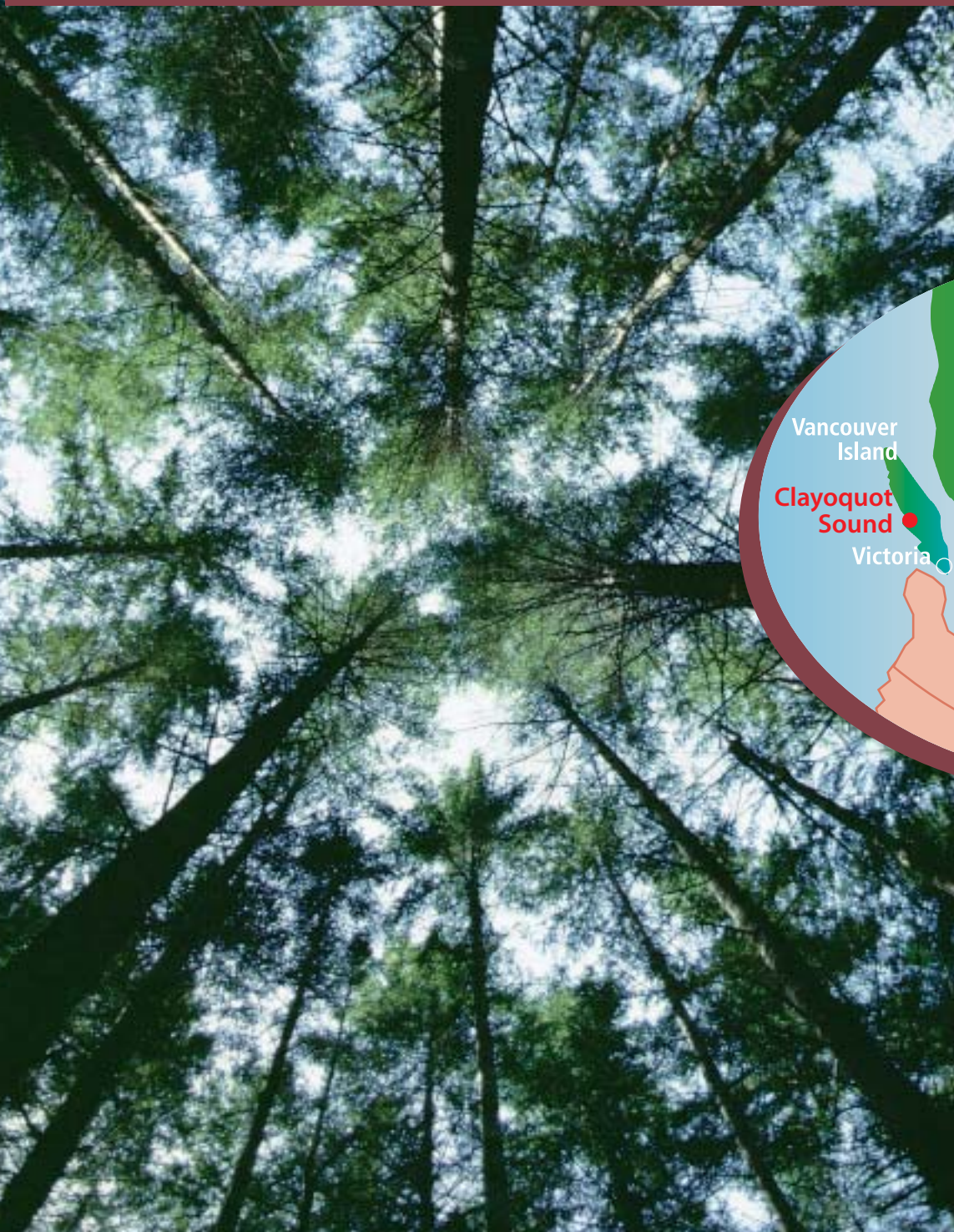


The Clayoquot Alliance for Research, Education & Training

A Collaborative Partnership of the University of Victoria and the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust



After decades of upheaval involving First Nations, governments, corporations, environmental organizations and labour groups, major institutional innovations are now taking place in the Clayoquot Sound region on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

The Clayoquot Alliance is a unique partnership, founded with the goals of forging creative links between the University and the communities of Clayoquot Sound, providing a forum in which community interests and needs become academic concerns, and making the education and training resources of the University more accessible in the region. An ultimate goal is to establish a resource centre, or “science shop”, for ongoing community-university connections designed to foster collaborative research, education and training initiatives.

