

MEMO

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

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful and joyful holiday season. As we step into 2026, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the incredible work you've done and the resilience you've shown over the past year.

This new year brings fresh opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and celebration of student success. Together, we'll continue to advance our academic mission, support our students, and strengthen our community. I'm excited about what we will accomplish as we build on our successes and embrace the challenges ahead.

As we wrapped up the 2025 Fall semester, we saw examples of our continued commitment to engage learners, transform lives, and build community. Experiential learning flourished through projects like airtight building demonstrations in Trades, intercultural COIL collaborations with Ghana, and Indigenous-focused activities such as sweat lodge ceremonies for social work students. Creative Arts students staged *Moth Boy*, while history students prepared for a Japan study tour.

The pages that follow also speak to transformative impacts UFV faculty and students are making through trauma-informed communication projects in ABT, and research on postpartum health and pain management funded by CIHR.

And engagement with community continues to thrive through events like the Mission Library Indigenous art installation, Truth and Reconciliation board game nights, and sustainability-focused ideation sessions by the Food and Agriculture Institute.

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.

Ted Zak (Applied and Technical Studies (ATS)) presented the results of his sabbatical research project on airtight buildings. The session highlighted how airtight construction can reduce energy costs and carbon footprint and is required under the new BC Building Code Step Code.

UFV Kinesiology students in KIN 435 Ergonomics and Biomechanics visited ATS to explore the physical demands and injury risks associated with skilled trades work providing real-world context to classroom learning, while engaging with trades professionals on workplace health and safety.

The School of Communication hosted a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Showcase led by Dr. Joy Enyinnaya. Students collaborated with UniMAC students in Ghana to develop four public relations campaigns for Ruth and Naomi's Mission.

The School of Creative Arts presented [*Moth Boy*](#), written by Peihwen J. Tai and directed by Tetsuro Shigematsu, as the first production of the 2025–2026 UFV Theatre season. *Moth Boy* engaged campus and community audiences through its exploration of identity, belonging, and transformation.

Dr. Shawn Geniole, Associate Professor of Psychology was awarded an Insight Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for his project *How Do Winners Stay on Top?*, which examines how competition shapes performance and social dynamics.

Social Work and Human Services (SWHS) faculty members Tim Dueck and Leah Douglas co-presented at the “International Conversations in Social Work” online series, at the Faculty of Social Work at the Technische Hochschule, in Nürnberg, Germany. The presentation was titled *Canadian Indigenous Peoples, Substance Use, and Trauma-informed Allyship*.

Organized by SWHS faculty member, Kristina Kopp, *SOWK 392: Indigenous Social Work* students participated in a Qetiwestel (Sweat Lodge) Ceremony at Skwah First Nation, led by Elder Eddie Gardner. This experience provided students the opportunity to engage in ceremony-based, experiential learning.

Students in the TASK program, a program for adult students living with disabilities who want to explore employment opportunities, participated in a ‘Mural Walk’; students spent the morning walking around the Vedder river discussing, and reflecting on Chilliwack artwork.

Members of the Food and Agriculture Institute’s Genome Canada ICT Team participated in the Cultivating Resiliency Summit: Reimagining Agricultural Futures held at SFU Downtown. Team members Stephanie Eccles, Angela McIntyre, Jess Mukiri, and Alesandros Glaros presented a poster. Stefania Pizzirani presented a project summary, and Lenore Newman participated as a panelist.

Associate Director, Int’l Relations (Walter Foreman) co-presented at 2025 CBIE: “Centering relationality, reflection, and decolonization within global experiential learning: Lessons from a social work course in British Columbia” with Prof. Timothy Dueck (Inuit ancestry) and a School of Social Work Research Student (Métis ancestry).

The library celebrated the installation of commissioned artworks by Stó:lō artist J. Luke Pike at the Mission Campus. The newly installed pieces enhance the Library's Indigenous art collection and reflect the principles of reconciliation and reciprocity in embedding Indigenization at UFV.

The Chilliwack library hosted a Science Café on Women Working in Extreme Environments: Women do it all and sometimes they do it in extreme environments, like fighting fires, saving lives in remote locations, working in the Arctic or in space. The event was very well attended by students and community members.

Manager, Library Operations and Resources Moira Guzyk supported the continued success of the Therapy Dog Program, which provides weekly visits that promote student wellness, reduce stress, and create a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the library.

Dr. Harley Gordon, Assistant Professor of Biology, recently helped uncover a brand-new way that plants produce salicylic acid, the very compound that inspired Aspirin and is key to plant immunity.

Dr. Shelley Canning, and a UFV student, speak about their experiences of UFV becoming an Age-Friendly University. The student is a lifelong learner who, at the age of 82, decided—after seven years in the Canadian Navy and fifty successful years in business management—that he would enroll at UFV and aim to complete a Bachelor of Integrated Studies degree. .

Two undergrad students from UFV travelled to Manitoba to participate in a 2-day SF4C Hack-a-thon InnovEAT: Cultivating Ideas: Solutions in Scaling Sustainable Agriculture, October 9 and 10th, 2025.

Dr. Edward Akuffo, Department Head, Political Science, made many contributions to the recently released Senate of Canada report, Canada-Africa: Seizing a Strategic Opportunity. He is quoted as stating that the overarching principles of a Canadian strategy toward Africa *“should be mutual respect, reciprocity and non-indifference to Africa’s agency at the state, subregional and regional levels, while reflecting on the growing geopolitical and geoeconomic significance of the region.”*

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.

