



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Education



CECUWATUL

"tse-tsuw-ah-tul"
HOLDING EACH OTHER UP



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW | UBC CAMPOUT!

UBC CampOUT! Goes International

Thanks to the help of our supporters and past volunteers, we created a diverse offering of virtual programming for **CampOUT! 2021**, so that queer, trans, and Two-Spirit (2SLGBTQ+) youth had opportunities for connection and support as COVID-19 continued. In addition, based on our early pandemic learnings, we expanded the scope of our 2020 virtual programming. We grew our capacity to host 14 engaging online programs with a diverse array of leadership, learning and wellness activities.

For the first time, youth from other countries attended **CampOUT!** along with participants from British Columbia and other parts of Canada. They gained social and life skills, inspiration, health literacy resources, and beautiful support networks.

After cancelling our 2020 and 2021 gala fundraisers due to COVID-19, fulfilling our mission to serve 2SLGBTQ+ youth could have been challenging, but our supporters lifted us again. So many folks showed up for our first-ever UBC Giving Day and made it possible for us to collaborate on programming that raised the hearts and voices of our queer, trans, and Two-Spirit youth. On behalf of everyone involved with the camp program this year, Thank you!

"Thank you for another amazing CampOUT! I'm so glad that everyone pulled together to put out virtual sessions. It was so cool to see people from around the world from places like Serbia and India. I hope all of the facilitators have a good year and hope to see everyone in person next CampOUT!"



What We Do, We Do Together

Many of us couldn't have dreamed of something like **CampOUT!** when we were young. A place where creativity, education, and leadership for social change all come together in literally the campiest ways! The opportunity to develop this program alongside brilliant youth and community partners means that the program is continually evolving and transforming—similarly to our identities.

Going virtual with an experiential land-based transformative education program has been a challenge. Still, we felt strongly about creating a space for 2SLGBTQ+ youth to gather, learn, and have fun together during the pandemic; we took some risks and made it happen. Our ability to transform into a virtual platform was directly due to our donors and supporters, who understand the value of this program.

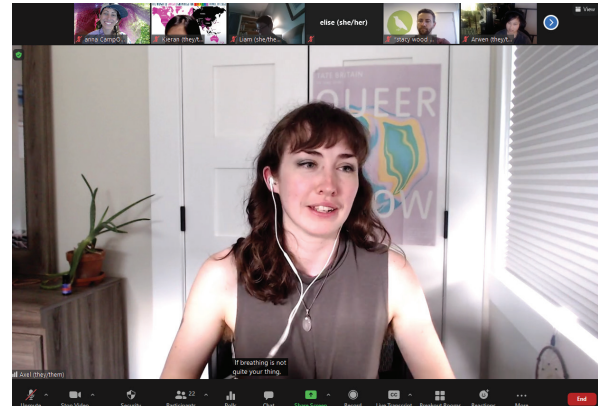
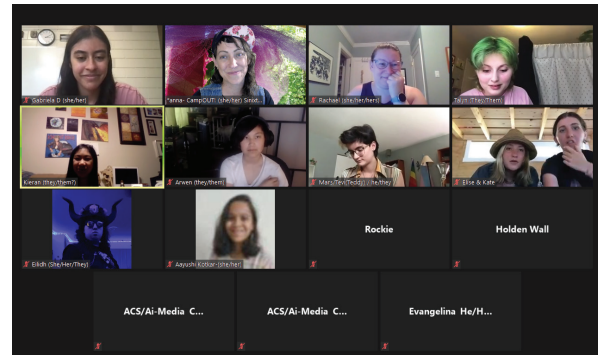
"I think given the limits of virtual space, CampOUT! has done well, but some of my friends don't find much connection online. I can't wait till CampOUT! is in person again."

It has proven essential to continue collaborating with community partners, campers, and leaders to support their program visions coming to life in new digital ways. We are proud of the work of our camp leaders, volunteers, and the advisory committee these past two years in making sure there were chances for youth to interact. And, we hear the youth loud and clear asking for in-person community gatherings again. Nothing beats coming together at camp in real life.

A huge thank you to everyone! This camp, even though it took place online, really helped me realize I should value life within and around me so much more, as well as appreciate small rituals like taking a breath more than ever. Overall, throughout this camp, I made significant personal progress, and I am truly grateful for having gotten the opportunity to do so!"

