welcoming Remarks -Dr. Shawn Wilson & Dr. Gabrielle Legault, SAGE Faculty Mentors -Dr. Peter Simpson, Dean of College of Graduate Studies	COM 201
9:30 - 10:00am	Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jeanette Armstrong	COM 201
10:00 - 10:15am	Q & A Discussion	COM 201
10:15 - 10:20am	Information About Rest of the Day (MC Eli Kelly)	COM 201
10:20 - 10:30am	Break, Move to Concurrent Student Presentation Sessions	COM Building/Library Building
10:30 - 11:55am	Concurrent Student Presentation Sessions (see following pages for details)	Library Building Rooms 305, 312, 317
12:00 - 12:55pm	Lunch	Commons (COM) Building (2nd Floor)
1:00 - 4:25pm	Concurrent Student Presentation Sessions (see following pages for details)	Library Building Rooms 305, 312, 317
4:30 - 4:40pm	Closing remarks	COM 201
4:40 - 6:00pm	Dinner Together, Prizes, Remarks from Participants, Closing	COM 201



# 22nd ANNUAL INDIGENOUS GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

## Program Overview

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29**

Library Building Rooms 305, 312, 317  
Connected directly to Commons Building

### Room LIB 305

**10:30 - 10:55am**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Lindsay DuPré (UBCO)**  
“Visiting as a Conduit for Indigenous Knowledge Emergence”

**11:00 - 11:25am**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Robert Mahikwa (UBCV)**  
“Bundle Work and Culturally-Attuned Indigenous Graduate Mentorship” (Virtual)

**11:30am - 11:55am**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Naomi Narcisse (UBCV)**  
“Recognizing the Legacy of Matriarchs in The University”

**1:00 - 1:25pm**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Alana LaMalice (UNBC)**  
“Azho ahsii ets’edichch’a (Respect All, Dene Yatie translation)”

**1:30 - 1:55pm**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Meghan Tetrault (UBCO)**  
“Story Theory”

### Room LIB 312

**10:30 - 10:55am**

**Stories about our Peoples**  
**Jody Bauche (SFU)**  
“Indigenous storytelling in the 21st century: How can we ensure cultural resurgence is centred in communication, art and technology.”

**11:00 - 11:25am**

**Stories about our Peoples**  
**Lyanne Gaspard (TRU)**  
“Understanding the influence of colonial ideologies in First Nations people who substance use and learning to Integrate traditional healing practices into care”

**11:30am - 11:55am**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Anne Tenning (UBCO)**  
“Indigenous Methodologies through the use of Story and Relational Research”

**1:00 - 1:25pm**

**Stories about our Peoples**  
**Juan “Chico” Dimas (USC)**  
“Jay Treaty of 1794: Exercising Treaty Rights in the 21st Century”

**1:30 - 1:55pm**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Luz Orozco Ortiz (UBCV)**  
“Agaskwaná: the path of Chiminigagua” (Virtual)

### Room LIB 317

**10:30 - 10:55am**

**Stories about our Future**  
**Makenzie McCallum (UBCV)**  
“Concussion Knowledge and Awareness in Indigenous Ice Hockey Players”

**11:00 - 11:25am**

**Stories about our Land**  
**Holly McVea (UNBC)**  
“Revegetation of Aquatic Ecosystems in the Swan River Watershed (SRW) to Support the Land-Based Knowledge Transfer, Language, and Cultural Preservation of the Swan River First Nation (SRFN/wapsewsipi)”

**11:30am - 11:55am**

**Stories about our Land**  
**Remington Bracher (UBCO)**  
“Braiding TEK and Western Ecology to Restore Bison Harvest in National Parks”

**1:00 - 1:25pm**

**Stories about our Future**  
**Lakoda Thomas (UBCO)**  
“Indigenous Cultural Safety in Psychedelic Assisted Therapy Training”

