

MEMO

FROM: Tracy Ryder Glass, Acting Provost & Vice President Academic

DATE: October 6, 2023

RE: Provost Report to Senate

As I write this report, many of us are making plans to spend the upcoming long weekend with family and friends to share a meal and to honour gratitude. And as we do so, it provides us with time to reflect upon recent events impacting our Stó:lō colleagues and friends.

On September 21st we heard the heart wrenching news shared by Xyólhmet Ye Syéwiqwélh (Taking Care of our Children) project regarding the atrocities committed at the St Mary's Residential School, Coqualeetza Residential School, All Hallows School, and Coqualeetza Indian Hospital. As a result, the list of documented children on the [National Residential School Memorial Registrar](#) who died as a direct result of attending residential schools across Canada continues to grow. Our hearts are with the Stó:lō community as they process this news and grieve.

To honour the *shxwelí* ("life spirit") of children lost to residential schools, survivors, and their families, UFV hosted the 2nd annual Chowiyes-Xwithet: Rise up, Wake up - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 29th. It was an emotionally charged afternoon that featured the bilingual Good Medicine Songs (in English and Halq'eméylem) where those that attended had the opportunity to hear, reflect, and sing together.

And as our Acting President shared in a previous message, "*We remind our university community that the work of Reconciliation involves everyone, and that succeeding in delivering on the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action](#) requires that we act together, moving forward in the spirit of Lets'e ó Sqwálewel (unity).*"

I express my gratitude to you all for your commitment to Reconciliation and for the work you do at UFV. And I also extend a warm thank you to the Academic Units who have engaged in the ongoing work to engage learners, change lives, and build community, and who have contributed to this report.

Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.

To mark two years since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, CHASI and members of the Afghan community staged a university walk-out. The focus was on supporting Afghan women, who have been banned from attending high school since September 2021 and university since December 2022. Afghan activist Sahar Maqsoodi joined the event, sharing the realities of the situation in her home country and the impact of such demonstrations of support. In addition, Fatema Ahmadi —a Fellow and Adjunct Professor at American University, School of Public Affairs — spoke on the CHASIcast about growing up and pursuing an education as a refugee, the restrictive laws Afghan women are subjected to, and how people in Afghanistan and around the world are pushing back.

Congratulations to Arts and Integrated Studies Assistant Professor Dr. Candy Ho was awarded the BCIT Distinguished Alumni Award 2023.

Upgrading and University Preparation is preparing for their upcoming BC Adult Basic Education Articulation. This includes ABE Science, Adult Literacy Fundamental and Social Science. The event takes place at Capilano University where in addition to articulating courses and reviewing outcomes, the collective groups will have presentations from BCCAT, BC ABE Steering Committee and potentially the BC Deans and Directors.

All 103 teacher candidates visited St. Mary's Residential School, as well engaged in an experiential lesson with Shirley Hardman, AVP Xwexwilmexwawt around the harmful effects of colonization.

The Certified Dental Assistant program worked with a representative from ADAC during the first week of clinical training who introduced dental equipment maintenance and patient operator ergonomics. There will also be a representative from the CDA professional association meeting with students in their professionalism course who will be discussing the role of a professional association and discuss the student leadership program that is available to our students.

With the assistance of Kinesiology sessional instructor Karen Natho, 6 student volunteers and 1 upper year student will lead a 9- week Community Boccia Program in partnership with and funded by the Chilliwack School Board.

UFV International is working in collaboration with University of Washington Tacoma (UWT) on a possible summer study abroad program designed for First Nations students. Our hope is that this would build on the success of other similar initiatives with Northern Arizona University and University of Hawaii at Manoa Outbound Field School.

UFV International continues to work with Institutional Research & Planning to identify indicators that could impact the percentage of non-grad leavers (aka "retention"). In each stable date report, our team looks at statistics for average credit CGPA as well as the percentage of students with a GPA above 2.0. Since 202009, these have been between 2.8 GPA and 2.9 for the former and 85% to 87% for the latter. Stats for the 202309 semester continue to fall within this range.

The students are back, and Libraries were there to welcome them back! The Student Engagement Working Group (SEWG) composed of the A/Student Engagement Librarian, Janelle Sztuhar, and Library

team members, Dan de Groot (CEP) and Samantha Gibbs (Abbotsford) along with representatives from SUS and the Pride Collective have been hard at work welcoming students back.

On Sept 30, CHASI and Rotary hosted the Exploring Equity speaker series at the Reach Gallery Museum. The Rotary Club of Abbotsford Sumas and UFV's Community Health and Social Innovation Hub are hosting a series of conversations around advancing equity in our community throughout fall 2023.

On Friday, Oct 13 from 8:30am-3:00pm – B101, Abbotsford campus | In celebration of the *International Day of the Older Person*, CERA will be hosting a full day of workshops, session, and a keynote speaker on Friday October 13th from 8:30am to 3:00pm in B101 (Abbotsford Campus). Refreshments and lunch will be generously sponsored by the City of Abbotsford.

From October 14th to November 18th, the Agricultural Literacy Program will be hosing Dig For Your Rights! at the Reach Gallery. This exhibition shares examples of art and artefacts from Dig for Your Rights!, a rights-based literary program that engages children and youth in inquiry-based explorations of food security. The Dig program—along with the Dress for Your Rights! program and A Flood of Stories (formerly the Flood Stories project)—is part of Dr. Michelle Superle's 20 Harvest Challenge. All three programs combine children's books, human rights, and artistic projects for climate hope as a way to empower children's participation in their community's sustainability endeavors.

