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December 2020



THE AMPERSAND

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

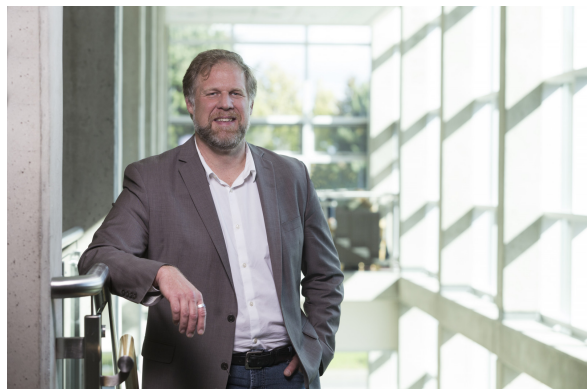
& HAPPY HOLIDAYS



photo credit: Jonathan Bengtson

**Warm wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy holidays
and new year from all of us at UVic Libraries.
We are here to help!**

& MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON

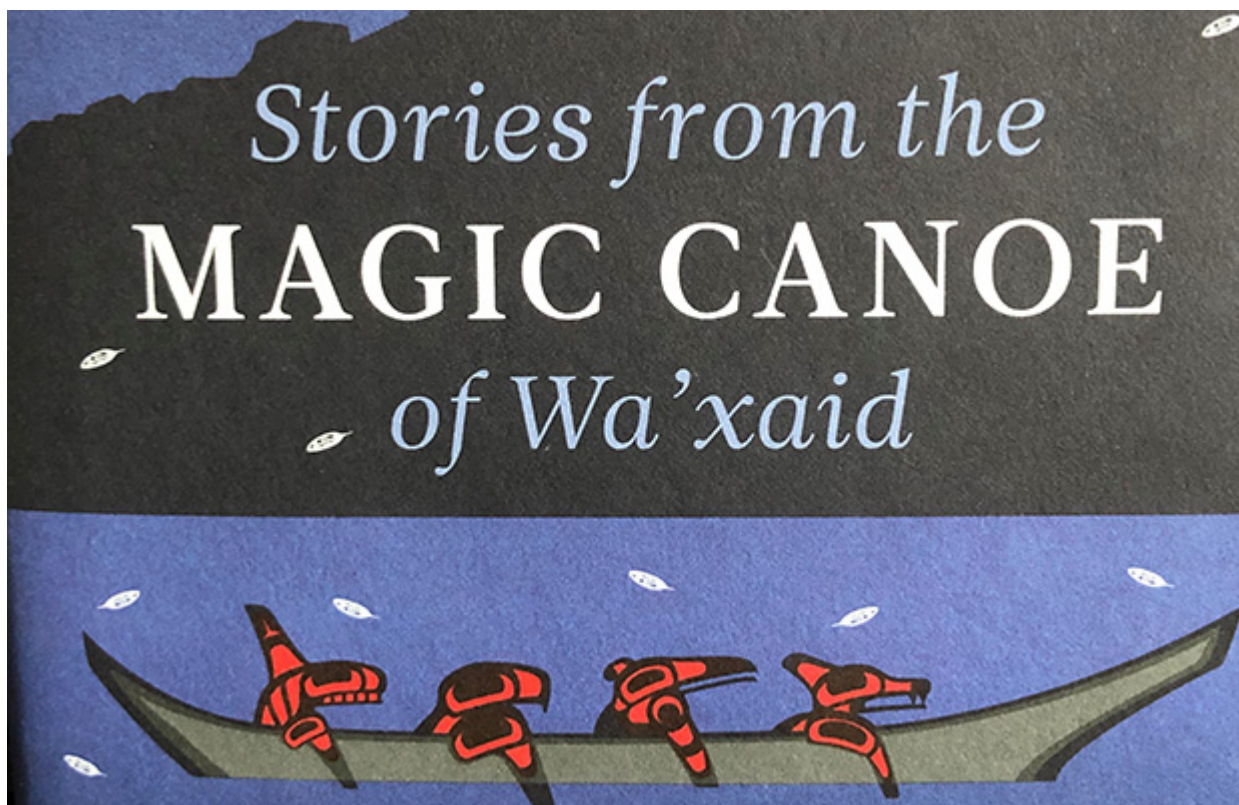


Dear Friends,

All of us at UVic Libraries wish you a restful, healthy, and joyous holidays.

Jonathan Bengtson, University Librarian

& ACROSS THE CAMPUS



DECOLONIZATION READING GROUPS

by: Sarah Miller, with assistance from Carmen Craig

UVic Libraries recently launched the Decolonization Reading Groups, an initiative from the Libraries' Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, spearheaded by former co-chair, Carmen Craig. The reading groups were inspired by the reading groups at Camosun College and the good work they have been doing towards decolonizing and indigenizing their institution.

