

## MEMO

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**FROM:** Tracy Ryder Glass, Acting Provost & Vice President Academic  
**DATE:** September 8, 2025  
**RE:** Provost Report to Senate

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It is with great excitement that I say, “Welcome Back!” to our many faculty, staff and students that have been enjoying a much-deserved summer break and a warm welcome to our new UFV employees, many of whom joined us at this years’ New Employee Orientation in August.

I extend my gratitude Dr. Awneet Sivia for stepping in as the Acting Vice Provost and to Dr. Maureen Wideman for stepping in as Acting Associate Vice President Teaching & Learning, while I take on the Acting Provost role. I can never say it enough - we have an amazing team of colleagues at UFV.

The hallways and parking lots are full again, and it is fantastic to see the classrooms once again filled with students. Day One (Abby) and First Week Feast (Chilliwack) were a great success. Thank you to so many of you, faculty and staff that spent the day ensuring our students were welcomed in a good way.

Our campuses were busy this summer preparing for the return of our students. This included faculty Kickstart, Launch and preparations for the new LMS – Brightspace integration. This also included our dining hall. Even a brief emergency with a fire that resulted in the loss of power for several days, didn’t delay its opening. The UFV team lead by Facilities, were amazing in literally keeping the lights on. Reports from colleagues are that the food is amazing. I hope you get the opportunity to stop in for lunch or coffee over the next few weeks.

Also, this summer, we saw external recognition of several of our colleagues. Dr. Satwinder Bains, outgoing Director of the South Asian Studies Institute, was recently [honoured by the Chetna Association of Canada](#) for her work to end oppression based on caste in BC and across Canada.

And congratulations to Claire Hay and Martin Warkentin, recipients of the BC Campus Award for Excellence in Open Education for their outstanding contributions to the open education movement in British Columbia. [Read more about their work here](#)

It is innovative work such as this that exemplifies UFV’s ability to be adaptive, innovative, resilient, and relevant. Further examples of this are captured on the pages that follow, representing a snapshot of the many activities highlighting the work we collectively do to engage learners, transform lives, and build community.

I extend 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.*

UFV Library & UFV Teaching and Learning Centre launched the 2025-2026 Open Education Micro Grant Program (OEMGP). The call for proposals closed in June and successful projects will be announced early September. OEMGP funds student assistants to work on open projects designed by a supervising UFV faculty member.

Kickstart: Knowing Each Other, Knowing our Students – was delivered by TLC on Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> - This session used active learning strategies to build community and to introduce new faculty to characteristics of our student population and how those play into course and assessment design.

Launch: Faculty Professional Development Program – Michelle Johnson and Victoria Surtees (TLC) facilitated a double session with community building, active learning, and syllabus design.

LMS: ongoing workshops at both CEP and Abbotsford campuses have been offered to prepare faculty for Brightspace. These include a four-part series of workshops on Content Creation, Assignments & Quizzes, Collaboration & Communication, Gradebook and Feedback tools, Ask Anything sessions and specialty workshops. Also being developed is a self-paced Brightspace training course where faculty members will be able to self-enroll in the course and review content and tutorials as many times as they need at what ever time works for them.

Study Abroad opportunities have seen a total of 13 students visiting France, Japan, Denmark, Singapore, Korea, and Vietnam in Fall 2025, and a total of 22 students to UK, Japan, Singapore, France, Morocco, Austria, Ireland, Spain, Korea, Germany in Winter 2026.

Eight BSW and MSW students, together with faculty members Dr. Tim Dueck (SWHS) and Dr. Leah Douglas (SWHS), participated in the International Days in Social Work conference and study tour, to Linz, Austria, in June. While in Linz, SWHS faculty gave two conference presentations.

Under Dr. Rita Dhungel's (SWHS) supervision, three recently graduated BSW students co-authored and published an article titled, "Identifying the barriers of leaving abusive relationships for South Asian immigrant women in Canada: A comprehensive literature review." *Mind and Society*, 14(2), 46–54.  
<https://mindandsociety.in/index.php/MAS/article/view/926/451>

Students and faculty from the School of Culture, Media, and Society (SCMS) presented at the 41st Annual Qualitative Analysis Conference, held June 18–20 in Quebec City. Presentations were titled, "What Counts as the 'Good' Paramedic: A Qualitative Content Analysis of Recruitment Material in Canada," "Diversity and Difference: The Social Organization of the Work of Nursing Faculty," and "Making Sense of a Mayor's Pause".