UFV's new Centre for High-Pressure Research will open this fall thanks to \$530K in targeted funding. Dr. Jake Spooner and his co-applicants, including Professor Emeritus Dr. Noham Weinberg, received the funding for the only one of its kind in Canada. Read more: <https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2023/08/new-ufv-centre-offers-nationally-unique-research-opportunities/>

Dr. Carin Bondar, Biology Adjunct Professor and Sessional Instructor, was on Vancouver Island shooting a documentary called 'Animal Pride' for The Nature of Things. This documentary is all about queer sex in nature, and she has requested a Chilliwack premiere for its release in the spring. She recently completed her first contract with Blackburn Entertainment on a cruise ship from Seattle to Alaska. She will be heading to Spain later this month on another voyage.

The Faculty of Science has released the 3rd issue of their Science Magazine. It not only spotlights some amazing students but also highlights some of the wonderful science that takes place here at UFV. <https://issuu.com/goufv/docs/2022-2023.ufvscience> To view previous editions, please visit <https://ufv.ca/science/deans-office/science-magazine/>.

The Elders Project was launched at an online TLC event held on September 27th to honour the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. A total of 9 faculty attended and shared ways they are addressing the Calls to Action in their teaching and curriculum. The Elders Guidelines and video are available on the TLC website at <https://www.ufv.ca/teaching-and-learning/>

Victoria Surtees (Learning Specialist, Internationalization) and Keith Harms (Assistant Professor, English) co-facilitated a workshop for supporting multilingual learners on September 8th. Strategies for supporting multilingual learners in engaging with source use and citation were discussed.

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.

The Community Health and Social Innovation Hub was honoured to welcome Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills for a visit on August 22, 2023. She was joined by Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food, and Kelli Paddon, Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, to speak with students and learn more about the work CHASI does.

Halq'eméylem Assistant Professor Mary Stewart assisted in the process of Kwantlen First Nations Band attaining B.C. Post Secondary partnership funding from the First Nation Steering Committee, to offer the three UFV courses, Halq'emeylem 202, 301 and 302.

The Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies welcomed the Lougheed Area Girl Guides for a day of Try-a-trade on September 10th. The program was offered in collaboration with Leaders in Trades (LIT) through BCCWITT, SkilledTradesBC, Construction Foundation of BC, and Skills Canada BC.

Assistant Professor Lynn Kleinveldt (Department of Information Studies) hosted the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) Higher Education Libraries Interest Group (HELIG) Journal / Reading Club webinar session on September 1 as chairperson of LIASA/HELIG.

The London International Youth Science Forum was held July 26 – August 9, 2023. We were thrilled to send two students this year. Biology major Manjot Benning and Physics major Catherine Laflamme joined 500 other leading young scientists from more than 70 participating countries.

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.

The Rotary Club of Abbotsford Sumas and UFV's Community Health and Social Innovation Hub are hosting a series of conversations around advancing equity in our community throughout fall 2023. On September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Dr. Keith Thor Carlson presented a talk at the Reach Gallery Museum, titled "Identifying and Then Transcending Settler Colonialism: Strategies for Building Genuine Reconciliation."

For the second year, the Teacher Education Department presented a Teacher Mentor with a Social Justice Advocacy Recognition for their work as a social justice educator, as well as supporting teacher candidates to implement social justice within their own practice. This year, Danielle Rowand from Abbotsford Secondary was recognized.

The Library and the South Asian Studies Institute (SASI) joined together for the "Building Solidarity: Anti-casteism" on September 19th to unveiling the original painting of Dr. Bhirmrao Ramji Ambedkar by Raghuvendra Rao (now located in Abbotsford Library) and to accept the donation of the 17 volumes of Dr. Ambedkar's writings and speeches graciously donated to UFV Library from the Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Ontario. There were speeches by Jair Birdi, CHETNA, Ms Anita Lal, Poetic Justic Foundation, and Mr. Balkaran Singh as well as from Dr. Satwinder Bain, University Librarian, Camille Callison and A/President, James Mandigo.

Camille Callison, University Librarian, was invited along with 20 others from North America to participate in the 'EBSCO 2023 Strategic Director Summit for University Library Deans.'

On August 26, SASI hosted the fourth annual Bajwa Dhami Building Bridges Community Golf Day to raise money for the SASI Research Fellowship.

On Sept 25, the Peace and Reconciliation Centre hosted a Collaboratorium Open House for student interns to showcase their summer research work. The event was open to staff, students, and faculty, as well as the wider community.

On Sept 30, the Peace and Reconciliation Centre invited the public and media to National Day of Truth & Reconciliation: Stetís ímexstowx (*Walk Beside Us*), Civic Plaza/Thunderbird Square, 32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, BC.

Dr. Cherie Enns, PGES Associate Professor with community engagement funding through the #QEScholars University programme hosted a successful event, "Future of Cities: Role of the United Nations," on September 11 at UFV. This event also highlighted the role of UFV global internships and collaborative partnerships related to city challenges.

Stefanie Laframboise, Program Technician and Agriculture student Alan Fraser, participated in the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Country Fest held at the Albion Fairgrounds in July. Michelle Morier, Agriculture Department Coordinator, and students Joshua Stolee and Megan Petty joined Addy Schneider from the Future Students Office and attended the 151st Chilliwack Fair from August 11-13 held at the Chilliwack Heritage Park.

Lorna Andrews (Learning Specialist, Indigenization) is working alongside Amea Wilbur (Assistant Professor, Adult Education) to co-develop a course on Indigenous epistemologies and pedagogies. This collaborative project would involve the development of multimedia resources and a new fourth-level course in ADED. The primary focus of the project is to integrate Elders and Knowledge Keepers in a substantial way in the development of the resources and curriculum. This would be done through videos that can be used in the class and through the Teaching and Learning Centre at UFV.