THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Upper Nicola

Earth-Based Solutions for Indigenous Housing in Canada

Invitation to Participate in Community En'owkinwix^{w} Sessions

What are the En'owkinwix^{w} Sessions about?
We are asking Upper Nicola Band Members about their insights on housing as it relates to community wellness, security, and cultural expression and practice.

- Session 1: Tmxwulaxw as Our Home
  This workshop explores the relationship between people, their homes, and the land, focusing on the use of earth-based materials for construction. We will delve into how these materials connect us to our environment, honor our cultural heritage, and promote sustainability. We will examine how housing contributes to the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical well-being of our members.

- Session 2: Our Homes, Our Health
  This workshop explores how housing functionality and performance contribute to individual and community health, with a focus on sustaining traditional knowledge for future generations.

Facilitated by Clare Paul, with assistance from UBC students Danilo Caron, and Noah Kaiser.

When and where will the sessions be conducted?
The two sessions will be held from 1:30 to 3:30pm on September 13 at the spaxmn Pithouse and on September 20th at the N'kwala Gym. Please feel welcome to stay afterwards for a meal.

Tentative agenda

- Opening prayer, session Overview, review consent forms & protocols
- Discussion 1
- Break
- Discussion 2
- Dinner
- Closing Prayer

Link to registration
To assist us in planning the venue, food, and refreshments, please visit the link to indicate your interest in attending; or you can also contact Clare or Danilo. While this is not necessary, it will help ensure the space will hold us and that we have enough food. Should anything change, we can also notify attendees if they provide their contact information. The consent form will be accessible on the registration page and copies will be available in-person.

Link: https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3r8vDAClFxm1Cgm

What is the purpose?
The sessions are a small part of a study on Earth-Based Solutions for Indigenous Housing in Canada, that will examine housing through the Syilx worldview that considers *housing more holistically*, including physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of housing and *housing in relation to the land*. This study is informed by both a review of existing earth-based construction processes, design standards, and building codes from around the world and community-based activities done with members and staff of the UNB.

The long-term objective is to enable the use of alternative construction methods and promote more culturally relevant housing for Indigenous communities.

The research has been co-developed by the University of British Columbia (UBC) research team, including Primary Investigator Dr. Lisa Tobber, Dr. Sheryl Staub-French, Mr. Danilo Caron, and Mr. Noah Kaiser, and UNB community member Clarine Paul, with input from UNB Housing and Stewardship Departments.

What to expect during the En'owkinwix^{w}
A consent form will be reviewed by the facilitator, any questions answered, and signed or oral consent provided prior to engagement. The En'owkinwix^{w} sessions will be audio recorded for the purposes of transcription, which will be shared with participants to review and provide corrections or clarifications; then be added to the UNB Community Knowledge Keepers database, as outlined in the consent form (linked to in the registration page). If anyone would like to attend, but not consent to participating in the study, the research team will delete contributions made in the transcription and audio file.

How is the research team sharing back what we learn?
Firstly, the findings of the study will be shared through a report and presentation to UNB leadership and staff. Then, the findings will also be shared with the UNB community through a YouTube vignette, the UNB podcast, and in a summary included in the community newsletter and posted to UNB social media.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact Danilo Caron at danilo.caron@ubc.ca or at 250 571 4103; or Clare Paul at seqlare@gmail.com or at 250-280-4757.