

MEMO

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

Across the university, learners are getting off to a strong start. Hands-on trades training is expanding with the approval of the Powerline Technician Pre-apprenticeship Certificate, the launch of the first Welding microcredential, and a new Carpentry Foundation program with Seabird College. Faculty scholarship and public engagement continue to reach broad audiences, from expert testimony before a Standing Senate Committee to conference presentations in Glasgow, Vienna, and Padua, alongside significant new research funding and community partnerships.

September has also been a meaningful month for reconciliation at UFV. We celebrated the launch of the Community Report on September 23, the same evening that the Peace and Reconciliation Centre premiered the documentary *Legacy of a Lynching — Creating A Resting Heart*. On September 29, Teaching and Learning and Xwexwílmexwawt launched the Stó:lō toti:lt (Stó:lō Learning Principles), and on September 30 our community came together for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

As we look ahead, I invite everyone to join us for the Critical Conversations About AI series beginning October 7, the South Asian Studies Institute's 20th anniversary lecture series beginning October 8, and our Annual Open House on Saturday, October 17.

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

Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.

Day One Orientation on September 8 welcomed new students to UFV, with School of Business faculty, the Enactus UFV, Aviation Club and Professional Sales Students Association clubs, and the Indigenous Student Centre on hand to connect students with resources and opportunities. In Trades, the New Student Orientation on September 1 helped new trades and technology students feel prepared, connected, and confident as they began their studies.

The Office of the Registrar reports that the new process for students to request exam or class accommodation for religious and spiritual observance is now underway, with a communications plan rolling out and the web resource live.

UFV International welcomed 229 international students who had arrived and registered as of September 22, including 42 exchange students. Approximately 75% of new international students attended Fall Orientation, and a further 44 received individual check-in and settlement support. Development of the SOAR pre-arrival course is complete, and a pilot with 20 students in India is now scheduled for October 2026.

Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) issued the Third Fall Term Enrolment Report on the first day of classes and continues to update international enrolment projections to reflect the new 9-credit minimum for international students. IRP also completed a labour market scan to support the proposed Associate Certificate in Applied Statistics.

The School of Continuing Education offered three online study skills sessions in the first week of September, attended by 64 students, and hosted a CampusConnect event at the Clearbrook Centre with IT Services and the Centre for Experiential and Career Education (CECE). The School also held its annual Professional Development Day on September 12 for 30 instructors, with sessions on decolonizing and Indigenizing perspectives, inclusive design, syllabus development, and teaching with kindness.

In the School of Education, Early Childhood Education students in Mission began coursework on September 9, and two dual credit cohorts (18 students in Chilliwack and 25 in Abbotsford) began their first university course on September 12.

The Graduate Studies Fair on September 15 was well attended. Dr. Garry Fehr, AVP Research and Graduate Studies, presented two sessions on how to apply to graduate school.

The Program Development and Quality Assurance Office (PDQA) has completed its role in supporting the approval of UFV's third Master's degree, the MSc in Computer Science, which launches in September 2027. The School of Computing, School of Graduate Studies, TLC and PDQA are now discussing the development of a graduate supervision program to support graduate study and research at UFV.

PDQA and the Office of the Registrar presented a draft Microcredential Playbook at the September Provost Cabinet meeting. Together with Microcredential Policy 245 and a new proposal template and budget spreadsheet, it will guide how new microcredentials are designed, approved, and implemented at UFV.

In the Faculty of Science, Dr. Harley Gordon and the Biology department filmed and published nine new lab safety videos, and Dr. Gordon partnered with CECE on a Career Workshop on September 23 to support students moving from post-secondary to industry; it will now be an annual event. Approximately 110 Science students also attended the Science Social on September 23. Dr. Chris Bodnar engaged UFV students in paid research roles across several projects, including work with the BC Agriculture Council and BC Dairy.

Teaching and Learning (TLC) Learning Designers and Specialists provided one-on-one online course support to 131 instructors and staff in September, and hosted four "Brightspace / Ask Anything" workshops for faculty. The Launch Sprint microcredential is under way with six faculty participants. Awneet Sivia, AVP

Teaching and Learning, has presented TLC's vision to the FBC and FECHD Faculty Councils and will present to the remaining Councils in October.

The Student Complaints Policy has been finalized by its committee, which is now developing the accompanying regulations and procedures, with a policy launch targeted for April 1, 2027.

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.