OReg staff have connected with more than 10,000 prospective students leading up to day one. This included thousands of front counter visits, call and email for help with registration and student records, and was managed through significant staff change and transition in the Office. It is a mark of the professionalism and commitment OReg staff have in supporting students and the UFV Community.

Amrita Sood, Mason Paquette, Yuvraj Gupta, Kshitij Goyal, and Ishwak Sharda (Computing Science Students) received EFCIE Innovation grants for 2025 (approximately valued at: \$20,000).

Dr. Alesandros Glaros, Dr. Stefania Pizzirani, and Charmaine White contributed to [The Resource Circularity Report: Reimagining Cities as Regenerative Ecosystems](#), a new report in *Perkins and Will*, exploring the feasibility of integrating Building-Integrated Agriculture (BIA) into urban environments to promote resource circularity. Read in full [here](#).

Research Assistant Emily Foster, working in the Berry Environmental Resilience Research & Innovation ([BERRI](#)) Lab on the UFV Chilliwack campus, recently had the opportunity to present her research on melatonin in strawberries at the Canadian Society of Horticulture Science/Canadian Society of Agronomy annual meeting in Kelowna, as the only undergraduate student. [Full story here](#).

The Centre for Philosophy for Children (CP4C) has been hosting Thinking Playground summer camps for over ten years, and in that time, some campers are set to now return to UFV as students! [Learn more](#).

New Student Welcome: UFV's Trades New Student Welcome held on August 26 helped incoming students get familiar with their classrooms, access campus services, and ask questions before classes begin. The event aimed to build confidence and provide support by connecting students with staff, instructors, and resources in a relaxed, informal setting.

Applied and Technical Studies Blog Feature: "[Finding Resolution](#)" – Highlighted UFV's welding and conflict resolution programming.

Institutional Research and Planning produced some 50 departmental and program databooks. These databooks provide the central data source for external program reviews. They are also widely used by department heads and coordinators for scheduling and program administration.

### **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.*

UFV Library & UFV Teaching and Learning Centre have engaged an Open Education Strategist as a part of UFV's Open Education In-Action Initiative which is partially funded through a BC Campus Open Education Institutional grant. The Open Education Strategist will help create an Open Education Strategy for UFV that will be informed by the community.

An Assessment, AI, Authenticity and PLAR lunch and learn session is being hosted by the National Organization for Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA) on Tuesday October 7, 2025. To sign up for these two free Fall sessions, please visit: <https://capla.ca/2025-fall-webinar/> The UFV session is called: 'Sitting beside' – reflections on assessment for a PLAR/RPL context: what do relationships, AI, assessments, and grading have in common as we rethink assessments of learning?

Fizza Haider, Claire Hay, and Sabine Decamp (Teaching and Learning Centre) are collaborating with Candace Couse (School of Creative Arts) for development of an AI resource guide.

Dr. Lenore Newman appeared on [Carole Taylor's Journal podcast](#), which examines the impact of the US President's fluctuating tariff threats on Canada's food industry.

UFV's [BMO Collaboratorium](#) hosted by the Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) is now wrapping up its Summer 2025 research internship program. The students have met with community partners, attended Stó:lō tours, participated in land-based experiences, developed databases, written reports, conducted interviews, and developed curriculum.

Dr. Amea Wilbur (ADED) and Dr. Brianna Strumm (SWHS) were awarded a \$6,500 SSHRC Explore Grant to work on their project: Trauma-Informed and Care-Based Pedagogy from Learners' Perspectives (Part 2 of Trauma-Informed Pedagogy Study).

Dr. Leah Douglas (SWHS) was nominated for the BCASW 2025 Inspiring Social Worker of the Year award.

**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. Iris Lesser with the assistance of kinesiology student Megan Filiatrault has created a user-friendly exercise guide for postpartum women and posted it through Sport Information Resource Center of Canada (2025\_07\_14\_PostpartumActivity\_Guidebook\_InDesign\_CHASI.pdf).