Outgoing Dean Blye Frank and Sr. Associate Dean Mary Bryson created a part-time faculty administrator role for **CampOUT!** to further support the program. Associate Professor Lisa W. Loutzenheiser from the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy is our inaugural Academic and Administrative Head. Dr. Loutzenheiser has been involved with **CampOUT!** for many years in several roles and is thrilled to take on this position in support of all things camp. We thank Dean Frank and Sr. Associate Dean Bryson for their years of support.

We are energized about re-opening plans and the return to in-person programming where we can once again offer youth an experience that instills a strong sense of belonging that lasts far beyond camp itself. We love what we do, do it well, and do it with gratitude to everyone who believes in the power of belonging and makes this program possible. Here's to a new year of working together to ensure 2SLGBTQ+ youth know that they matter!



Cecuwatul “tse-tsuw-a-tul”

“I have chosen the hummingbird for this design because it is one of the most unique birds in the animal kingdom. It is unique—just like us walking the path of the 2S people or people that identify with the 2SLGBTQ+ clan. It is the only bird that can fly backwards and retrace it’s journey to decide which direction is best.”

— RAIN PIERRE (Sṭə́məxʷ), THEME LOGO ARTIST

The theme for our **2021 CampOUT!** was Cecuwatul “tse-tsuw-ah-tul,” a Halkomelem word meaning “helping one another/holding each other up.” Learning centred around how we support one another across time and space during a pandemic. Our theme invited youth into the practice of lifting each other up. In mid-winter, all participants received a small gift and messages of care from **CampOUT!** in the mail.

We are grateful for the community of supporters at UBC and in the community who hold us up so we can do this work of lifting up the brilliance of 2SLGBTQ+ youth. Thank you for your continued support!



Deepening Reconciliation Practices

In 2018, we partnered with Indian Residential School Survivors Society of BC (IRSSS) to ensure Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ youth can connect with the culture and supports year-round. As a result, all campers and leaders are invited into true and honourable reconciliation practices. This year, IRSSS and **CampOUT!** collaborated on a digital virtual handbook including traditional teachings to ground the work and play of **CampOUT!** We’re grateful for the generous gift for our virtual participants to learn with Indian Residential School Survivor Society of BC staff, Jeremy Jones and Elders Gertie Pierre and Yvonne Rigsby-Jones.

“Thank you all so much for having me. I still can’t believe I’m taking part in this camp! Oh also, the video shown to us made by the elderly lady was one of the most inspiring things I ever saw, so that video opened my eyes that there’s no real need to rush with labelling myself anything!”



ELDER GERTIE PIERRE
INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
SURVIVOR SOCIETY OF BC

MESSAGE FROM IRSSS CAMP AUNTIE/RHSW JEREMY JONES (HE/THEY)

For the past four years, the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS) has had the immense privilege to provide support at **CampOUT!** focusing on the First Nations Metis and Inuit (as well as ancestral Indigenous) campers. To witness the inclusion of myself, Jeremy Jones RHSW (Camp auntie extraordinaire) and elders Gertie Pierre and Yvonne Jones, as well as the use of First Nations words as camp themes, is reconciliation in action. Navigating these identities can be quite difficult, and we have had some important learnings along how the inclusion of ceremony has shown to be important in creating safe space for all campers.

Over the past two years, we moved to virtual space, shifting how we approach sharing culture, ceremony and knowledge. In addition to providing videos for the **CampOUT!** virtual handbook, in which elders Gertie Pierre and Yvonne Jones shared some grounding and teachings around how we carry ourselves; I also shared a video of the importance of entering spaces with intention. On a personal note, I must add how honoured, privileged, and humbled I am to witness the campers and leadership grow and step into their identities in such meaningful ways. It is truly a gift to witness our young Indigenous people be supported in such a caring way. I am super stoked to continue my role at camp and be able to witness such beautiful experiences of our campers and leadership unfold.

