



PADDLES & WINGS

NAVIGATING TOGETHER, SOARING FORWARD

Message from the President

Éy swáyel

Welcome to the second edition of Paddles and Wings. The purpose of this newsletter is to 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 that we serve. A lot has happened over the past couple of months, so we want to provide you with some important updates and information.

Kw'as hoy

Dr. James Mandigo



UFV internationally recognized as a Changemaker Campus

On September 24, the Ashoka Network announced that the University of the Fraser Valley received international recognition as a Changemaker Campus. This distinguished designation underscores UFV's ongoing commitment to advancing social responsibility, innovation, and leadership within its community of students, faculty, and staff as outlined in this Op-Ed published in several media outlets. As a designated Changemaker Campus, UFV becomes part of a group of institutions globally devoted to enabling individuals to effect positive change locally and internationally. Thanks to CHASI (the Community Health and Social Innovation Hub) which is leading many of UFV's Changemaking initiatives.

We look forward to growing this work together, including through the President's Leadership Lecture Series in Winter 2026, which will explore the theme of Changemaking and invite our campuses and community to engage, learn, and be inspired.

St'elt'elawtexw

UFV celebrated its third annual St'elt'elawtexw (meaning "community" in Halq'eméylem) Report celebrating UFV's deep engagement with the Fraser Valley region and its commitment to transformation through education, research, and collaboration. Community members from across the Fraser

Valley joined UFV in a night of celebration at our Mission Campus on September 24. You can read this year's exciting report here: [St'elt'elawtexw](#).

Open House

Over 2,000 individuals registered to attend this year's Open House at the Abbotsford campus on October 18. We extend our sincere appreciation to the faculty, staff, students, and alumni whose efforts contributed to making this event an outstanding opportunity to present our university to the broader community.



Budget Updates

Federal budget update (excerpt from President's November Senate Report)

On November 4, the federal government released its federal Budget 2025 (available [here](#)). While there appear to be some important investments for Canadian universities to support research and infrastructure as outlined by [Universities Canada](#), the federal government continues to further limit the number of international students permitted to enter the country and study at post-secondary institutions. According to a [recent article by ApplyBoard](#), the anticipated number of study permits to be issued by IRCC in 2025 is 80,000. To put this in perspective, the total number forecasted under the new “cap” system through the Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) program was 316,276 for 2025. That equates to only 25% of the forecasted intake of new international students in Canada this year and would represent the lowest intake in over a decade.

As part of the federal budget announcement, the Canadian government announced it is further cutting the number of study permits it will approve **in half** starting in 2026 and continuing through 2028. While the details and implementation around this announcement are still being communicated and

understood (see [here](#) for Universities Canada's statement), it is reasonable to assume the federal government continues to be committed to reducing immigration levels, particularly the number of international students it will allow to enter the country and study at a Designated Learning Institution in Canada. This assumption is supported by the following statement in the budget: "New international student arrivals have also declined by approximately 60 per cent compared to 2024. This is a start, but we recognize there is more work to do" (p. 96).

UFV budget update (excerpt from President's November Senate Report)

As I outlined in our Budget Town Hall on October 7 ([click here for the video](#)), the impact of these immigration policies has had a significant financial impact on UFV's revenue projections for the 2026-27 budget and beyond. Recent federal policies limiting international study permits suggest these restrictions will remain in place for some time.

UFV is required through legislation to develop a balanced budget for the Board of Governors to consider each year. Members of UFV's Senior Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC) have been meeting on a regular basis to review and incorporate mitigation strategies to address the anticipated \$20 million gap between revenues and expenses, which is a result of the \$22.5 million loss in

tuition revenues from international students starting in 2026. Members of SRAC and the Faculty and Staff Association (FSA) have also been meeting at the Labour and Management (LAM) Committee to provide updates and discuss potential solutions to the anticipated budget shortfall. Updates on the progress of the 2026-27 Budget are available [here](#) including a [Financial Sustainability FAQ page](#). I would like to thank all members of the UFV community who submitted ideas to address our projected budget shortfall for 2026-27. We have put together a summary of the key themes from this feedback and how they are being addressed (click [here](#)).

Historic trades training announcement

On November 14, Premier David Eby and Minister of Post-Secondary and Future Skills Jessie K. Sunner [announced](#) that the Province of British Columbia is making a historic \$241 million investment in Trades Training over three years to strengthen B.C.'s trades training system. This funding will double current trades training funding through SkilledTradesBC to create tens of thousands of new apprenticeship training spaces, provide more funding per trades seat, and help reduce waitlists to enable more access to apprenticeship training.