Dr. Kate Kloos (Kinesiology) wrote a report, co-authored by kinesiology student and recent graduate Ashyana Kumar, making recommendations to the International Ringette Federation about gender eligibility for the World Ringette Championships.

Dr. Luisa Giles (Kinesiology) was invited to speak at Global Climate and Health Summit in London (July 2025). The focus was climate change and health. This action-oriented conference aimed to move climate action forward by including a physiological and health focus of topics and international speakers.

Ibrahim Javed (School of Computing) presented on Overview Polygon at the Blockchain Summer Institute 2025 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

In June, Frank Zhang (School of Computing) became a member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Advances in Engineering and Technology.

The South Asian Studies Institute (SASI) proudly inaugurated its latest exhibit, Chandra Bodalia's Legacy: The History and Heritage of Gurdwaras in BC, at the Sikh Heritage Museum in Abbotsford. [Learn more.](#)

On Friday, July 11, 2025, the South Asian Studies Institute (SASI) hosted an enriching event titled "The Art of Preservation: In Conversation with Museum Conservator Vasundhara Pradip Madhumita" at the Sikh Heritage Museum. [Learn more.](#)

For the third year, students, faculty, and staff at UFV gathered to stand in solidarity with women in Afghanistan. The event — featuring a speech from activist Sahar Maqsoodi and co-organized by CHASI, UFV's FSA, and Sustainable UFV — aimed to maintain awareness of the systemic human rights abuses and show visible support for the women of Afghanistan. [View video.](#)

Real Baking for Youth Summer Camp was offered in partnership with Skills BC. UFV opened their state-of-the-art kitchen to aspiring bakers from our community as future students in the Culinary Arts program.

Applied and Technical Studies, together with Agriculture, participated in the Chilliwack Fair with the support from UFV Community Engagement. Volunteers engaged with approximately 950 visitors over the weekend, helping showcase and promote our programs.

On October 18, UFV is hosting Open House 2025. This will be a full institutional effort and will build on the success of past years.

Thais Amorim (CYFS) presented Mapping Intersecting Oppressions at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) 2025 conference in Saskatoon in June.

Dean Allyson Jule (FECHD), along with Katherine Murray (local Abbotsford spiritual advisor) created, ['In Common', a series of six Interfaith dialogue podcasts](#) through UFV CIVL Radio. Through interviews and open dialogue on contemporary books, the In Common podcast series invites listeners to explore the spiritual threads that bind us, even as we honour our differences. Find the podcasts here: <https://www.civil.ca/show/in-common-interfaith-dialogue-at-ufv/>.

Karen Natho (Kinesiology) worked with Sport4Life this summer to update the Adapted Playtools assessment, looking at updating language, document accessibility and providing current examples from across the country for better user understanding.

Dr. Kate Kloos (Kinesiology) presented at the first International Congress on Safe Sport Research in Quebec. She has been invited to join an international committee on advancement of women in sport.

Dr. Jason Brandenburg completed a research project examining the acute physiological effects (in older adults) of playing pickleball and how these responses differ in singles versus doubles pickleball. Participants were members of the Chilliwack Pickleball Club.

There are 70 countries represented among the international students registered for the Fall. The top 5 countries overall are India, Nepal, Nigeria, China, Vietnam.

[Leq'áleg'el: Multilingual Stories of Indigenization](#) In this multilingual video series, UFV faculty and staff share how they came to know and connect with the goals of Indigenization. They also share steps you can take to further your own journey.

Dr. Vanessa Radzimski (Science) was an invited speaker at the Canadian Mathematical Society 2025 Summer Meeting, from June 6-9 in Quebec City. Her presentation was titled "Supporting Diversity through Flexible Projects" and was a presentation in the session titled "Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging in the Undergraduate Mathematics Classroom."

Dr. Golfam Ghafourifar (Science) was invited to give a talk at the Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition (CSC 2025) held in Ottawa from June 15-19. She is also chairing Separation and Microfluidics session (<https://www.xcdsystem.com/cic/program/3NP1X0F/index.cfm>).