TLC and Xwexwílmexwawt, in collaboration with Dr. Shirley Hardman, launched the Stó:lō toti:lt (Stó:lō Learning Principles) on September 29. The Principles will inspire deeper conversations about embedding local Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing into UFV's pedagogy and curriculum. Leanne Joe (TLC) also presented at the Centering Indigenous Curriculum Symposium at UBC and SFU.

The Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies (ATS) received approval in September for the Powerline Technician Pre-apprenticeship Certificate, which will allow students to earn formal credentials and be eligible for financial aid. The first of four Welding microcredentials, Fundamentals of Welding, launched on September 12, with the remaining three to follow in the coming months.

All Bachelor of Education students are participating in tours of St. Mary's Indian Residential School, led by Ray Douglas, as part of a series of experiential learning opportunities that also includes a visit to the heritage gurdwara in Abbotsford.

Dr. Sarah Beaulieu (Arts) contributed to the publication Bringing the Children Home, which connects forensic archaeology to the work of locating and commemorating unmarked burial sites associated with residential schools. Dr. Beaulieu and her team have confirmed additional DNA matches and will repatriate three more children from St. Joseph's Residential School in Fort Resolution in mid-October.

Dr. Chris Bodnar (Science) was appointed Faculty Research Fellow on the Global Affairs Canada-funded project Exploring AgTech & CleanTech Innovation in India (approximately \$520,000), which includes collaboration with IIT Madras, and became a Co-Investigator on a new five-year NSERC Discovery Horizons grant. He also served as an expert witness before the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

Dr. Rita Dhungel (Social Work and Human Services) received a Local Impact Grant for Aging Well from the Maplewood Care Foundation to study the lived experiences of older adults in Abbotsford and the Eastern Valley. Dr. Leah Douglas (SWHS) and Smitty Miller (Information Studies) secured internal UFV funding to co-lead a book club and research project assessing the impact of the pedagogy of kindness, beginning with FECHD this Fall.

Dr. Shelley Canning and Alison Pritchard-Orr (Kinesiology) received \$22,000 from the Sienna Foundation and \$6,500 from the Chilliwack Foundation for a new trishaw for the UFV Trishaw Rides program. The vehicle will also support their CIHR-funded "Dementia in the Outdoors" study, and the program has partnered with the Chilliwack Alzheimer's Society and Chilliwack Community Services to expand rides for people with mobility challenges.

Dr. Amanda Wurz (Kinesiology) launched The Move Club, a national physical activity program for children and adolescents affected by cancer and blood disorders, which was co-designed with families, clinicians, community partners, and UFV students, and will launch in BC before expanding to Ontario and the Maritimes. Dr. Wurz was also named Co-Chair of the Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology Research Advisory Committee.

Dr. Luisa Giles (Kinesiology) was awarded a senior fellowship by the Forum Basileense at the University of Basel, Switzerland, to organize an event examining how overlooking intersectionality affects air pollution, physical activity, and climate-health research. Dr. Tannaz Zargarian (Adult Education) was elected President of the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education, and Dr. Jessica (Jing) Wang (Science) was elected Western Director (Junior) of the Canadian Society of Animal Science.

Arts faculty published new work this fall: Dr. Dilsora Fozilova released the book *Radical Revival: The Complex Dynamics of Islam and State in Uzbekistan*; Dr. Gabriela Kurtz co-authored a chapter in *Generative AI for Retail Innovation*; and Dr. Haylil Millar and Dr. Carlos Ponce (Criminology) contributed chapters to *The Sage Encyclopedia of Crime and Gender and Gangs of the World*. Dr. Kathleen Rodgers presented at the Women in Crime III conference in Padua, Italy.

In the School of Computing, postdoctoral researcher Jihye Ha completed a 12-month research program on AI and healthcare data in pharmaceutical regulation, supported by the Korean Government's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, and Omer Waqar had a paper accepted in *IEEE Communications Magazine* along with two IGARSS conference papers.

In support of the MSc in Computer Science launch, UFV International will visit the Philippines and India in October to promote the program to education agents and partners. International also began sharing the new international scholarship process with recruitment partners and initiated partnership discussions with the University of Strathclyde and Odisee University of Applied Sciences in Brussels.

IRP completed the draft UFV Student Outcomes Report, which analyzes BC Student Outcomes Survey results for 2023 to 2025 and compares UFV with other BC public institutions. UFV baccalaureate respondents reported a higher employment rate (84% versus 81%) and a lower unemployment rate (5% versus 9%), although their median annual salary was lower (\$65,000 versus \$70,000).

