

[Click here to view this newsletter in your browser](#)



Welcome to the newsletter of the Indigenous Research Support Initiative (IRSI). If you are receiving this for the first time, we have recently added you to our listserve because we think you will benefit from periodic mailouts and announcements related to Indigenous research collaborations. If you prefer not to receive information from IRSI, follow the link below to unsubscribe.



University of Alberta study examines use of the term “indigenization”

University of Alberta researchers Adam Gaudry and Danielle Lorenz have published a new study exploring the term “indigenization” in universities across Canada. Based on a survey of 25 Indigenous academics and their allies, the researchers found that different interpretations of the term exist amongst Indigenous faculty, administrators and staff. Gaudry and Lorenz identified three distinct approaches to indigenization:

- Indigenous inclusion, which is about equity and working to ensure there is a more representative number of Indigenous faculty, staff and students within the university;
- Reconciliation indigenization, which is about power sharing within the academy; and
- Decolonial indigenization, which envisions a reorganization of the university to create structures in which Indigenous people are in clear control.

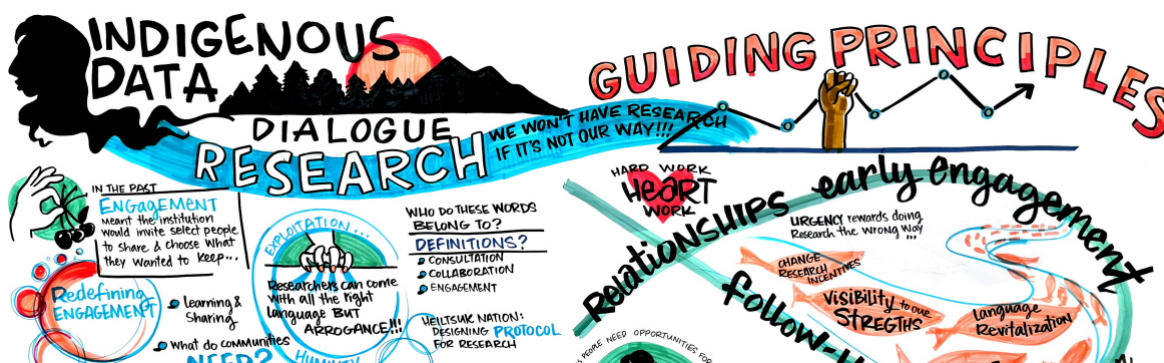
Read more in this [Folio article](#), or download the complete study [here](#).



World's first Indigenous Astronaut touches down at UBC

Several members of the IRSI team were privileged to witness an inspiring presentation by visiting Commander John Herrington, the first-ever Indigenous astronaut to complete the spacewalk, when he visited UBC in March. Commander Herrington, who is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and was at one time a college dropout, spent two weeks in space in 2002 on behalf of NASA. When he returned to earth, Herrington's perspective had changed. "I had a very macro-perspective." With it, he became determined to encourage other Indigenous youth to follow their dreams and consider careers in the maths and sciences. After he retired, he completed a PhD in Education and rode a bike across the United States speaking to Native American youth. "In the Native community, our ancestors were remarkable engineers and scientists. I want Native kids to realize it's part of their DNA to be a scientist, be an engineer, be an observer of the world."

Pictured above: Commander John Herrington in his space suit (left) and with IRSI Associate Director Lerato Chondoma in the UBC Longhouse (right)



IRSI and partners address Indigenous data governance

Together with the Residential School History and Dialogue Centre (RSHDC) and the BC First Nations Data Governance Initiative (BCFNDGI), IRSI is co-hosting a series of dialogues around issues related to the collection and stewardship of Indigenous data, information and records. The goal is for the dialogues to collaboratively and iteratively develop a model of engagement for Indigenous data, information and records housed at UBC, the RSHDC and beyond. Two dialogues have been held to date, the first at UBC Vancouver on January 21, 2019 and the second at UBC Okanagan on April 3, 2019. Each session brought together nearly 70 Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts, researchers, community members and practitioners working directly on matters related to Indigenous information, records management and collection, as well as Indigenous research. Participants shared experiences and insights about engagement practices and principles that are being utilized and explored critical issues and challenges. A third dialogue will take place on May 6 at the University of Northern BC.

Graphic recording by Tiaré Jung of [Drawing Change](#). View the Summary Report from the January Dialogue [here](#).



New! IRSI Speaker Series

IRSI is launching a new speaker series, bringing distinguished speakers from a variety of backgrounds to UBC to discuss a broad range of topics related to Indigenous, community-based research. The series will begin this spring with two dynamic presentations:

- Suzanne Gessner, Research and Development Linguist for the First Peoples' Cultural Council, May 14, 2019 5:30 – 7:30 PM, Location TBD - UBC Vancouver

Suzanne will provide an overview of the diversity of Indigenous languages in BC and highlight some of the ongoing efforts to revitalize languages. She will describe ways that research supports language revitalization and point to recent efforts by the world community, including the calls-to-action of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as well as Federal Language Legislation currently being developed by the Canadian government in collaboration with First Nations. **Register [here](#).**

- Anita Kora, Librarian-Archivist for the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), date and location TBD

Anita will showcase the National Inuit Strategy on Research (NISR). The strategy strives for Inuit self-determination in research as a means to producing new knowledge that empowers Inuit people in meeting the needs and priorities of their communities. Anita will describe the partnership role Inuit must play in the governance of research, and highlight ways the strategy addresses key priorities, such as enhancing the ethical code of research and ensuring that Inuit have access, ownership and control over their data and information. More information coming soon.



