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As a new school year begins, so does another year of the SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) funded partnership grant project *Co-curricular Making: Honouring Indigenous Connections to Land, Culture and the Relational Self*. In this monthly newsletter, we share upcoming opportunities with our community partners, introduce you to another one of our research assistants, and share some of our learning and unlearning of the past year. We will send out more information about Year Two of the SSHRC project later this week. Please also watch for our next newsletter on the first Thursday in October.

As we approach the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, on September 30, we will be wearing orange alongside you in recognition of all of the children who attended residential schools, honouring survivors and remembering those that did not return home. Though we are not always in the same physical space, we are in the same place: the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan People. As we continue co-curricular making informed by Syilx Pedagogy, the sparks that are generated have potential for transformation, and in this way, there is hope for re-generation of all life forms, and for future generations.

All our best, from the SSHRC PG facilitation team at Okanagan School of Education!

Some Upcoming Opportunities with our Community Partners

Learning a Language: Nsyilxc̓en for Everyone | September 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2022

Hosted by the Okanagan Heritage Museum

A 4-week beginner language course led by Knowledge Keepers and Elders of the Syilx nation.

U-NIQUE | Until September 11, 2022.

Hosted by the Kelowna Art Gallery

Young artists from across School District 23 were invited to participate in our 36th annual *Art in Action* student exhibition.

Elements of Truth: Before Reconciliation | September 30 - October 21, 2022.

Hosted by IndigenEYEZ / KinShift

All workshops are experiential and guided by Indigenous values: reciprocity, inclusion, curiosity and humility.

kinSHIFT in the classroom | Deadline to apply is September 15, 2022.

Hosted by IndigenEYEZ / KinShift

kinShift in the Classroom is a unique professional development program that equips educators with the confidence, experience and technique to bring Indigenous stories, values and practices to life in any learning context.

Truth and Reconciliation: (Un)learn with Kelowna Museums | September 30 12:00 – 4:00 pm

Hosted by the Okanagan Heritage Museum

The all-ages guided and self-guided stations help you learn about the history and culture of the syilx people.

Orange Shirt Day | September 30

On September 30, we invite you to join us in wearing orange in recognition of all of the children who attended residential schools, honouring survivors and remembering those that did not return home.

For more information about our partners please visit their sites: [Okanagan Nation Alliance](#), [IndigenEYEZ](#), [Kelowna Art Gallery](#), and [Kelowna Museums](#). Do you have an event that you would like to share? Please email the [facilitation team](#).

Syilx Language Component

əts há stim i? scəcmala? every child matters

Read more about the [National Day of Truth and Reconciliation](#)

Learning and Unlearning

The following reflections are from some of the Year One SSHRC PG participants:

"I am learning to see research in and with the community as a different approach to what I thought it might be. I recognize the need to learn about this approach, and experience and process the research experience in different ways. It doesn't always line up with expectations we have for ourselves as researchers and/or what we think the people or the institutions expect of us."

"I am learning about who I am as an Indigenous person, I am unlearning old patterns of colonization and re-learning to connect with myself and others in a meaningful way."

"Decolonizing myself is a new notion to me. I appreciate the offerings online and I did some good journal reflecting as a result; some of the languages may be challenging for non-Indigenous people and is very important to learn."

"I am learning to hone and trust my abilities as an educator, unlearning my unconscious bias."

Meet one of our Research Assistants (RAs) Every newsletter we will introduce a new RA.



Alana Firedancer, RA

Alana is a graduate of UBC Okanagan with Cree and Métis ancestry. She holds a BA in English with a minor in Psychology. Currently, she is working with Kelowna Museums as an Indigenous Programming Assistant and is involved with developing and teaching Syilx programs as well as doing reconciliatory work with Kelowna Museums' staff.

To learn more about Alana and the other RAs, click the link below.

[Meet the RAs](#)

For more information about the Co-Curricular Making: Honouring Indigenous Connections to Land, Culture and the Relational Self project and our resources, click on the links below:

[Co-Curricular Website](#)

[Co-Curricular Resources](#)

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