MESSAGE FROM ANGELA WHITE (SHE/HER) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS SOCIETY

We at the Indian Residential School Survivors Society continue to strive to support as many Indigenous populations as possible. However, intergenerational trauma and colonial mindsets have not been so accepting and inclusive of the Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ friends and relatives. IRSSS ensures we will continue to support **CampOUT!** because they have built confidence, over the years, for youth to explore who they are meant to be. IRSSS cannot emphasize enough how **CampOUT!** has proven its leadership by being a pillar of strength and unity. By providing inclusive support for everyone by establishing a place of trust, empathy, and empowerment and creating a safe space for personal self-awareness and holistic nurturing. We at IRSSS would like to recognize that **CampOUT!** is doing incredible work in decolonizing the landscape of how summer camps operate. It is such an honour and privilege to allow our staff and elder support to be present in this space. We would also like to recognize **CampOUT!** for their continuous humble collaboration with our organization and many other Indigenous folks from across British Columbia and beyond.

We look forward to our continued partnerships and learning from one another.



JEREMY JONES
INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
SURVIVOR SOCIETY OF BC

2021 Virtual Sessions for CampOUT!

Workshops were created and led by past **CampOUT!** campers, cabin leaders, volunteers, and community partners. **CampOUT!** staff supported all sessions along with one of our 2SLGBTQ+ affirming Child and Youth Mental Health workers (a.k.a. "Camp Care Bears"). The range of activities connects leadership for social change with expressive arts, wellness, social justice education, and campy fun times!

OUT IN SCHOOLS FROM OUT ON SCREEN: YOU ON SCREEN!

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

Youth played games, viewed films, and engaged in group discussions, personal reflection and story sharing with Out in Schools peer leaders Danny and Avery.

"I enjoyed the fact that we got to meet other people like us."

"I learned that it's okay to take time to know yourself."

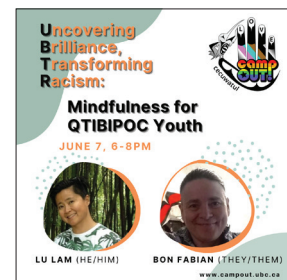


UNCOVERING BRILLIANCE, TRANSFORMING RACISM: MINDFULNESS FOR QTBIPOC YOUTH

MONDAY, JUNE 7

Two-Spirit, Queer, Trans BIMPoC youth joined mindfulness facilitator Lu Lam (M. Ed. C.C.C.) and Elder Bon Fabian to practice mindfulness and experience how mindfulness, woven with Indigenous teachings, can support personal and cultural wellness and connectivity. Thanks to a partnership exploration grant from UBC's Centre for Community Engagement, we were able to offer this program.

"The session was outstanding. A lot of the four elements discussion has really stuck with me."



LET'S GO, POET!

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Spoken word artist and writer Kit Tempo led campers through a series of listening, writing, and sharing prompts that provoked, affirmed, inspired and connected us!

"Poetry can be a medium for anything, the good and bad, and its purpose isn't to appeal to the reader but rather have a message or just be someone's way out."

"I enjoyed creating bonds with other participants."



WHAT THE HECK IS ANTI-OPPRESSION?!

MONDAY, JUNE 14

The Youth Facilitator Network of PeerNet BC created a safe, respectful space to explore and build understandings of the roots of discrimination, how and why it happens, and what it has to do with us in the world today.

"This session taught me oppression is something present in many different forms and which comes at many different levels."



BEING GROUNDED IN STRANGENESS

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Past camper and cabin leader Meika (she/they) took participants on a journey through the wilderness of being ourselves! Together we gained practical tools for radical self-acceptance, setting boundaries, communicating, and creating rituals that support our wellness as we traverse towards our goals.

"I enjoyed learning a little more about how I can respect and take care of myself, so I can be the best version of me that I can be"

"I learned to not say 'sorry' for being myself and instead say 'thank you' to people for accepting and listening to me."



ALL ABOUT BOUNDARIES WITH YOUTHCO

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Bill and Emily are YouthCO sexual health educators. Through creative metaphors and visualizations, we delved into how we boundaries are experienced in our bodies, how they can keep us safe, why they exist and how they shift over time.

"I enjoyed the mindfulness break. I felt really relaxed, and it raised my mood."

"Sharing stories and examples of boundaries and their importance."



NATURE ACTIVITY

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

Past camper Rockie created a space for reconnecting with nature from a virtual setting! We shared scientific facts and stories with plants and animals. This reminded us of how our relations with the natural world can teach us to be awesome versions of ourselves.

"I learnt some new facts about nature!"



MOVE ME: D.I.Y. FITNESS

MONDAY, JUNE 28

UBC alumni Savoy Williams invited campers to explore "do it yourself fitness," combining creativity and active movement to plan a fitness experience inspired by how we each move through the world!

