



UVSS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Run by students, for students.
www.uvss.ca

AGM

2015 UVSS ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING

UVSS
Where your
voice
is heard

Campus
**KICK
OFF**

September 9 - 11, 2015

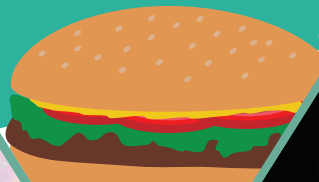
Sept 9

5 PANCAKES

MPR: 8-11AM



International
Grill



REPO
MAN

ALL ARE
WELCOME
HERE.

let's get
consensual

Prevent sexual violence.
Get consent at every step.
Sexualized Violence Awareness
Week Sept 14 - 18, 2015

SUB*ZERO
A UVSS WELCOME BACK SOREE



Mental Health

**CLUBS &
COURSE UNION
DAYS**

C ONTENTS

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Board of Directors 2015 - 2016

Chairperson, Brontë Renwick-Shields

Director of External Relations, Kenya Rogers

Director of Student Affairs, Kaylee Szakacs

Interim Director of Finance & Operations, Kylie Pettifer

Director of Events, Solenn Madevon

Director of International Student Relations, Lucy Hagos

Directors at Large 2015 - 2016

Director at Large, Branko Bevanda

Director at Large, Nathan Butz

Director at Large, Brydon Kramer

Director at Large, Sky Losier

Director at Large, Delaney McCartan

Director at Large, Heather Middlemass

Director at Large, Bernadette Peterson

Director at Large, Katrina Woolgar

NSU Representative 2015 - 2016

Blake Desjarlais

Advocacy Group Representatives 2015 - 2016

SOCC Representative, Aaron El Sabrout

UVic Pride Representative, Sara Maya Bhandar

Women's Centre Representative, Anna Lusk

SSD Representative, Heather Mitchell

ABOUT THE UVSS

All undergraduate students at the University of Victoria are members of the UVic Students' Society (UVSS). Founded in 1964, the UVSS is a social justice based non-profit run by students, it is separate from the University, and it runs a successful social enterprise that includes nine unique businesses. The students' society exists to provide advocacy, representation, services, and events for its members. The UVSS works on issues affecting students, such as post-secondary funding, public transit, sexualized violence, campus sustainability, student employment, and affordable housing.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to work for the social change required for a fully-funded and accessible post-secondary education system. To support this mission, and in recognition that a fully-funded and accessible post-secondary education does not yet exist, we will advocate for and represent our members' voices by providing them with services, events, and safer inclusive community spaces which fulfill their unmet needs.

OUR VISION

At the end of the 2015-2016 board term, we will have achieved the following:

- 1) The next board will not face the same issues that we do. We will work to address long-standing issues facing the Society, and endeavor to leave a better Society for future generations of our student members.
- 2) We will create further stability and build on the positive organizational change of previous boards.
- 3) Our mission will be fully operationalized and shine through in everything that we do — campaigns, services, events, and our social enterprise.
- 4) Member engagement will be at an all-time high.
- 5) There will be a stronger and more united student movement in BC.
- 6) The SUB will unquestionably be the hub of activism, culture, and service on campus. A place where safer spaces exist and relationships are built.
- 7) We will have drafted a human resource policy that reflects our progressive values and makes a huge impact on our organizational culture.

VALUES

Our values are what we stand for. They underlie everything that we do and guide how we make decisions, perform our work and work with each other. These values are the primary driving forces behind all that we do:

ADVOCACY

We believe in working with and on behalf of students to promote and defend their interests and rights. We will work with the UVSS Women's Centre, Students of Colour Collective, UVic Pride, the Native Students Union, the Society for Students with a Disability, and other groups to raise awareness and empower students to create change.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

We are committed to climate justice and creating a cultural shift that considers the needs of future generations of UVic students and global citizens. This means critically examining issues such as equality, human rights, collective rights and historical responsibility as they relate to climate change. We lead at home by working to reduce the environmental impact of our operations and we lead in the community by fighting for climate justice.

