

See message below on behalf of Darren Dahl, Dean, UBC Sauder School of Business:

I'm pleased to announce that Dennis Thomas "Whonoak" (he/him) will be joining us as the Executive Director, Indigenous Business Initiatives and Engagement, starting August 28, 2023.



Dennis is a member of səliiwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) in Deep Cove, North Vancouver. He also has ancestral ties to Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), Welsh ancestry and close familial ties to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Nation). His traditional name "Whonoak" means caretaker of a river. Dennis is deeply connected to his community and culture, where he serves as an elected councillor for his Nation.

Dennis has an MBA from SFU and brings 15+ years of professional experience from his work with his community, Tsleil-Waututh Nation. During that time, he led new business opportunities and explored future business partnerships, programs and projects. He has extensive experience Indigenous business initiatives – from large residential developments to sports facilities. As an active community member, Dennis has served on various Boards of Directors, including the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Museum of Vancouver and City of Vancouver UNDRIP Task Force.

Dennis prides himself on bringing people together and is committed to leave a legacy that strengthens Indigenous peoples and, in turn, strengthens our entire society. Dennis has won several awards for his work including the 2022 Enduring Award from Capilano University Alumni Awards of Excellence, 2021 Business in Vancouver's Top 40 Under 40, 2021 Award for Planning Excellence in the category of Planning for Reconciliation by Canadian Institute of Planners for the Heather Lands project.

In his free time, Dennis enjoys spending his time with family – his wife and two young daughters as well as his large extended family. He also loves to travel and play sports.

We look forward to seeing the impact that Dennis is sure to have on the UBC Sauder community and Indigenous Business Education! Please join me in welcoming Dennis Thomas “Whonoak” to our team.

Sincerely,

Darren