

# Letters from the Indigenous Student Mini-University Summer Camp

## Letter # 1

During this past summer my friend and I attended a summer camp at the University of Victoria for five days and it's not hard to say that this was one of the best experiences I've ever had. We had a jam-packed schedule for the week that kept us busy and entertained the whole way through.

We made drums from real animal hide that was disgusting but super fun and we went whale watching that was beyond amazing. We went to the IMAX and did crazy science experiments at the bio chem lab. There were spectacular cultural dances and so much more.

Aside from all of this we were introduced to many of the programs at UVic. This made me realize that there are so many different things out there for me to choose from. Besides all of the incredible things listed on our agenda, the people there made the adventure so much more. The chaperones were without a doubt one of the things that made this camp what it was. You could tell right off the bat they just wanted everyone to have as much fun as possible and create the best memories they could for you and they made everybody feel welcome and at home.

My friend and I walked into this camp knowing no one but each other but as the days quickly passed we got to know a great group of friends and it felt as if we'd known them forever. I just want to say thank you for so many things. This Mini-U camp gave me many memories and great times that I will always cherish. I never wanted this experience to end and it just flew by so quickly. I am definitely going to sign up again and hope to get in so I can have another awesome time!

Thanks for everything,

Emily Bernard, Grade 10 student from EMCS

## Letter #2

This camp was one of the best experiences I've ever had! My friend and I went there for five days in the summer. At first we kept to ourselves. We were too shy to make conversation with other students; few people knew each other. But as the days went on that changed.

## Submitted by SD62

*We met incredible new people and had tons of laughs. Along with all that fun we learned so much during the classes, workshops and ceremonies, which were all absolutely amazing.*

*We dove in and explored the different programs UVic offered and learned about different First Nations' cultures, as well as my own. We even got to learn a song for ourselves. That song stuck in my head the whole summer and none of us could stop singing it!*

*Overall the last night was by far the best. Practising and planning our dance to the song "We Will Rock You" was a blast and presenting to the camp was even better! After, we stayed up dancing and listening to music and just becoming even closer friends.*

*This is what this program was all about; it's about making new friends, expressing yourself freely by stepping out of your comfort zone and having fun at the same time as learning to follow your dreams and goals. It was an amazing experience and I hope I can go next year.*

*Thank you UVic, chaperones and students for putting on such an awesome camp. Being part of it was the highlight of my summer and gave me amazing memories I'll never forget.*

Jessie Power, Grade 10 student at EMCS



Jessie Power and Emily Bernard, left to right, both grade 10 students at Edward Milne Community School.  
Photo by Kathy Sudlow