Provost search

After an extensive search, Dr. Tracy Ryder Glass has been appointed as Provost and Vice-President, Academic at UFV. She has held the position on an interim basis since July 1, 2025, and will begin her official five-year term on January 1, 2026. Dr. Ryder Glass has significant senior academic leadership experience in both Ontario and British Columbia, joining UFV in 2014 as Dean of the Faculty of Professional Studies and becoming Vice-Provost in 2021. Currently, she is serving her second term as Acting Provost and Vice-President, Academic. Congratulations to Dr. Tracy Ryder Glass!

Entrance scholarship recipient reception

On October 6, I was pleased to host a special reception recognizing UFV's 2025 Entrance Scholarship recipients — more than 50 outstanding students in total. The event celebrated their academic achievements and created an opportunity for both new and returning recipients to connect with one another as they continue their university journey. Students also learned more about scholarship renewal criteria and ways to stay engaged with UFV throughout their studies.

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming these exceptional learners, whose dedication, curiosity, and commitment to excellence truly embody the spirit of UFV.

Speaking on “Character in Leadership”

On November 6, I was pleased to join Character Abbotsford for a community discussion on *Character in Leadership*, attended by more than 120 participants, including leadership classes from four local high schools: Dasmesh Punjabi School, W.J. Mouat, Rick Hansen, and Abbotsford Senior. Together, we explored what it means to define character in the context of leadership, build a culture of trust, and unite diverse communities around shared values.

My thanks to Character Abbotsford for creating these opportunities to inspire character, equip emerging leaders, and strengthen our community. [Read more in the Abbotsford News.](#)

Installation

I extend my gratitude to all who participated in planning and supporting my recent installation ceremony as President and Vice-Chancellor (click [here](#) for the ceremony video). During my installation [speech](#), I emphasized the vital role diversity plays at UFV, recognizing it as one of our greatest assets. In an era where many forces seek to use diversity as a source of division, we have a unique opportunity to lead by example, not only within our institution, but throughout the broader community, demonstrating the potential that emerges

when everyone is given the opportunity to excel. I look forward to collaborating with all members of our university community, fostering an environment of belonging, and advancing a brighter future enriched by the diversity present within and among us.



Special shout-outs

- Thank you to Dr. Satwinder Bains for her many years of contribution at UFV, who officially retired as the founding Director for the South Asian Studies Institute.
- Congratulations to Greg Elford, who is this year's recipient of the UFV Betty Urquhart Award.
- Thank you to FortisBC and BC Hydro who were recently recognized as Ripplemakers, where each organization was presented with a Lifetime Paddle Award by our Relationship and Fund Development team, in recognition of cumulative lifetime giving to UFV.
- Congratulations to Drs. Lauren Erland, Javad Hadian, Michael Hitch, Faisal Naeem, and Christophe Schinckus who were recognized on the

2025 Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientists list, a global ranking of the world's most influential researchers.

- The UFV Retirees Association has officially launched its new website.
- Congratulations to Mateo Branzinha who was named 2025 U SPORTS and Canada West Men's Soccer Player of the Year.
- Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Cascades Giving Day. We raised over \$134,000 to support UFV athletes and campus recreation programs!
- Special thanks to the Library who hosted its 4th Annual Student Welcome Back event on October 21. This year's theme was *Celebrating the Contributions of Black Peoples in Canada*. The event included a panel featuring Dr. Edward Akuffo, Blessing Maksha-Achoba, Sarah Eke, Dr. Opeyemi Adesina, Joshua Egwutera and moderated by Margaret Waruiru. Mike Joko also read a passage from his book *Grand Vitaah's Toreey*.
- Congratulations to the Student Union Society who recently celebrated their 30th Anniversary!



Upcoming events with the President

The following are some of the events where the President is scheduled to attend.

TUESDAY, NOV 25

UFV Retirement Dinner

5:30 pm, Clarion Hotel

Purchase tickets through Human Resources.

THURSDAY, NOV 27 TO SATURDAY, DEC 6

UFV Theatre presents *Moth Boy* by Peihwen J. Tai

Abbotsford campus

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

FRIDAY, NOV 28

Indigenous Art Installation Ceremony

12 pm, Mission campus library

FRIDAY, DEC 5

**Vigil for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence
Against Women**

12 pm, Abbotsford campus (between buildings A and B)

[Details will be on the UFV Events page soon.](#)

TUESDAY, DEC 9

Provost and VP Academic Faculty and Staff Holiday Gathering

2 pm, Chilliwack campus, Gathering Place

THURSDAY, DEC 11

Provost and VP Academic Faculty and Staff Holiday Gathering

2 pm, Abbotsford campus, Building E, Gym Atrium

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.