The goal of the reading groups is to create a community of practice where participants are able to go on the journey of decolonization together; share their thoughts, feelings, experiences and struggles; and work together to decolonize/indigenize their professional and personal practice. The longer term hope is to have individuals from the group branch out and create new reading groups so that there is a ripple effect, while still being a part of the community of practice in their original reading group.

First launched in March 2020, and composed of library employees, we were only able to meet in-person once before the Libraries closed and employees started working remotely due to the pandemic. Virtual meetings started later in the spring.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity given me to learn about the Indigenous experience in Canada as a whole and in BC specifically. As a foreign-born settler, the Pulling Together guides discussed in the reading groups have been invaluable in providing me with a way to learn about decolonization in some small way, and it has definitely spurred my interest to learn more." - Member of the reading group

With the re-launch in the virtual environment, the organizers decided to create smaller reading groups with fewer members in each group to facilitate more discussion, dialogue and sharing between the members. This resulted in the current reading group configuration; three different reading groups, each with 5-6 members, including the facilitators. The reading groups include a mix of library employees, as well as a staff member from the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL), and meet every two weeks for 60-90 minutes.

Read the [full story](#).

& IN THE NEWS



photo credit: UVic Photo Services

NEW UVIC PRESIDENT: DR. KEVIN HALL

On November 2, Cathy McIntyre, Chair, UVic Board of Governors, welcomed incoming president Dr. Kevin Hall: "Kevin brings a



photo credit: Nardella Photography

VITAL SIGNS REPORT: RY MORAN

Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian - Reconciliation, was featured in *Vital Signs*. This annual community check-up report

forward-thinking mindset and dedication to driving social, environmental and economic change. An accomplished researcher and experienced administrator, Kevin's career demonstrates that he shares UVic's commitment to:

- truth, respect and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples;
- equity, diversity, inclusion and access to education;
- environmental sustainability;
- excellence in research, scholarship, creative activity and teaching;
- student support and wellness; and
- strong partnerships and community connections."

Learn more about Dr. Hall's [appointment](#).

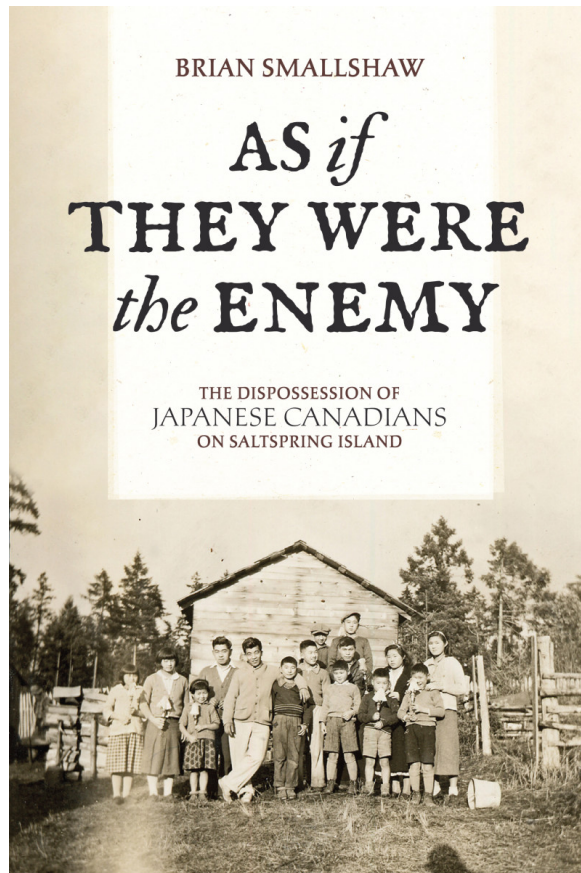
DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMONS

Did you know that library staff taught 368 workshop participants this month? Also, the new 3D print web application entered beta testing and should be available in January. The new system will allow students to submit and pay for their 3D print jobs online, then pick up their printed models at the loan desk.

Tweet: Wow. I am so impressed with my students' use of @twinethreads They are doing a fine job of #digitalstorytelling Thanks to @UVicDSCommons team for their assistance with a workshop! @richmccue Thanks. @UVicLib

Learn more about the [Digital Scholarship Commons](#).

measures the vitality of our community and is produced by the Victoria Foundation. Read the [Vital Signs report](#).



