

# BC Breath of Life Archival Institute for First Nations Languages

UBC, Vancouver, BC

Sunday May 14, 2017 - Saturday May 20, 2017



## Call for Applications

Application Deadline: January 14, 2017

This is a call for applications for First Nations community language workers to participate in a week-long Institute being hosted at the University of British Columbia from May 14-20, 2017, for the reclamation and revitalization of BC First Nations languages.

Modeled on the “Breath of Life” Language Restoration Workshops initiated in the mid-90s by the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival, our objective is to promote active collaboration among people with a wide range of perspectives on language and culture to explore archives and museum collections at UBC in order to “breathe life” back into manuscripts and other resources there, in order to contribute to the health and sustainability of BC’s First Nations languages for future generations.

Participants will be grouped into research teams, based on language, bringing together First Nations community language workers (broadly defined to include Elders, language learners, teachers, curriculum developers, and others working towards language vitality) and university-based scholars with diverse skills that can contribute to finding and interpreting materials relevant to language and culture reclamation. Team members will actively work together to study resources housed in various collections at UBC and in the Vancouver vicinity that are directly relevant to their languages. Team members will mentor one another and share their expertise throughout the program, building not only research resources, but also relationships for potential on-going collaboration.

Among the resources that participants will be exploring are the Xwi7xwa Library, the Museum of Anthropology archives and material collections, the Reciprocal Research Network (RRN), the UBC Library Rare Books and Special Collections Division, the Historical Map Collection, and the Koerner Library GIS Lab.

Visits to the various collections and archives will be supplemented by lectures and workshops on archival research, and on how to make these research results relevant to community initiatives for language teaching and learning, curriculum development, community-based archives, and other topics of interest to members of the group.

Two internationally renowned scholars in the domain of endangered language revitalization — **Leanne Hinton**, co-founder of the California Breath of Life program, and **Daryl Baldwin** 2016 MacArthur Fellow — will join UBC scholars from several units across campus, including the First Nations and Endangered Languages Program (FNEL); the Museum of Anthropology; the School of Library, Archival and Information Science (SLAIS); and the First Nations House of Learning, among others.

## *2. The 2017 BC Breath of Life Archival Institute for First Nations Languages*

The week of intensive study will culminate in each team doing a presentation based on the relevance of archival or museum resources that they have found for language revitalization, teaching, learning, and/or further research.

Beyond a general commitment to language learning from archival sources, participants must be willing and able to attend and actively participate in the entire week-long Institute. Aside from truly unforeseen circumstances, it will not be possible to arrive late, leave early, or to skip any of the workshops and events.

Participants will be housed at the Ponderosa Commons at UBC, where they can network and study together in the evenings. Please note: As there is extremely limited availability for family accommodation on campus, please indicate on your application form if you anticipate having special needs in this regard.

In addition to accommodation for the duration of the Institute, the Institute will host breakfast and lunch daily, as well as three dinners in the context of special evening events during the week.

This is a great opportunity to find and learn how to utilize archival materials as part of the reclamation, learning and teaching of Indigenous heritage languages, in the company of other like-minded people.

**Application forms** for this inaugural **Breath of Life Archival Institute** — the first ever to be mounted in Canada — are available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/zyzgzlv>

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If you would like to know more, please contact: **[bol.ubc@gmail.com](mailto:bol.ubc@gmail.com)**

**BC Breath of Life Archival Institute for First Nations Languages** is sponsored by:

The First Nations & Endangered Languages Program, Faculty of Arts, UBC

The First Nations House of Learning, UBC

The Museum of Anthropology, UBC

The Xwi7xwa Library, UBC

The School of Library, Archival and Information Science, UBC

The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UBC

The Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies, UBC

We respectfully acknowledge our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Musqueam hənqəmínəm-speaking peoples, and express our deep gratitude to the members of the Musqueam Indian Band - UBC FNEL Language and Culture Committee for serving on our 2017 BC Breath of Life Archival Institute Advisory Board.