



Harvest4Knowledge Project

Project Summary

Harvest4Knowledge is an Indigenous plant and traditional knowledge project taking place on the homeland of the Lkwungen people, now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. The project set out to bring Indigenous plants knowledge and place-based learning into the minds and hearts of children and youth. Six schools in School District 61 (SD61) received grants to build Indigenous plant gardens, which includes planting Indigenous plants, restoring meadows and forest ecosystems and harvesting and making traditional medicines all in their schoolyard. Each Indigenous plant garden has interpretive signage in English and Lkwungen with QR codes that allow students to hear the spoken name of the plants in Lkwungen. Online curriculum is being developed to support teachers and their students to connect to the garden.



Background

In 2016, SD61 Aboriginal Art and Cultural Facilitator, Sarah Rhude and students, created an Indigenous plant garden and camas meadow at Victoria High School using funding provided by Farm to School BC. With the success of this garden, Capital Region Animator, Aaren Topley worked with Sarah to apply for and secure additional funding through the Horner Foundation. This allowed the Public Health Association of BC to hire Hereditary Chief, Edward 'Seenupin' Thomas to support the development of the Lkwungen signage for each garden. Edward worked with Elder Dr. Elmer George of the Songhees Nation, who is currently the only fluent Lkwungen speaker to record the Lkwungen names of the plants for student learners to hear the language and plants names.

Thank You to Our Partners:

School District 61 and the Aboriginal Nations Education Division, Songhees and Esquimalt Nation, Horner Foundation, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Parks Canada, LifeCycles Project Society, Habitat Acquisition Trust, and Saanich Native Plants.

A Special Thank You To:

Sarah Rhude, Paola Bell, Aaren Topley, Kristen Miskelly, Hereditary Chief Edward Thomas, Elder Elmer George, Butch Dick, Elder Maryann Thomas, Cheryl Bryce, Diane Sam, Tracy Horner, Fiona Devereaux, Shereen Kukhabryson, Leah Seltzer, Paige Erickson-McGee, Wendy Tyrell, Sonya Mcrae, Emma Milliken, Rachel Trebilco, Geoff Orme, Richard Han.

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