

MEMO

FROM: Tracy Ryder Glass, Acting Provost & Vice President Academic
DATE: March 6, 2026
RE: Provost Report to Senate

This month's report highlights UFV's continued commitment to engaging learners, transforming lives, and building community. Across faculties and campuses, students, staff, and faculty are advancing impactful scholarship, strengthening partnerships, and supporting community collaborative learning experiences.

There was a strong emphasis on student and community engagement this past month which saw two College of Arts students represent Canada and UFV at the Global Peace Summit in Bangkok, earning appointments as Humanitarian Affairs Peace Ambassadors. Math Mania engaged 70 middle-school students; Elder College participants joined KIN 315 students for applied biomechanics lab assessments; and Indigenous high school students took part in hands-on biology lab experiences.

Faculty presented at national and international conferences, published new research on pain care, physical activity imagery for postpartum women, scientific literacy, and exercise addiction. And students participated in Semá:th Learning Day to deepen understanding of the history and lasting impacts of Sumas Lake.

UFV also celebrated the launch of the Open Education Strategy as part of Open Education Week. This strategy outlines UFV's long-term commitment to accessibility, collaboration, learner-centredness, inclusivity, equity, and sustainability.

Please read on to learn more about the inspiring work our UFV community is collectively doing. And of course, a warm thank you to all who have engaged in this work and have contributed to this report.

Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.

The S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery presented "Can I Get a Mortgage Please?", an exhibition by UFV School of Creative Arts BFA alumna Allie Risley (2021). The exhibition explored housing affordability, development pressures, and emotional memory in the Fraser Valley.

The English Department welcomed Governor General's Award-winning author Sadiqa de Meijer for a public reading at the UFV Library Maker Space. Funded by a TIPP Changemaker grant, her visit included classroom engagement and a reading from her recent essay collection "In The Field" and forthcoming poetry collection Qaf's People, strengthening student exposure to nationally recognized literary voices.

Rob Taylor, Assistant Professor (English), is leading preparations for the April launch of the 2026 edition of The Loudon Singletree, UFV's student literary magazine, providing publication and editorial experience for emerging writers.

The Architectural Drafting class attended BUILDEx Vancouver at the Vancouver Convention Centre, connecting with Western Canada's building and construction industries.

Jelena Brcic (Business) recently presented on Life in Space and how resilient humans are in extreme environments at Vancouver Science World on February 8.

The School of Computing launched Women in Tech on February 27 with an event in our new Advanced Computer Lab. Mandeep Pannu will be a guest speaker.

Karen Natho (KIN) welcomed seven Elder College community members to the KIN Lab in KIN 315 Biomechanics to complete balance assessments and comparisons for their second lab assignment and Dean Lara Duke spoke on the qualitative movement diagnosis framework and her work done with the para curling team.

Dr. Lenore Newman moderated a panel at the Future of Food Conference on Canada's Agriculture Day 2026, entitled *The Power to Deliver: Turning Ambition into Action for the Decade Ahead*, the event was held by FCC and Food and Beverage in Ottawa, ON, February 10, 2026

Congratulations to the PDQA and Working Groups for the MSc Biotechnology and Sustainability and the MSc Computer Sciences advancement to Stage 2.

CERA Faculty Associate Dr. Candace Couse, Associate Professor, School of Creative Arts (SoCA), has launched a project to establish Canada's first open-access digital archive dedicated to preserving professional artist-led health narratives, a perspective critically underrepresented in health humanities scholarship.

A Resource Guide for Women & 2SLGBTQIA+ Entrepreneurs in the Agri-Tech Industry, was prepared by the Food and Agriculture Institute, with support from the Abbotsford Community Foundation and as part of Sustainable Food Systems for Canada. With additional support and contributions from Genome BC and Genome Canada, Cameron James, Alara Cremer, and Alesandros Glaros.

Transforming Lives: Ayeqet kw'e shxwaylexws

Provide opportunities for people to discover, develop, and share their gifts while also recognizing and celebrating the gifts of others.

Dr. Mark Kersten (Assistant Professor, Criminology & Criminal Justice) was interviewed by CBC News regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices in Canada, contributing expert analysis on international justice and migration policy.

Dr. Wade Deisman (Associate Dean, Social Sciences) appeared on CBC's BC Today to discuss public concerns in Abbotsford related to extortion and public safety, offering evidence-based perspectives on community response and policy considerations.

Dr. Noah Schwartz (Political Science) provided expert commentary on Canada's federal gun buyback program through the Closer Look Podcast and was quoted in The Globe and Mail, contributing to national discussions on firearms policy and public safety.

