



## Our Mission

*We inspire Métis people to embrace their heritage to improve the communities they live in*

The Mid-Island Métis Nation is a community of more than 1,600 people living the values of our Métis Heritage through community engagement, education, economic development and cultural sharing. The Métis are proud people with a rich past and an exciting future

Services at Mid-Island Métis Nation:

- Métis citizenship
- Volunteer opportunities
- Community programming and cultural activities

## Contact us

**Monday - Friday 10 - 4**

#26 1708 Bowen Rd, Nanaimo, BC

midislandmetis.com

office.mimn@shaw.ca

250-585-7441

*Located on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw and chosen home of the Mid-Island Métis Nation*

“*Thank you so much y'all are the dream team. Thanks for the endless support*

- VIU student

The Indigenous Education Wiichihew Program is available to support all Indigenous students in any program as they navigate challenges that may arise. This includes responding to inquiries, providing answers when possible and directing you to needed support services. Wiichihew is available for:

- Lunch and learn sessions which can include a cultural activity and presentation
- Campus tours
- Meetings



# Wiichihew (support) Indigenous Education Program

The Wiichihew Program is aimed at supporting high school students, graduates and university students in working towards their educational goals, sharing resources and making the university campus a more comforting place

Staff are available to respond to questions and share information to guide you in the right direction for supports and services in a meaningful way

## MNBC STEPS

The Métis Nation of British Columbia's Skills Training, Employment and Post-Secondary Education (STEPS) programs offer a range of support programs for Métis trainees, jobseekers, and scholars. If you are looking to upgrade your skills, for advice on your job search, or to continue your education, they may be able to help. This includes funding post-secondary education. Applicants must have an active application or be a MNBC citizen to qualify for financial support

Unit 102- 3156 Barons Road Nanaimo BC, V9T 4B5  
mnb.ca/work-programs/skills-training-employment-post-secondary-steps  
250-753-6271  
STEPS-R1@mnb.ca

## Indigenous Education Navigators

Indigenous Education Navigators support and walk with you through your post-secondary journey, helping you access the supports you need to start or continue with your VIU education. Navigators work with Nations to: identify areas of need and barriers; build relationships and connect with students before they enter post-secondary.

## Aboriginal University Bridging Program

The Aboriginal University Bridging Certificate is a customizable program for Indigenous students who want to upgrade their courses and acquire the necessary prerequisites to begin their desired post-secondary education programs. You will find the support and encouragement of instructors who care about your success, Aboriginal Elders in Residence who can support and guide you on your path, and a network of staff and other students that provide a true sense of belonging.

## Services for Aboriginal Students

VIU has Advisors working in Shq'apthut (A Gathering Place) who provide culturally appropriate services to Indigenous students with one-on-one appointments, phone calls and emails for: education advising, career exploration, referrals to counselling, and support for daycare and housing.

[indigenous.viu.ca/services-aboriginal-students](https://indigenous.viu.ca/services-aboriginal-students)  
250-740-6510  
sas@viu.ca

## 'Su'luqw'a' Community Cousins

The 'Su'luqw'a' Community Cousins is an Aboriginal student mentorship program at VIU representing many different Nations and cultures from across Canada. Their goal is to lift each other up, recognize and celebrate culture, strengthen community on campus, provide support and have fun!

[indigenous.viu.ca/community-cousins](https://indigenous.viu.ca/community-cousins)  
250-740-6305  
CommunityCousins@viu.ca

## Shq'apthut (The Gathering Place)

Shq'apthut is home away from home for First Nations, Status, Non-Status, Métis and Inuit students. Elders-in-Residence are available at Shq'apthut five days a week to assist you with matters that arise at each stage of your student experience. Shq'apthut is also a place where cultural, academic, recreational, and social activities are promoted and celebrated



Métis Elder, Stella Johnson

## Speak with an Elder

Drop-in or arrange a time to speak with an Elder at one of VIU's three campuses. Different Elders' rotate at VIU throughout the week. Weekly Smudging.

[indigenous.viu.ca/office-indigenous-education-and-engagement/elders-viu](https://indigenous.viu.ca/office-indigenous-education-and-engagement/elders-viu)  
Tel. Stella: 250-753-3245 Ext. 2792  
Stella.Johnson@viu.ca

## Connect with a Counsellor

[services.viu.ca/counselling](https://services.viu.ca/counselling)  
250-740-6416

## Financial Aid & Awards

The VIU Financial Aid & Awards Office is committed to supporting students in their search for financial assistance including provincial and federal loans, grants, and internal and external Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries

[services.viu.ca/financial-aid-awards](https://services.viu.ca/financial-aid-awards)