THE CLAYOQUOT Alliance for

Research

Set within three spheres of theoretical and practical research activity – the communities of the Clayoquot Sound region, the academic community, and the institutional borderlands between these – our goals are to engage in research activity that illuminates the specific issues and needs that exist within and between each sphere, and to create lasting bridges and links between them.

Education

Graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at the University of Victoria pursue background theoretical and conceptual work around community-based research, participatory policy formation and barriers to implementation. Community-based research activities in the region involve local community members and First Nations in research design, implementation and evaluation. Research results are shared through community-based events and forums.

Training

Training activities planned or in progress centre on the ongoing need for monitoring and reporting on community health, ecosystem integrity and sustainable resource management, and developing skills and expertise of relevance to the region – such as GIS mapping, resource management and ecosystem restoration.

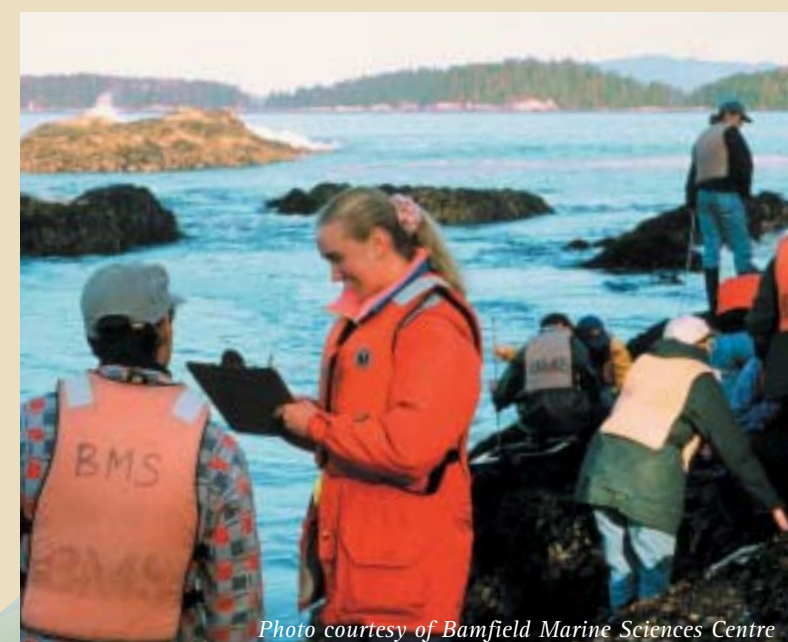


Photo courtesy of Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre



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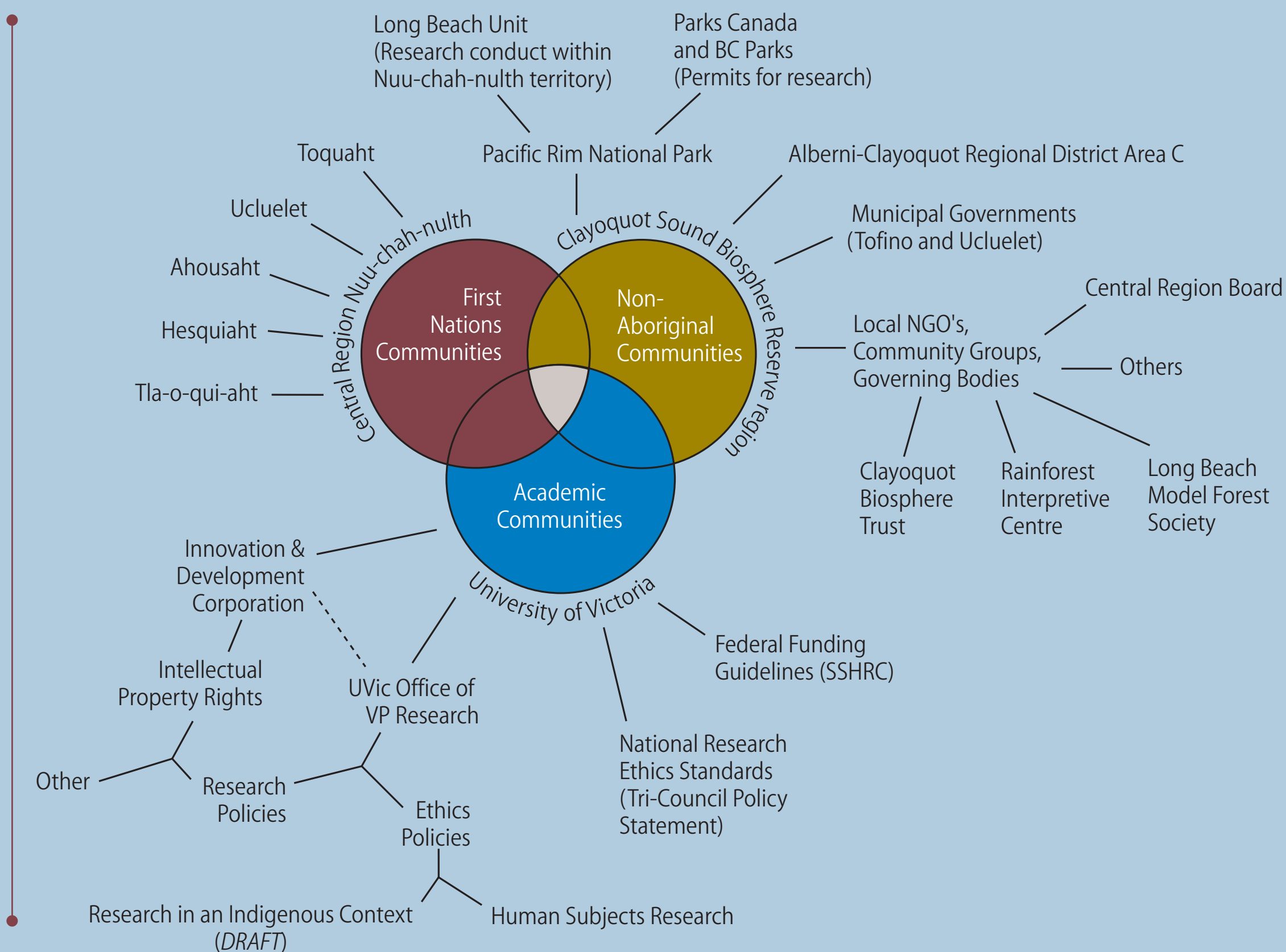
CO-DEVELOPING PROTOCOLS for Community-University Research Collaborations



