



Kwasun Cultural
Education Society

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING INDIGENOUS CHILDREN & YOUTH TO CULTURE

Grandparents or other kinship caregivers, and foster families raising Indigenous children are invited to participate in a 3-part Coast Salish cultural education series led by community Elders.

Children of all ages welcome!

***Certificate of completion provided**

Thursday February 12th

Language & Land (learn a song in Hul'qumi'num')

Thursday March 12th

Importance of Cedar (harvest & tea making)

Wednesday April 8th

Land & History (visit to MacDonald Park)

Includes lunch!
Parking and limited
travel subsidies
available for
Vancouver Island
families.

Location: Nanaimo, BC **Time:** 10AM - 2PM

Click Here to Register or visit

www.tinyurl.com/culturalconnectionsworkshop

For more information, or help with registering, please
contact the Kinship Care Help Line at: **1-855-474-9777**
or email [**Cassandra.Strain@parentsupportbc.ca**](mailto:Cassandra.Strain@parentsupportbc.ca)



VICTORIA
FOUNDATION

KWASUN CULTURAL EDUCATION SOCIETY

ABOUT

Kwasun Cultural Education Society was founded in 2024 on the initiative of 10 Coast Salish Elders and Knowledge Keepers intent on educating anyone interested in learning about Coast Salish cultural values and ways of being.

THE GOAL

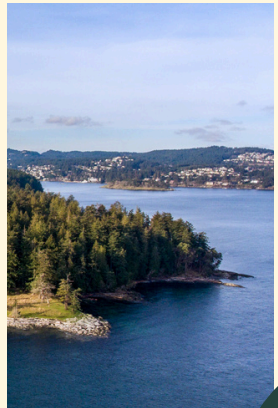
The goal of the Elders was to encourage reconciliation: to create relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners for the betterment of Canadian society.

PROGRAMS

Kwasun has hosted numerous workshops because, as the Elders say, "if we are going to turn this around, we have to go back to the teachings." They have presented to BC's Legislative Assembly staff, instructors and students at post-secondary institutions including University of Victoria, Vancouver Island University, Stz'uminus Native College, Pearson United World College, the RCMP, health care organizations including Parent Support Services of British Columbia and First Nations Health Authority among others.

Unlike so many Reconciliation programs, Kwasun offers teachings and cultural lessons to youth and adults alike which are grounded in the language (Hul'q'umi'num'), land and ceremony.

Kwasun is rooted in the notion that "important work is never done alone". Elders work together to represent and model their cultural knowledge, enacting their lessons in ways that learners can join in the work.



CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Day 1 – Feb. 12: Language & Land (learn a song in Hul'qumi'num')

In this session, participants will be invited into open discussions related to Indigenous ways of knowing and connections to land and language in Coast Salish territory. Topics for discussion/activities may include cultural teachings; Indigenous pedagogies or learning methods; practicing Indigenous languages; singing together.

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn how to say your name in Hul'q'uminum and where you are from
 - Participate in discussions about land as a source of learning
 - Listen to Elders and Knowledge Keepers who will share snuwuyulh and community perspectives
 - Engage in singing and drumming
 - Possible activities: Eyelash ceremony, "preparing to listen", huych qa song
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Day 2 – March 12: Importance of Cedar (harvest & tea making)

In this session, participants will be introduced to the cultural and ecological importance of Cedar from a Coastal Indigenous perspective. Participants will encounter Cedar as a living relative and learn how to create a simple medicinal tea to benefit themselves.

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn to identify red cedar as a tree in the coastal landscape
 - Hear Coast Salish Elders share the cultural significance of cedar
 - Harvest cedar in culturally responsible way & create a medicinal tea for personal benefit
 - Possible activity: video on Cedar; Elders sharing cedar teachings; cedar weaving; walk to cedar tree on VIU Campus or elsewhere; brew a simple cedar tea or create a cedar steam for home cleansing
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Day 3 – April 8: Land & History (visit to MacDonald Park)

In this session, participants are invited to travel to MacDonald Park on Halalt First Nation territory. In this sacred location, participants will walk and learn about the rich ecology of the Chemainus River estuary and its importance to First Nations. Colonial impacts of industrial development will also be discussed.

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn about the significance of this landscape in Coast Salish territory
- Identify sources of industrial development in this region
- Hear oral histories of the local territory
- Possible activities: Walk around MacDonald Park; lunch on the waterfront; discussion of local histories; ecology of the estuary; ecological impacts of the Crofton Mill.