

**Media Release**

May 11, 2022

**IMPACT Sustainability Travel & Tourism Conference  
Recognizes author and Robert Sandford, United Nations University  
Institute for Water, Environment and Explore Songhees with the 2022  
IMPACT Awards**

**Traditional territories of the Lkwungen peoples (Victoria, BC)** - The founders of the [IMPACT Sustainability Travel & Tourism Conference](#) are pleased to recognize author and visionary Robert Sandford and Indigenous tourism territorial management organization, Explore Songhees each with an IMPACT Sustainability Award in 2022.

Presented during the IMPACT conference, the awards recognizes individuals and organizations who lead and inspire others to foster positive impacts for communities, our economy, the environment while seeking ways to support the revitalization of our wildlife, cultures and natural spaces.

Sandford has attended and spoken at IMPACT each year, setting the stage for important discussions. He holds the Chair in Water and Climate Security at the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health. In this capacity he was the co-author of the UN [Water in the World We Want](#) report on post-2015 global sustainable development goals relating to water. Sandford is also lead author of *Canada in the Global World*, a new United Nations expert report examining the capacity of Canada's water sector to meet and help others meet the United Nations 2030 *Transforming Our World* water-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Explore Songhees is owned and managed by the Songhees First Nation, and was created to ensure the stories and meaningful cultural experiences which abound within the traditional territories of the Lkwungen Peoples on Southern Vancouver Island are authentic and accessible to all who are welcomed here. [www.exploresonghees.com](http://www.exploresonghees.com)

Each recipient was presented with an original painting by local Indigenous artist Arthur Vickers. In a highly distinctive and personal method, Vickers transforms traditional designs into modern works of art that are eagerly sought by serious collectors around the world. Born in British Columbia, Vickers spent his early childhood years in the coastal Tsimshian village of Kitkatla. Vickers' mother was of English and Canadian heritage and his father was of Heiltsuk, Tsimshian

and Haida First Nations ancestry. In recognition of his art, his many contributions to charities and his role in sustaining Indigenous heritage, Vickers received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the University of Victoria in 2006. In 2008 he received the Order of British Columbia followed by a Distinguished Alumni award from Camosun College in 2010.

### **About the IMPACT Sustainability Travel & Tourism Conference**

[IMPACT Sustainability Travel & Tourism Conference](#) was created with the goal of aligning the Canadian tourism industry, as well as stakeholders and communities touched by tourism, behind a vision to achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability. Co-founded by [Synergy Enterprises](#), [Beattie Tartan](#), Starrboard Enterprises, and [Destination Greater Victoria](#), it is held annually at the Victoria Conference Centre, a certified carbon neutral facility in Victoria, BC. Destination Greater Victoria is also the first destination management organization in Canada to become fully accredited as carbon neutral, a significant feat accomplished during the last 18 months.

IMPACT's focus is on creating a collaborative space to to learn, innovate, and discover valid and practical solutions toward the positive legacy we want from the tourism and travel industry in a modern and progressive Canada. It is a safe place where theory meets practice, and where all voices and levels of expertise are welcome. Having strong Indigenous and new Canadian voices at the conference is also a critical component of the discussion.

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