The “Protocols Project” is a cooperative effort to build a foundation for community-university research collaborations and avoid misunderstandings among researchers from different cultures. The project began in Fall 2001 as a direct response to local interest in and concerns about conduct of “outside researchers” working in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve region.

A participatory process guided by a community working group was set up to identify and understand local research-related issues, and develop consensus on how to address them. Agreement was sought among three broadly defined communities—local Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations, local non-Aboriginal communities, and academic researchers working in the region—each with its own cultures, traditions and expectations.

The cornerstone of the research guidelines is RESPECT for the well-being and interconnectedness of individuals, communities and ecosystems. This concept is consistent with the Nuu-chah-nulth principles of *lisaak* “Living respect” and *Hishuk ish ts’awalk* “Everything is one, everything is connected”.



The process has yielded a set of guidelines for acceptable research conduct in the region, as well as enhanced mutual-understanding and community-university communication. These are starting points for the activities supported by the Clayoquot Alliance. The guidelines will be useful for other research in this region and as an example for other regions.



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“Huʔaciiyuk^wap Ciqʻyak” (Bringing Back the Language)

Building Capacity for Traditional Language, Culture and Knowledge Management

The Clayoquot Alliance for Research, Education and Training has provided support during the establishment of the *Nuu-chah-nulth Central Region Language Group* - an initiative of the member First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council - Central Region: the Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, Tla-o-qu-iaht, Toquaht and Ucluelet First Nations.

FIRST NATIONS OF THE NUU-CHAH-NULTH TRIBAL COUNCIL CENTRAL REGION

TLA-O-QUI-AHT

Population: 757
Fluent Speakers: 30

AHOUSAHT

Population: 1646
Fluent Speakers: 40

TOQUAHT

Population: 118
Fluent Speakers: 4

HESQUIAHT

Population: 599
Fluent Speakers: 15

UCLUELET

Population: 605
Fluent Speakers: 16

Language revitalization is a key concern amongst the Central Region First Nations:

“It’s of the utmost importance that our young people learn the language.

Without it we have no custom and tradition. You don’t know who you are – and learning the language you know who you are.”

Pat Charleson, Hesquiaht Elder

The work of the Clayoquot Alliance in support of the Language Group has centred on the production of a multimedia CD-ROM documenting the Nuu-chah-nulth names and cultural knowledge of selected native plants, animals and marine resources. This is the first of a planned series of CD-ROMs highlighting the traditional language and culture of the Central Region First Nations.

SCREEN IMAGE FROM FIRST NUU-CHAH-NULTH LANGUAGE CD-ROM



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