PDQA continues work on Coursedog, UFV's new curriculum and calendar management system, which will automate program development, suspension, reinstatement, and discontinuance processes, and met with counterparts at TRU to share strategies for using the system to strengthen program quality. PDQA also provided feedback to the Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills on its 2024 BC Public Institution Quality Assessment Handbook, noting that the new quality assurance processes and criteria have unexpectedly constrained the ability of BC institutions to respond to student needs, particularly in delivering programs to international students.

TLC opened the 2026–27 Teaching Inquiries into Pedagogical Practices (TIPP) call for proposals, themed "Changemaking + Innovation with AI," with proposals due October 30. TLC and the AI Task Force, now in its fourth year, will also launch the monthly Critical Conversations About AI series on October 7, exploring the purpose of education, commercial influence, consent, and the environmental costs of AI.

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.

UFV celebrated the launch of the Community Report at St'elt'elawtexw: A Celebration of Community on September 23, with Elders and drummers provided by Xwexwilmexwawt. Xwexwilmexwawt AVP Dr. Shirley Hardman was also a panelist at the President's Leadership Lecture Series event with visiting scholar Dr. Robby Zidny of Indonesia, hosted by UFV International. The Indigenous Student Centre hosted welcome-back lunches in Chilliwack and Abbotsford, Slahal at the SUS Kick Back event, and two Kairos Blanket Exercises at the CEP campus.

The Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) premiered *Legacy of a Lynching — Creating A Resting Heart*, produced with Desiré Kokuvi Amouzou, at the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium on September 23. UFV joined

civic partners at Thunderbird Square and Civic Plaza for Stetís ímexstowx on September 30, and PARC's 45-hour, non-credit Xwelítem Siyáya: Foundations begins October 15.

The Centre for Education and Research on Aging hosted its fourth annual CERA Day on September 25, with more than 100 attendees at free workshops supported by the Maplewood Care Foundation and the UFV Alumni Association. The South Asian Studies Institute (SASI) launches its 20th anniversary Fall Lecture Series on October 8, with further lectures on October 20 and 29.

New student recruitment for 2027 began September 21 with school visits, and UFV will attend the out-of-province post-secondary fairs returning to Abbotsford and Chilliwack, which will feature more than 40 institutions. The Annual Open House takes place on Saturday, October 17.

UFV International continues to expand its global recruitment network. Staff made 15 high school and fair visits across Brazil, reaching more than 800 senior students, delivered training on ethical recruitment (EQA) standards to 14 education agents, and co-hosted a BC agent event in São Paulo with five other BC institutions. In Africa, UFV signed FindAdmission as a new recruitment partner and is co-hosting a Kenya Education and Career Symposium with Northern Lights College in November. In India, the contract for an in-country representative is finalized and an October recruitment trip is planned.

IRP prepared and distributed more than 50 databooks to departments, schools, programs and faculties, which have been very well received.

PDQA is supporting new program development across several faculties, including an MSc in Biotechnology and Sustainability and an Animal Sciences major in the Faculty of Science, which demonstrate UFV's commitment to its One Health strategy and to regionally relevant credentials for the Fraser Valley.

ATS welcomed Indigenous learners from Seabird Island to the new Seabird College – UFV Carpentry Foundation program (September 2026 to March 2027) and continues its partnership with SASET on a pre-trades Culinary Arts program for Indigenous learners.

In Information Studies, Dr. Inaam Charaf established UFV's first partnership between the Library Technician program and CHC Helicopter, creating new practicum opportunities in the aviation sector.

Workplace TASK hosted a community referral information session on September 18 for 30 community partners, and TLC's AVP was a featured speaker at the September 17 event celebrating five years of the Office of Sustainability and UFV's STARS Gold rating.

Faculty in Computing continued to share expertise beyond UFV: Mandeep Pannu delivered a cybercrime workshop for Fraser Valley businesses and represented IEEE Canada at the IEEE Sections Congress in Glasgow. Dr. Dave Harper (Kinesiology) represented Team BC at the "All In" AI conference in Montreal and will share his learnings with TLC.

UFV faculty continued to inform public debate. Dr. Mark Kersten (Criminology) published in The Globe and Mail and Al Jazeera and spoke at a McGill University conference on September 18, and Dr. Hamish Telford (Political Science) moderated the Abby-Mission by-election debate hosted by the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce on September 9 and provided commentary on CBC. Six students from FILM 365 also had their documentary "Lost Projection," about the former Cottonwood cinemas in Chilliwack, accepted into the Chilliwack Independent Film Festival.