NEW SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION

Our latest open-access publication *As if They Were the Enemy* by Brian Smallshaw is a microhistory of the dispossession of the Japanese Canadians who were living on Salt Spring Island before being imprisoned in internment camps during WWII. [Download the free publication](#).

**& OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY
IN CONVERSATION WITH...**



photo credit: UVic Photo Services

LIBRARIAN DAVID BOUDINOT TALKS TOUGH LOVE ABOUT HIS PLASTIC PELLET PASSION

by: Zehra Abrar

You are the [Acquisitions and Electronic Resources Librarian](#). What does a typical day look like for you?

There is no typical day in acquisitions! These days a typical day is checking and responding to email, Zoom meetings, planning for some acquisitions staff to return to the library to begin processing print materials, and negotiating with vendors. I also assist with troubleshooting electronic resource issues as they come up.

You are interested in the growing presence of [nurdles](#) on Vancouver Island beaches. Tell us about the environmental impact of these nurdles.

Plastic pollution is a persistent problem on our lands, in the air, and in the water. Plastic continues to accumulate and doesn't quickly degrade like other materials. I have been involved in a three-year research project documenting plastic pellet spills in British Columbia, and have learned that plastic pellets can soak up toxic chemicals and be ingested by wildlife.

Read the [full interview with David](#).



photo credit: UVic Photo Services

LIBRARIAN CAROL GORDON ADVOCATES FOR DISTANCE STUDENTS WITH VIRTUAL SOLUTIONS

by: Zehra Abrar

You are the [Head, Distance Learning and Research](#). What responsibilities come with it?

I think one of my primary responsibilities is to continually advocate for distance students to ensure that they have library access and experiences which are as equitable as possible to those of students who can come through the library doors. Our [Distance Learning & Research](#) (DL&R) unit is critical for providing an equitable, welcoming, and inclusive environment for distance students. We are, in many ways, the face of UVic for distance students.

What was your first job when you started back in 1993 at UVic?

When I began in 1993, I was in a contract reference position. I split my time between Continuing Studies Library Service (i.e., the present Distance Learning & Research), main library reference, and the reference desk at the Curriculum Library. It was a different world, as all reference at the time was still heavily print-based.

Read the [full interview with Carol](#).

& LAST WORD



photo credit: National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

RECONCILIATION 2020: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

by: Ry Moran, M.S.C., Associate University Librarian - Reconciliation

Returning to the University of Victoria is an opportunity I am deeply thankful for. Not only is my family reunited after being apart for many years, but I am thrilled about the work underway across UVic Libraries and the entire campus community.

In looking forward, we are embarking on an exciting journey. Initiatives being imagined within the Libraries will help realize many of the important **Calls to Action** issued by the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**. Library support to the newly established Indigenous Law program is a fantastic example of the work that lies ahead. Complex questions need be explored as we collectively embrace the vital role Indigenous legal traditions will play in furthering this country's journey of establishing respectful relationships.

In my former role as Director of the **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**, one of the questions most frequently asked of me was: *How are we doing as a country – are we, as a nation, taking the Calls to Action seriously?*

The answer to this is always mixed. In certain regards, this country has made impressive strides in the areas of education and social memory. Tens of thousands of youths across this country are now learning about residential schools and Canada's grim human rights record. Two residential schools were recently designated National Historical Sites, and the residential school system as a whole was officially designated an event of national historical significance. This step clearly says to *all* Canadians that Canada's human rights failures are a defining element of our shared history.

Collectively, it is more imperative than ever to know, understand, and work diligently to correct past wrongs.

There also remain many challenges present here in Canada, however. Efforts to implement the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) remain nascent. Many elected leaders across the country continue to resist implementation of the inherent human rights articulated within the Declaration. We have yet to witness establishment of the National Council on Reconciliation as well. This essential mechanism is intended to monitor and report annually on the state of reconciliation.

There is significant ongoing litigation to protect data sets containing vast amounts of non-identifying statistical information that provides insight into the trauma endured by generations of young children in residential schools. These data sets, despite broad support for their preservation by Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies, are presently slated for destruction by March 2021. Losing this information would represent an irreparable harm to national memory.

As such, our progress on issues of truth and reconciliation remains lurching, hesitant and complex. Five years out from the release of the TRC's Calls to Action, it remains as important today as it did then to reflect upon what each of us is contributing to the realization of these goals.

As the eloquent [Murray Sinclair](#) so aptly stated at the closing events of the TRC in Ottawa: "We have described for you a mountain and shown you a path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing."

We still have a great deal of climbing ahead of us.

Wishing you well and the very best of health during these complex times.



**University
of Victoria**

Libraries

This newsletter is sent to you by the UVic Libraries Communications Office: libcomm@uvic.ca