"I got to learn a fresh approach to fitness!"



TWO-SPIRIT STORYTELLING

THURSDAY, JULY 1

Beadworker, poet, and storyteller Jean Baptiste, from Northern BC, shared a fun and interactive storytelling session to explore what Two-Spirit is and expand our understandings. Open discussion and facilitated activities created a sense of community. Traditional stories also helped us integrate our contemporary understanding of what it means to exist within the current Canadian colonial context.

"I really enjoyed hearing stories from Jean that helped me learn more about 2S people."

"I enjoyed meeting and talking with youth across the province during these meetings."



BODY WISDOM: BEFRIENDING YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM

FRIDAY, JULY 2

Kootenay-based camp alumni Axel McGown helped us through our pandemic blues by teaching us to tune in to the rhythms of regulation in our bodies. Campers were stoked for a space to talk about feelings and gain tools and confidence in themselves from Axel and each other. This session was incredibly lively and calming at the same time!

"I enjoyed listening to people's experiences."

"I enjoyed learning about the vagus nerve."

"I liked the breathing and grounding exercises."



LET'S CHAT ABOUT NEUROLOGICAL DISABILITIES

SATURDAY, JULY 3

2019 Camper Gabriela collaborated with UBC Equity Office staff and PeerNet BC to facilitate this discussion-based workshop space for youth to ask questions, share experiences, and learn about disability justice and allyship. Youth appreciated large discussions and breakout room where they dived deeper into sharing, and celebrating intersections between gender, sexuality diversity, and neurodiversity.

"It was useful to learn that I wasn't the only one that experienced the intersectionality when it came to neurological disabilities."

"I learned that it's okay to be weird."



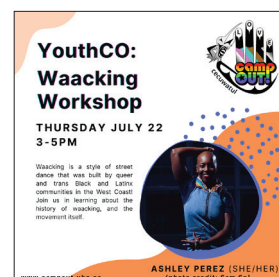
WAACKING WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, JULY 22

Ashley Perez taught us about the Black and Latinx roots of this 70's west coast underground dance style. We learned basic moves of a dance form deeply rooted in queer and trans self-expression and resilience. And we danced!

"This session was so uplifting and positive from the very first moment. I honestly enjoyed it probably the most!"

"I learned that waacking exists and has a history of being used to process and express oppression."



STICK IT TO 'EM!

SATURDAY, JULY 24

Haida educator and organizer Laura Gaaysiigaad Cuthbert showed us the steps of art-making, digitizing, and printing! We designed stickers learning techniques to make art eye-catching and easy to read, connected with new friends, and received mailed copies of our stickers in the mail to share!

"Doodling and sharing art ideas with other people"

"Talking/being with other 2SLGBTQ+ people"



More About UBC CampOUT!

A SUMMER CAMP FOR 2SLGBTQ+ YOUTH TO CELEBRATE AND BE CELEBRATED FOR WHO THEY ARE.

CampOUT! began in 2009 as a four-day summer camp to provide a safe, joyful experience for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and Two-Spirit youth. Developed with and for 2SLGBTQ+ youth, the camp is a place where their identities are accepted and supported.

Over 12 years, the program has grown into a robust, inclusive camp, multi-day cabin leader training, and year-round resource for community partners, families and camp participants. The program directly responds to the needs of its participants and highlights intergenerational learning and interaction. Additionally, it works to mitigate barriers that youth and young adults face in accessing medical care, housing, education, and employment while fostering a sense of community and belonging.

UBC's Faculty of Education is committed to bold and daring research and teaching. The Faculty's initiatives and programming respond to changing contexts and challenges, overcome barriers to education, sustain diverse learning and enhance community engagement support and administration. **CampOUT!** brings together the Faculty's mandates for anti-racism, Indigenous education, and inclusive education by offering financially accessible, relational, anti-racist, land-based, social justice education and recreation.

Following the UN rights for Indigenous Peoples, the UBC strategic plan, and the UBC Indigenous strategic plan, **CampOUT!** fosters partnerships and builds relationships

with Indigenous peoples and communities. We explicitly recruit and welcome Indigenous, racialized, and disabled campers, cabin leaders and community mentors, offer culturally appropriate and supportive programming, and foster dialogue among our communities and our partners.

