

BC Association of Aboriginal  
Friendship Centres  
**BCA AFC**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 13, 2022

# **Custom MBA in Indigenous Reconciliation will support safer access to community social services**

**VICTORIA, B.C.** - BCA AFC is proud to collaborate with our partners at UVic to co-develop a custom MBA in Indigenous Reconciliation to support safer access to community social services for Indigenous people.

UVic has demonstrated a commitment to providing culturally relevant education and training opportunities through our collaborative work on the 3C Challenge, an entrepreneurship program that provided 700 Indigenous youth across the province with training and mentorship to start their own small businesses from 2019 to 2021.

The custom designed MBA program will also build off the success of the BCA AFC Management Training Academy, delivered in partnership with the UVic Peter B. Gustavon School of Business from 2019 to 2020. The Academy covered topics requested by Friendship Centre staff to increase capacity in their Centres. The training content and format was highly regarded by the 20 Friendship Centre staff who graduated from the Academy, and all expressed a desire for future training opportunities.

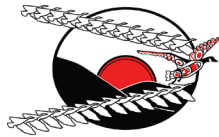
The Friendship Centre Movement has over 60 years of experience delivering culturally safe social services for Indigenous people.

Feedback from BC Friendship Centre Membership and the Social Services Sector Roundtable has been clear:

- We need to increase our capacity within the non-profit sector.
- We need to succession plan for new leadership when our leaders retire.
- We need education and training opportunities relevant and specific to our sector's needs
- We must collaborate to lead reconciliation among the non-profit sector organizations, Indigenous and mainstream.

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The custom MBA program addresses these needs and is an important step towards safer access to community social services for Indigenous people.

## **Contact**

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