Frank Zhang (Business and Computing) had the following publication: “Indoor Pathfinding with the A*Algorithm: A Cross-Platform Mobile Implementation Case” authored by Frank Zhang, Boris Massesa, and Jingwei Gao has been published in Asia Pacific Science Press Vol. 2 No. 4 (2025).

A Floral Design Certificate alumna was featured in the Langley Advance Times, highlighting her UFV credential and women-led small business, which offers excellent service while giving back to community.

Dr. Sarah Beaulieu, Assistant Professor in Social, Cultural, & Media Studies, was interviewed by *Global News* regarding her work as an archaeologist and ground-penetrating radar specialist involved in the exhumation of remains from the former St. Joseph Residential School in Fort Resolution, Northwest Territories. Her work contributes to truth-seeking, community healing, and the repatriation of Indigenous children to their families.

Rita Dhungel (SWHS) presented “Immigrant Labour Rights and Intersectionality: Unpacking Barriers and Pathways to Equity” at the Fourth Global Conference on Social Sciences on Dec 12, in Dubai, UAE.

In partnership with Archway Community Services, the South Asian Best for Babies group, a KIN student and Dr. Iris Lesser’s (KIN) research article on South Asian immigrant women postpartum was accepted in the Canadian Journal of Nursing, titled: *Perspectives and beliefs surround postpartum care and physical activity of South Asian Immigrant women in Canada*.

Dr. Alexander Villafranca (KIN) published an invited review article in the Operating Room Nurse’s association of Canada journal (as senior, corresponding author): View of Transforming from victim to survivor—Part 2: Fixing the systems that enable disruptive intraoperative behaviour.

Chelsea Wedel (Nursing) published a paper in the Nurse Education in Practice journal on equipping students to navigate the experience of sexual violence in clinical practice, and equipping educators and nurse leaders to respond to disclosures of sexual violence using a trauma-informed approach.

Librarian Janelle Sztuhar, together with Dr. Lolehawk Laura Buker and a Directed Studies student, are working on a new digital digest project Tóltset Ye Sp’eq’ó.

CHASI recently completed a multi-year project working alongside the Abbotsford Restorative Justice and Advocacy Association (ARJAA) to strengthen various aspects of their systems, which provides restorative justice as an alternative to traditional systems of justice resulting in a custom-made Case Records Management Database for ARJAA’s day-to-day use, and a co-developed Evaluation Toolkit.

[Dr. Cindy Jardine](#), Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Health and Community, together with two community researchers, attended the World Indigenous Peoples’ Conference on Education (WIPCE) in Auckland, New Zealand on November 16-20, 2025. They presented on their work with Indigenous youth through an Indigenized Forum Theatre, producing 3D animated videos and developing videos on being healthy (living a good life). The following week they delivered their Forum Theatre intervention with Maori youth aged 7-10 at a school in Dunedin, which was fun for everyone.

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.

Instructor Daniel Smythe (ATS) provided value-add training to members of the Chilliwack Fire Department on fire alarm systems, based on his sabbatical research.

Ibrahim Javed (Business & Computing) presented a paper at the IEEE ICECT 2025 conference titled “MyHealthLedger: A Decentralized Patient-Controlled EHR System Leveraging Blockchain and IPFS.”

Faisal Naeem (Business & Computing) delivered a keynote at the 20th International Conference on Emerging Technologies (ICET-25) titled “Resilient 6G Intelligence: Navigating LLM threats and Future Research Directions.”

Dr. Wade Deisman, Associate Dean of Social Sciences, was interviewed by several media outlets regarding the public discourse surrounding the extortion crisis affecting several Indo-Canadian communities across Canada, which is gaining national attention. The interviews included: CBC's 'The Current' with Matt Galloway, CBC Abbotsford bureau with Baneet Braich, CBC 'The Early Edition' with Stephen Quinn, CBC News Article (Abbotsford), CKNW – Jill Bennet Show, CBC Townhall Event, CBC 'On the Coast' with Gloria Macarenko, CBC News Article (Surrey), and another interview with Gloria Macarenko – CBC 'On The Coast'.

Carol Suhr (ADED) was invited as guest speaker for BC Teal's (Teachers of English as an Additional Language) English as an Additional Language week focussed on teaching TESL in precarious times.

In collaboration with the University of Calgary and partners from Canada, Nepal, and Nigeria, Rita Dhungel (SWHS) organized and presented "Transformative Impacts Through Photovoice: Participant Action Research with Women Living with HIV in Nepal" on World AIDS Day.

On November 12, about 70 Grade 11 and 12 Indigenous students from the Abbotsford School District (SD34) visited UFV's Chilliwack campus for a day of learning, exploration, and connection. The students began their visit in the Gathering Place with UFV Elders and Knowledge Givers, then took part in both general information sessions about UFV and program-specific sessions.

Through diligence and hard work, the library is proud to release the 2024-2025 Annual Report: the first of its kind. The report is available on the website.

On National Philanthropy Day, PARC accompanied the Community Engagement Relationship and Fund Development team at AFP Greater Vancouver's Giving Hearts Awards to share about our Beyond Blankets: A Stó:lō Lands Exercise and the Carving Lost Family History research project

On December 6, the CHASI cast marked the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, in remembrance of the 14 young women were murdered in 1989 at Polytechnique Montréal by a gunman who targeted them specifically because of their gender. This episode's guest was the Associate Director of Housing and Community Justice at Archway Community Services. She joined us to speak about her work focused on intimate partner violence and the advocacy and allyship that is most needed today.