



# PADDLES & WINGS

NAVIGATING TOGETHER, SOARING FORWARD

## Message from the President

Éy swáyel

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you were able to take a break over the holiday season and spend time with those you love.

As we look ahead to the year before us, there is also much to celebrate from 2025. I extend my thanks to our outstanding UFV Communications Team for their [Year in Review tribute](#) highlighting the many moments and milestones of the past year.

As we begin the Winter Academic Term, I am pleased to share a few updates to help bring our community together — to share, celebrate, and stay connected. When we are informed and engaged, we move forward not just as individuals, but as changemakers across the many communities we serve.

Kw'as hoy

**Dr. James Mandigo**

## **Budget Updates**

A second Budget Town Hall will take place on Friday, January 23, 2026, from 2–3 pm in the Atrium at CEP Building A on our Chilliwack campus. The session will provide an update on progress to date in developing the 2026/27 operating budget, which is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Governors in March.

This session is open to all members of the university community, including employees and students. Participants may attend in person on the Chilliwack campus or virtually via Zoom, and can [register to attend here](#). We encourage members of the UFV community to participate in this important conversation about our university's financial future.

A dedicated webpage has also been established outlining [UFV's Plan for Financial Sustainability](#). This publicly accessible resource includes updates and information related to the development of the 2026/27 operating budget, as UFV responds to a \$22.5M shortfall in tuition revenues resulting from recent federal changes to Canada's immigration policies.

## **BC Post-Secondary Sector Sustainability Review**

Minister Jessie Sunner [announced](#) on November 25, 2025, that the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills has launched a review of the financial sustainability of British Columbia's publicly supported post-secondary institutions.

As outlined in the [Terms of Reference](#):

"Presently, most PPSIs are under mounting operational and financial pressure due to several compounding challenges. Rising operational costs, including above-average inflation combined with abrupt, large-scale revenue losses from unilateral changes from the federal government, have created substantial

pressures for most institutions at a time when many were still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic. The system is not structured to adapt quickly in response to such dramatic shifts in the financial environment.”

The independent review is being led by Don Avison, KC, former BC deputy minister and former board chair of Emily Carr University of Art + Design. The report will include recommendations to guide the government’s work to ensure the post-secondary system remains accessible, affordable, sustainable, and aligned with provincial economic priorities. Minister Sunner has also emphasized that the province is not currently in a financial position to add new resources to the sector, and that the review will therefore focus primarily on identifying efficiencies within the system.

Presidents from the Pacific Association of Canadian Institutes and Universities (PACIU), of which UFV is a member, met with Mr. Avison on December 18 to provide input into the review and its recommendations. The final report is scheduled to be delivered to the government by March 15, 2026.

## **Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) Allocation for 2026**

As previously announced in the Federal Budget this past November, the Canadian government is cutting the number of study permits it will approve in half starting in 2026 and continuing through 2028.

For 2026, the federal government has allocated British Columbia 32,596 study permit application spaces. This represents a 57% cut from the 2025 allocation of 76,087, which follows a 40% cut to British Columbia's undergraduate allocation in 2025 compared to 2024.

For 2026, BC's public institutions have been allocated 80% of the total number of available PALs. UFV's PAL allocation for 2026 is 928. This represents a 48% drop from the 2025 PAL allocation and 64% drop compared to the 2024 PAL allocation.

## **Winter Semester Enrolments**

Credit-based domestic registrations continue to be strong for 2026 Winter term (+2.4%) compared to 2025 numbers. However, the total number of international students continues to decline (-41%), particularly for new incoming international students, which is down 50%. The number of students from India continues to lead the way at 74% of registered international students, followed by Nigeria (3.8%), Nepal (3.2%), Vietnam (1.6%), and China (1.4%). Note: Data as of January 5, 2026.