Indigenous Green Economies

In March, IRSI attended the Indigenous Green Economies Conference in Vancouver and sponsored by the Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council and several partners, including UBC. The conference brought together First Nations, federal and provincial government representatives and green industry leaders to discuss ways Indigenous communities can build capacity and

explore opportunities in alternative energy and green economies. Some of the initiatives highlighted at the event included a passive housing project for Yale First Nation, the Saulteau First Nation's journey toward energy efficiency and updates from the provincial and federal government.

Read about the [Yale First Nation Passive House](#) project.

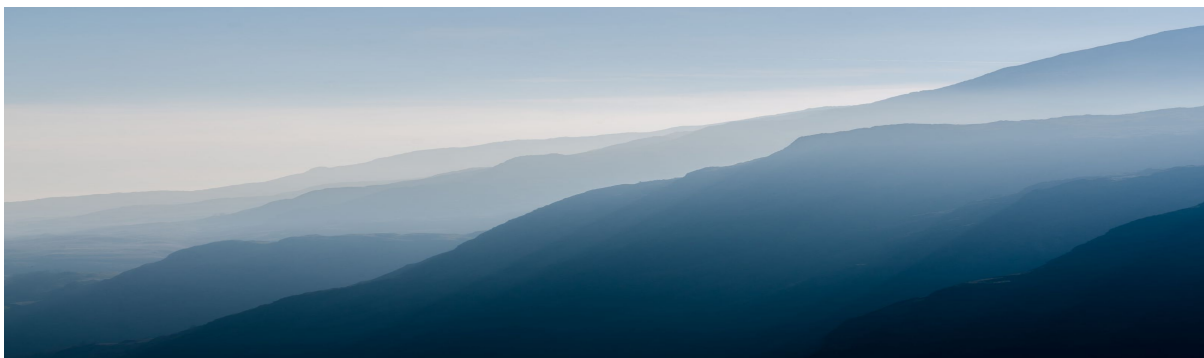


FNIS Research Presentations: Showcasing two IRSI team members

Two of IRSI's own team members recently completed the FNIS 400, the research practicum at the heart of the First Nations and Indigenous Studies major at UBC:

- Jade Lafontaine, an FNIS major with a minor in First Nations Endangered Language (FNEL) is a member of the Spuzzum First Nation and works with IRSI as Digital Media Coordinator. For her project, Jade partnered with [Carnegie Community Centre](#) in Vancouver's downtown eastside to research ways the Centre might implement Indigenous language programming. Jade left the Centre with some ideas and considerations for creating a language program that allows for the diverse array of languages spoken in the urban context.
- Adina Williams (SKW̱WÚ7MESH) is from the Squamish Nation and a fourth-year student in FNIS and Anthropology. For her project, Adina worked with the [Union of BC Indian Chiefs](#) (UBCIC) to research the role of Indigenous women in leadership in the historical quest for rights and title within BC. Adina's research findings were integrated into the [UBCIC Indigenous Historical Timeline](#).

View the videos and slide shows of the 2019 FNIS 400 practicum presentations [here](#).



New Funding Opportunities for Indigenous Research Projects

- NRC Language Tech Funding

The National Research Council is seeking proposals for projects related to language technology for Indigenous languages spoken in Canada. \$100-300,000 per project is available for a funding period of one year (ending March 31, 2020). For more information e-mail gerry.lawson@ubc.ca.

Deadline: April 30, 2019

- Indigenous Research Chairs in Nursing

CIHR is sponsoring six new chair-ships for nursing research focused on “social, economic and cultural determinants of health and Indigenous holistic health practices to improve the health of Indigenous Peoples”. One of these six chairs will be awarded to an applicant from British Columbia. Interested applicants should review the eligibility criteria in the funding opportunity carefully. For more information click [here](#).

Deadline: June 5, 2019

Upcoming Events

Sound House: Playing with Fire

May 2, 2019

Bring your friends and dancing shoes to MOA's Haida House, a cultural gathering space on the scenic grounds of the museum, for Sound House—a new music series featuring a fantastic and eclectic lineup of Vancouver bands and musicians.

[Learn More](#)

Conference: HASTAC 2019

May 16, 2019 - May 18, 2019

The conference will hold up and support Indigenous scholars and knowledges, centering work by Indigenous women and women of colour. It will engage how technologies are, can be, and have been decolonized. How, for instance, are extraction technologies repurposed for resurgence?

[Learn More](#)

Exhibition: Shores

May 3, 2019 - June 9, 2019

The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery is pleased to present *Shores*, an exhibition of work by the 2019 graduates of the University of British Columbia's two-year Master of Fine Arts program.

[Learn More](#)

Haida Language Film: Edge of the Knife

RSVP by May 3rd, 2019

SCARP, the Faculty of Applied Science, Musqueam Language Program, Language Science Initiative and Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies invite you to a dinner and screening of the Haida Language film, *Edge of The Knife*.

[Register](#)

Exhibition: There is Truth Here

April 5, 2019 - January, 2020

Focuses on rare surviving artworks created by children who attended Residential Schools in BC. The focus of the exhibition is witnessing the experiences of the survivors as conveyed through their childhood artworks – for some the only surviving material from their childhoods.

[Learn More](#)

Exhibition: Haida Now

On view until April 2020

Guest curated by Haida Curator **Kwiaahwah Jones** in collaboration with **Viviane Gosselin**, Co-curator and Director of Collections & Exhibitions at MOV, this exhibition features an unparalleled collection of Haida art, boasting more than 450 works.

[Learn More](#)

Our office is always open to community members and researchers. We'd love to hear

about the work you're doing with Indigenous communities this year! You can reach us at
irsi.info@ubc.ca, or at 604-827-2801.

Our mailing address is:

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