The Faculty of Education is **CampOUT!'s** institutional home, with additional support from the UBC Office of the VP, Students. While the Faculty provides continuing UBC infrastructure and administrative support, more than half of the operational funding for the camp comes from community and corporate donors.

CampOUT! has grown into a robust, inclusive camp, multi-day cabin leader training, and year-round resource for community partners, families and camp participants.



Data and Demographic Graphs



14 workshops
hosted by diverse and innovative facilitators across British Columbia



417 registrations
to our virtual workshops in 2021.

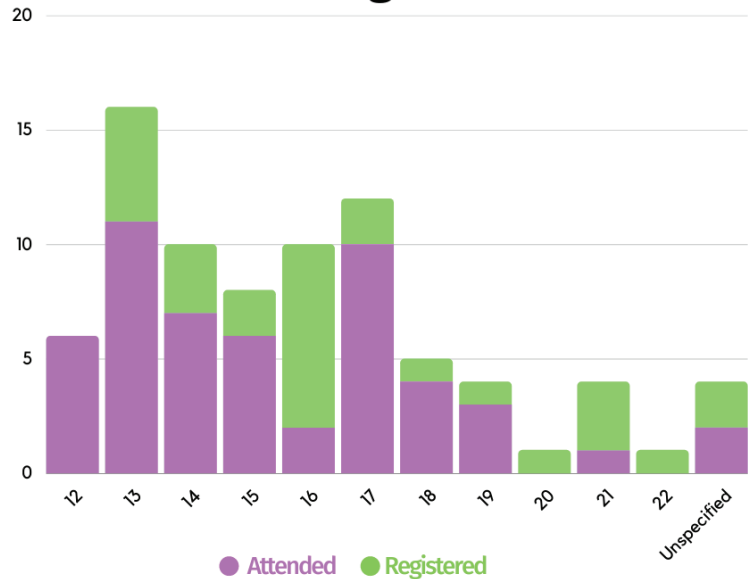


164 attendances
to all of our virtual workshops in 2021.