**1:30 - 1:55pm**

**Stories about our Land**  
**Dawn McGrath (UBCO)**  
“Infrastructure in Indigenous Communities - why is it different?”



# 22nd ANNUAL INDIGENOUS GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

## Program Overview

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29**

Library Building Rooms 305, 312, 317  
Connected directly to Commons Building

### Room LIB 305

**2:00 - 2:25pm**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Alana Firedancer (UBCO)**  
“Follow Your Dreams: Dreamwork as an Indigenous Methodology and Identity Resurgence”

**2:30 - 2:55pm**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Sarah Buffett (UBCO)**  
“Nipahtan la Paaraantii, Walking with Kin: An Immersive Listening Praxis” (Virtual)

**3:00 - 3:25pm**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Maria Jose Athie Martinez (UBCV)**  
“Understanding reconciliation through Mexico traditional dance”

**3:30 - 3:55pm**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Dominique Alexis (UBCO)**  
“My personal Syilx Perspective on Storytelling in my Research”

**4:00 - 4:25pm**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Geraldine Manossa (UBCO)**  
“Guided by the nêhiyaw star blanket: A methodological journey in developing a nêhiyaw health framework.” (Virtual)

### Room LIB 312

**2:00 - 2:25pm**

**Stories about our Peoples**  
**Marion Erickson (UNBC)**  
“Revitalizing Dakelh Midwifery: Binche and Jurisdictional implications”

**2:30 - 2:55pm**

**Stories about our Peoples**  
**Logan Burd (UBCO)**  
“Healing Our Youth Home: Weaving Métis Youth’s Conceptualization of Life Promotion into Upstream Youth Suicide Prevention”

**3:00 - 3:25pm**

**Stories about our Peoples**  
**Caitlin Alder (UVic)**  
“Bearing Witness to Neurodivergent Indigenous People with ADHD: Stories of Belonging, Strength, and Resilience” (Virtual)

**3:30 - 3:55pm**

**Stories about our Ways of Doing**  
**Christina Lennox (UBCV)**  
“Beadworking with conversational data: Reflecting on Miyo-atoskâta”

**4:00 - 4:25pm**

See LIB 305 or 317

### Room LIB 317

**2:00 - 2:25pm**

**Stories about our Future**  
**Melissa Shouting (UBCO)**  
“Reaffirming our Traditional Territory through Mixed-Methods Approaches in Health Research” (Virtual)

**2:30 - 2:55pm**

**Stories about our Land**  
**Camille Rothkop (UBCO)**  
“Wildfire Burn Severity and Soil Microbial Recolonization - A Case Study of the McDougall Creek Wildfire”

**3:00 - 3:25pm**

**Stories about our Future**  
**Laura Mueller (UNBC)**  
“Strengthening the Indigenous Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: Examining Self-Efficacy as It Relates to Indigenous Entrepreneurial Success”

**3:30 - 3:55pm**

**Stories about our Land**  
**Mitchell Barrett (UBCO)**  
“Crab Engineering: Aerogel Solution for Coastal Conservation in British Columbia”

**4:00 - 4:25pm**

**Stories about our Future**  
**Casey Hewes (UBCO)**  
“Finding the Way Forward: Indigenous Health Research Support and Complimentary Western Knowledge Translation”

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING



Indigenous Programs & Services



FACULTY OF  
EDUCATION

- SAGE and its supporters for hosting this wonderful event every year.
- Elder Rose for generously providing us with her time and starting our day off well.
- Indigenous Programs and Services for their financial support which provided this year's symposium with a full menu of food.
- SFU Faculty of Education for their financial support - this symposium is possible thanks to the generosity of faculty, departments and programs.
- The Urban Indigenous Wellbeing Collective and the School of Engineering for their donations towards the gift bags for our student presenters.
- All staff and student volunteers for their help running this event.
- Kekuli Cafe for the bannock and tea during the March 28th networking event.



## BIG THANK YOU TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Dr. Shawn Wilson  | • Lindsay DuPré     |
| • Jody Bauche       | • Alana Firedancer  |
| • Makenzie McCallum | • Remington Bracher |
| • Noah Chenoweth    | • Haley Goguen      |
| • Logan Burd        | • Rebekah Ferguson  |
| • Geraldine Manossa | • Brenda Hebert     |