

BC Association of Aboriginal
Friendship Centres
BCAAFC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Applications Open for MBA in Advancing Reconciliation

VICTORIA, B.C. – The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) and the University of Victoria's Peter B. Gustavson School of Business are now accepting applications for the second intake of the MBA in Advancing Reconciliation — the first program of its kind in Canada.

"We are excited to welcome the next cohort of leaders into this transformative program," said Annette Morgan, President of BCAAFC and a member of the first graduating class. "This MBA creates space for Indigenous voices, builds critical leadership capacity, and fosters the skills needed to advance reconciliation in real and lasting ways. The social services sector needs leaders ready to drive meaningful change, and we look forward to seeing how this next group will carry that work forward."

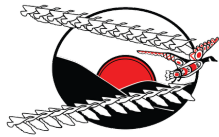
Launched in 2022 with \$8.4 million in provincial funding, the MBA in Advancing Reconciliation is designed to challenge colonial systems and support Indigenous-led change across the social services sector. Through dialogue, knowledge sharing, and community-based learning, the program equips participants to lead organizational transformation grounded in Indigenous worldviews and priorities.

Following the success of the inaugural cohort, the program will expand to include a total of three cohorts, helping to build long-term leadership capacity in communities across the province and beyond.

"With two additional cohorts launching in 2026, we look forward to seeing even more leaders from our communities' step into this opportunity," said Julie Robertson, Interim Executive Director of BCAAFC and a member of the graduating class. "We hope to secure further funding for expanded training, more seats and even PhD-level education in the future. Every new graduate strengthens the movement. Every new voice adds power to our collective advocacy."

Applications for the second intake close August 31, 2025.

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To learn more about the MBA in Advancing Reconciliation, visit <https://bcaafc.com/mbaar/>.

To read the Province's funding announcement, visit <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022SDPR0046-001075#:~:text=The%20Province%20is%20investing%20%248.4%20million%20to%20advance,reconciliation%20in%20the%20B.C.%20community%20social%20services%20sector.>

To learn about the inaugural cohort, visit https://bcaafc.com/docs/pr/2025-06-18_MBA_Grad.pdf

Quotes

Amshen – Joan Phillip, Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction – “B.C.’s social services sector is essential to our communities, especially practices grounded in Indigenous worldviews and practice, and we need more leaders with the understanding to support Indigenous-led change. That’s why I’m pleased to see this program, now in it’s second cohort, continuing to build the expertise needed to create inclusive, culturally safe services across the province – advancing reconciliation in a meaningful way.”

Qwul’sih’yah’maht, Robina Thomas, Acting President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Victoria – “This program is a reflection of what’s possible when universities and Indigenous organizations come together in the spirit of true partnership. The MBA in Advancing Reconciliation supports the strength and leadership already deeply rooted in our communities. It’s not just about education—it’s about building capacity within Indigenous social service organizations, strengthening networks of care, and investing in Indigenous-led solutions. This is one of the many ways we are living the teachings outlined in X^wk^wənənɪstəl | W̱C̱ENENISTEL— Helping to move each other forward, UVic’s Indigenous Plan, which calls on us to center Indigenous voices, expand relationships and transform systems. I’m so proud to see this work taking shape in such a powerful and collaborative way.”

Francois Bastien, Gustavson School of Business professor, Associate Dean, Indigenous and Academic Director of the MBA AR – “Advancing reconciliation is sacred and often difficult work. It calls for deep commitment from all of us, walking together with



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humility and purpose. Journeying alongside the students, our partner BCA AFC, and the instructors has been a deeply rewarding experience — one rooted in relationships, learning, and the shared hope of a more just future. I'm humbled by the opportunity to continue this journey together — to help shape a path in education that is co-created, shared, and evolving, rather than static or owned."

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