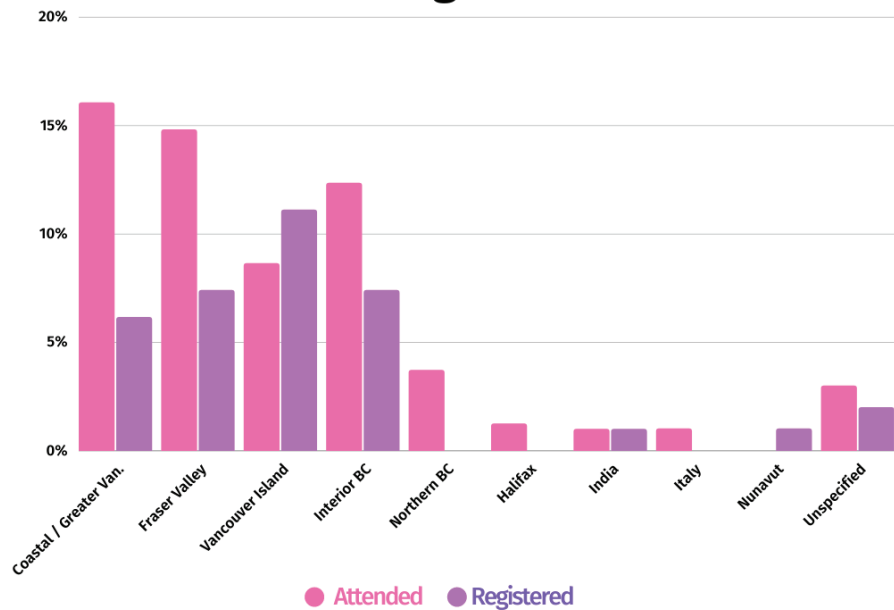


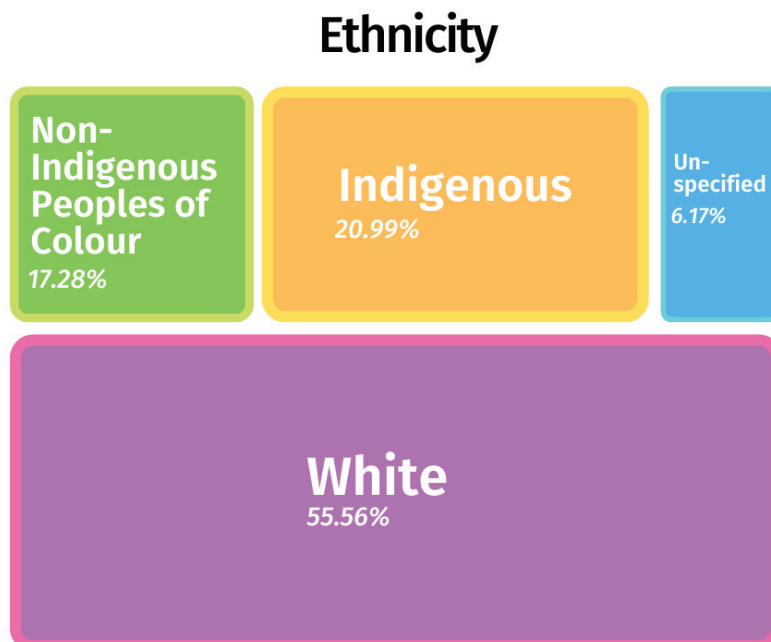
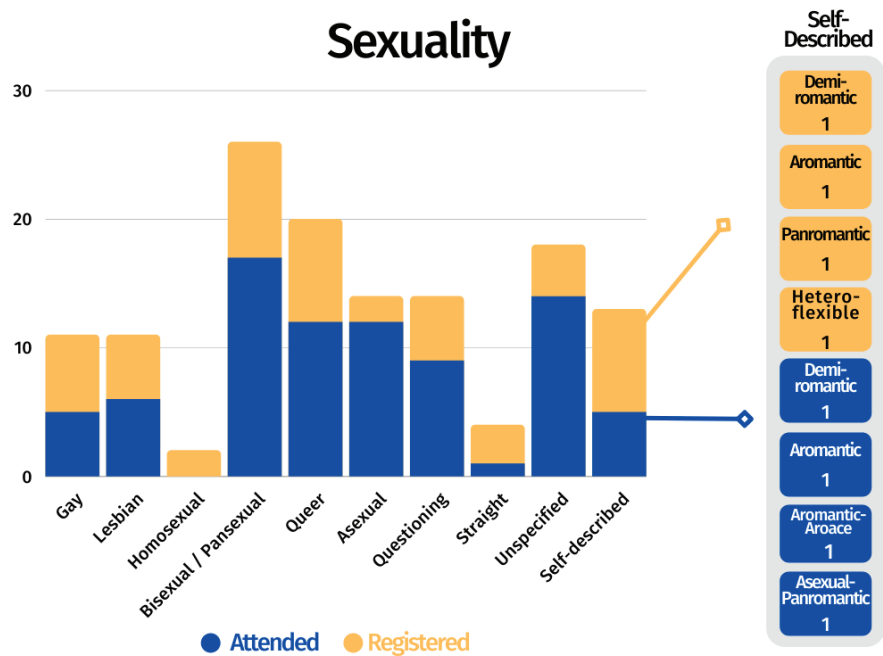
92 percent
of respondents from our virtual workshop attendees would
recommend an in-person camp
to a friend!

Age



Region







Thank you for being part of UBC CampOUT!

ANNA WHITE
CAMP DIRECTOR, CAMPOUT!

OUR INFRASTRUCTURAL HOME & SUPPORTING UNITS

VP Students UBC
Alumni UBC
UBC Faculty of Education

Thank you to our many outstanding donors, members of the Community Advisory Committee, brilliant camp leaders, and of course our amazing campers!

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

CLICK for Kids
Kiwanis Club of Vancouver
Scotiabank
Tegan and Sarah Foundation
Trek Bikes
UBC Centre for Community Engagement
(CUES – explore grant and
Partnership Recognition Fund)
UBC Work Learn Program

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BC Teachers Federation
BCCDC
Camp Fircom
Freedom Quest Youth Services
Indian Residential School Survivor's Society
Out in Schools
PeerNet BC
Qmunity
Rain Awakens Designs
SOGI UBC
TransCare BC – Provincial Health Services Authority
UBC Arts
UBC Equity and Inclusion
Uncovering Brilliance, Transforming Racism
YouthCO

"This is awesome! I really wish I could have attended more sessions. I only meet with other queer youth very rarely if at all so this was a nice thing to participate in over the summer. Thank you and hope to be a part of this next year!"