# Campus and Community Highlights

## Flood Response

Once again, the Fraser Valley was impacted by severe flooding due to atmospheric rivers. Flooding from the Nooksack River in Washington State led to a 4-day closure of the Trans-Canada Highway. Although UFV's infrastructure was not directly impacted by the flooding, the inability of employees and students to travel to our campuses led to the postponement of final exams and classes on December 5 and 6.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all members of the UFV community who met this challenging situation with care and compassion. Members of UFV's Emergency Operations Committee were in constant communication throughout the crisis with local authorities to ensure we had access to up-to-date information to assist us in making evidence-informed decisions that prioritized everyone's safety. I would also like to thank the faculty members whose exams and classes were impacted for their flexibility and adaptability to accommodate students, and to all employees who checked in on each other and supported one another during this crisis facing our community.

For those who are able to support, the Abbotsford Disaster Relief Fund has been reactivated by the [Abbotsford Community Foundation](#) to receive

donations for those in need of help. Here is their link: [Abbotsford Disaster Relief Fund](#).

## **Capital Projects Update**

UFV's spectacular new 398-bed student housing complex Lá:léms Ye EverGreen has officially opened!

This new student housing project will fundamentally change the on-campus experience for our students and bring renewed energy to the Abbotsford Campus.

As we plan for full occupancy in the Fall of 2026 across all our student housing buildings, students currently in student housing have been relocated to the new Lá:léms Ye EverGreen complex this winter to allow repairs to Lá:lem te Baker.





The Cascade Café expansion and renovation is now fully complete, including the second-floor addition, which features a woven wood ceiling, glass salmon wall, and round skylights. This expansion has doubled the size of the dining hall and increased seating capacity from 121 to 350 seats.





Congratulations to the [Capital Projects Team](#) on their leadership throughout the entire construction process of these major capital projects.

## **Day ONE Welcome Event**

On January 2, UFV welcomed new and returning students to campus for Day ONE, an engaging and informative event designed to help students start the semester feeling connected and supported. Students had the opportunity to meet faculty and staff, learn about campus services and student clubs, connect with peers in their programs, and take part in campus tours as they began their academic journey at UFV. Thank you to the Student Experience Office and Team Orientation for your hard work delivering Day ONE!

[View photos from the Day ONE event here.](#)



## Special Shout-Outs

- Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's [Giving Tuesday](#). This year, we raised \$26,436 for the UFV Community Annual Bursary and other vital areas of support that provide meaningful assistance to students facing financial barriers.
- Congratulations to [UFV Theatre's performance](#) of the [Moth Boy](#) that ran November 27–December 6, 2025.
- [Amrit Khullar and Toni McNamee](#) were recognized by [Canadian Security Lifesaver Association \(CSLA\)](#) for administering lifesaving support to an individual found unconscious in the bushes near the Rogers Forum. Because of their actions, the individual received the medical care required for their survival.
- Thank you to Dr. Awneet Sivia, who stepped into the role of Acting Vice-Provost while UFV conducted its search for the next Provost and Vice-President, Academic. Also, thank you to Dr. Maureen Wideman, who came out of retirement to assume her previous role as Acting Associate Vice-President for Teaching and Learning while Awneet served in her acting role.



## Upcoming events with the President

The following are some of the events where the President is scheduled to attend. Check out the [UFV Events page](#) for the latest updates.

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## **FRIDAY, JAN 30**

### **Restaurant Wars: The Better Plate**

5 pm, UFV Trades and Technology Centre

[Visit the event webpage for information and tickets.](#)

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## **FRIDAY, FEB 6**

### **Restaurant Wars: The Whisk Takers**

5 pm, UFV Trades and Technology Centre

[Visit the event webpage for information and tickets.](#)

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## **FEBRUARY 2026**

### **President Leadership Lecture Series — Changemaking**

More details to come.

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## **FRIDAY, MAR 6**

### **President's Leadership Lecture Series - International Women's Day**

More details to come.

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## **MARCH 19–28**

**UFV Theatre presents The Secret in the Wings**

[Visit the event webpage for information and tickets.](#)

## Questions or ideas?

Have a question you'd like answered in the next newsletter, or want to share feedback or story ideas? Email the President's Office.

**Share your question or idea**

The University of the Fraser Valley is situated on the territory of the Stó:lō peoples. The Stó:lō have an intrinsic relationship with what they refer to as S'olh Temexw (Our Sacred Land). We express our gratitude and respect for the honour of living, learning, and working in this territory.

