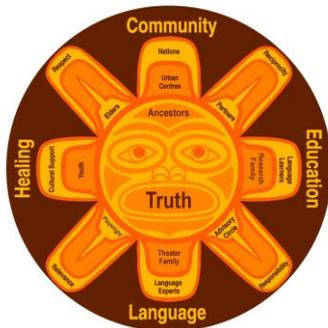




Indigenous/Xwulmuxw Studies



Robyn Gray,  
Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer,  
Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools,  
395 Wakesiah Avenue  
Nanaimo, BC, V9R 3K6

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear Superintendent Gray & SD68 Board of Trustees,

Please accept this cover letter as an introduction to our applied theatre research project, *Scenes from the Nanaimo Indian Hospital: Re-awakening Hul'q'umin'um', Nuu-chah-nulth, and Kwak'wala Languages through Theatre* (SNIH) as well as to our leadership team.<sup>1</sup>

Since our first full-scale performances—both matinee and evening—at the Port Theatre on January 31st, followed by presentations in Courtenay and Campbell River, and concluding with a final performance at Malaspina Theatre on Vancouver Island University's campus last March, we have received numerous inquiries. High school educators from major urban centers, as well as First Nations communities across the island, have reached out to explore bringing the play to their students and communities. Our Partner Organizations which provided Letters of Support are listed on the Port Theatre program.

The Executive Director of the Port Theatre, David Warburton, has invited our SNIH Research Team to reprise the play as part of their *Spotlight Series* from November 3rd to 6th. In support of this initiative, the Port Theatre has generously offered the pro bono use of their venue, as well as the labor of their theatre technicians. Additionally, Port Theatre Bookings and Programs Coordinator, Maya Wilson, has offered to liaise with SD68 staff to coordinate transportation, ensuring SD68 high school students have access to these performances. At this stage in the year,

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<sup>1</sup> Appended are the following: Port Theatre Program with bios for SNIH Research Team, cast and crew, a Power Point presentation for the School Board meeting, and a Letter of Support from the Kwasun Society.



Vancouver Island University  
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On Snuneymuxw, Quw'utsun, Tla'Amin, Snaw'naw'as, Qualicum &  
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we believe there is sufficient time to align this opportunity with semester curriculum planning and to integrate it into Professional Development workshops, which our SNIH Research Team is prepared to facilitate.

However, at present, we do not have the necessary funding to pay the actors, and without financial support, we will not be able to proceed with the November 5th performance. The total project expenses amount to **\$5,120**, covering key costs such as actor stipends, honoraria for Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and workshop development for school faculty. The breakdown of costs is as follows:

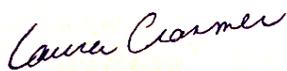
- **Community Actors:** \$2,520 (10 actors at \$28/hr, including MERCs, for 9 hours)
- **Workshop Series for School Faculty (Development from Media Materials):** \$1,400 (5 staff at \$28/hr, including MERCs, for 10 hours)
- **Honoraria for Elders and Knowledge Keepers:** \$1,200 (\$400 per person x 3 people)

We are actively writing grants to secure funding for these costs, but at this time, we do not have confirmed financial support in place. While we recognize that SD68 is operating under fiscal constraints, we also acknowledge the educational value of this artistic expression, which sheds light on a difficult chapter of our collective colonial history—one that unfolded on the very lands of the school district. This project is ultimately for the benefit of SD68 students.

Given the scale of the production, we are writing to inquire about potential funding support to help bring this important work to the stage in November. Additionally, we are seeking a **Letter of Support from SD68** to accompany our grant application for the **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connections Grant**, which will be submitted to seek funding for this project as well. We would need the Letter of Support by **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

We appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to the possibility of collaborating on this initiative.

Gilakas'la,



Laura Ann Cranmer, phd |she/her/hers  
Principal Researcher/Playwright  
Professor, Indigenous/Xwulmuxw Studies  
(retired)  
Faculty of Education: Honorary Research  
Associate  
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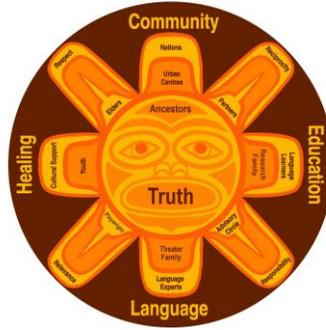
Amanda Claudia Wager, phd |she/her/hers  
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