Dr. Shirley Hardman, Associate Vice-President, Xwexwílmexwawt, visited the Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies Faculty Council along with her team and invited guests, including Elders, drummers, and speakers. The visit included a drumming ceremony and a blanketing ceremony honouring two of our faculty members as Indigenizers. While the blankets were presented to two individuals, the recognition reflected the collective work happening across our faculty.

The first in-person Bookkeeping for Small Business cohort at the Hope Campus concluded with five students successfully completing the program. All students were funded by BC's Future Skills Grant and all students expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend classes in person within their local community.

Teacher candidates participated in the Semá:th Learning Day. Si:yémiya (Sonny) McHalsie and Keith Carlson shared powerful insights into the history and lasting impacts of the draining of Semá:th Xó:tša (Sumas Lake) — an event that profoundly altered both the land and the lives of the people connected to it. Students learned about this history, including the harms that occurred and the resilience of the Semá:th people. It was a meaningful reminder that land and water are not simply physical resources, but are deeply connected to culture, health, identity, and belonging.

Dr. Emilio Landolfi recently had a scholarly article "Exercise Addiction in Organized vs. Self-Scheduled Exercisers: A Focus Group Study Among Post-Secondary Students in British Columbia" accepted for publication in *The Journal of Kinesiology and Exercise Sciences*.

Heather Campbell from the BSN program participated at the winter 'season' (session) of Moving in the Ways of the People. This was chosen as her PD activity and is being hosted by Dr. Denise Findlay (Squamish Nation) and master carvers, also from Squamish Nation. Heather is looking forward to her two remaining seasons, where she will finish carving and painting a cedar paddle in preparation for a canoe journey in what is known as the Burrard inlet.

Cherie Enns (Science) is an advisor to UN-Habitat and the Flourishing Project related to the Post-2030 SDG Agenda. This collaborative initiative includes UN-Habitat - Finland Strategic Partnership on SDG Localization and The Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University.

Building Community: Thayt kw'e st'elt'elawtexw

Collaborate and partner in pursuits that enrich the lives of all people on our campuses, in our local communities, and beyond.

Dr. Candace Couse (Associate Professor, Visual Arts – School of Creative Arts) is curating and facilitating Unsilenced Stories: Art as Witness in Health Research, an interdisciplinary exhibition presented by the Canadian Association for Health Humanities in partnership with SAW (Ottawa). The April 2026 juried exhibition will form part of the Creating Space 2026 national conference and will include a permanent digital archive. The project is supported by a 2025–2026 SSHRC Explore Grant.

An article profiling Dr. Edward Akuffo (Political Science), titled “How Edward Akuffo’s Curiosity Sparked New International Relations,” received a Silver Award (Best Multicultural Story) at the Canadian Online Publishing Awards, highlighting his academic leadership and international policy contributions. Thank you to Interfor, who donated over \$13,000 worth of lumber to directly support student learning in the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies.

The Professional Cook 1 (PC 1) class presented their annual Restaurant Wars over two Fridays—January 1 and February 6—in Rivers Dining. Both dinners sold out and featured excellent food and service. Congratulations to all the Professional Cook 1 students.

As a member of Abbotsford *Safe Relationships, Safe Children*, Drs. Rita Dhungel (SWHS) and Mark Littlefield (CYFS) co-organized a Lunch and Learn session with MCC on February 12.

Dr. Jason Brandenburg met with the Chair of Exercise Is Medicine On-Campus Canada to explore the development of an Exercise Is Medicine On-Campus (EIM-OC) chapter at the University of Fraser Valley.

Dr. Pizzirani was an invited expert panelist on CBC Radio’s program BC Today with host Michelle Eliot. The episode, titled “How will Canada’s GST rebate help you?”, discussed affordability measures announced by Prime Minister Mark Carney, including a GST rebate aimed at helping Canadian families.

As of January, stable date, there are over 70 countries represented among the international student population. Despite the downturn in overall international enrolments this year, we are on track to match or exceed last year’s KPI on diversity (which showed 13 countries with 10+ students represented in the international student population).

On February 19th SASI hosted a second Interfaith Lecture at the Sikh Heritage Museum, Gur Sikh Temple National Historic Site in Abbotsford. Dr. Asma Qadri presented a public lecture titled, *Exploring the tradition of Langar*.

Xwexwílmexwawt honoured Indigenizers at the UFV Faculty Councils in January and February 2026.

The Indigenous Student Centre is hosting a number of student cultural events in Spring – ribbon skirt workshops, cedar rose marking workshops, weekly hand drumming at the CEP campus.