COMMUNITY

We believe in a campus where students and staff feel a sense of belonging, solidarity and mutual respect. We foster this by creating supportive spaces in which students can collaborate and participate in a diverse range of events, advocacy, and services. To us that means fun, creativity, passion, spirit, light-heartedness, relevancy, dynamism, engagement, and positive change.

EMPATHY

We are empathetic. In order to connect with and properly represent our members, we need to be a listening organization that is compassionate, understanding, responsive, and accommodating. Through empathy, we appreciate and incorporate diverse points of view, ways of being, and emotional capacities.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

We have a responsibility to judiciously exercise fiduciary responsibility over our member's dedicated fees. The success and longevity of our mission depends upon our ability to exercise proper fiscal prudence in a way that is transparent and accountable to our membership.

INCLUSIVENESS

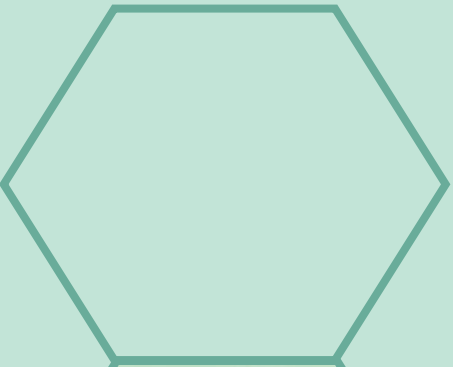
The UVSS represents a diverse membership with intersecting identities. We believe that we should be as open, transparent, accountable and welcoming as possible to all students and community members. We believe that inclusiveness is an action and not a passive belief.

INNOVATION

Without innovation, we can't create the social change that we want to see. Innovation means positive disruption, showing leadership, being proactive not reactive, seizing opportunities, being resourceful, taking initiative, breaking down old models, and challenging dominant thought.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Whether we are providing services such as the Food Bank & Free Store, running a social enterprise, or advocating for an accessible and affordable post-secondary education, the UVSS works every day to achieve a more just and equitable society in which no person is left behind.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hey Everyone!

Being your Board of Directors this year has been an amazing experience. Thank-you for giving us the opportunity to work with and for all you wonderful folks. We are so proud of what we have accomplished together and as a community we have achieved so many exciting things this year - and we've got even more to come!

This year, we started the school year with the most widely attended Campus Kick-Off in years, with over 1000 students coming out to our Movie in the Park and hitting room capacity at Felicita's by 9pm on the last day of Kick-Off. To top that off, we signed over 2000 petitions for our Education is a Right campaign in the first two weeks of school!

Throughout Kick-Off we had hundreds of students pledge to practice consent in their everyday lives as part of the Let's Get Consensual campaign. Following Kick-Off we worked with the Anti-Violence Project and UVic's Department of Judicial Affairs to run Sexualized Violence Awareness Week with hundreds of students participating in activities and conversations about creating a consent culture on our campus.

But it didn't stop there. There are so many things that we are proud to have worked on for students this year. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Organized Octobeerfest, SUB Zero and a packed Federal Election poll watching party.
- Worked with our student health care plan to become the first University in Canada to offer funding for learning disability and mental health assessments.
- Expanded the Let's Get Consensual campaign both on our campus and at other campuses across the province. Our campaign was endorsed by the BC branch of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) which means that Let's Get Consensual will now be run on all 14 CFS campuses across the province.
- Worked with the Society for Students with a Disability to implement the UVSS's first disability policy.
- Created the first human resource management policy for the UVSS.
- Successfully met quorum at our annual general meeting in October. At this meeting, UVSS members unanimously passed a motion to oppose the University lobbying the provincial government to remove the tuition cap on professional programs.
- Got a motion passed at the Victoria Regional Transit Commission to provide all incoming refugees with a free one-year transit pass and we started the national campaign "Welcome on Board" to lobby municipal leaders across the country to follow suit.

This year, we proved that when students organize as a community we truly have the power to create real change. We saw this during the Federal Election when students came out in unprecedented numbers to vote on campus, and we will see this again on February 3rd when hundreds of students hit the streets to demand an end to the student debt that is crushing our generation!

In community,

The 2015-2016 UVSS Board of Directors



CAMPAIGNS



Kenya Rogers
Director of External Relations

Education is a Right

This year we launched our “Education is a Right” post-secondary education campaign. This campaign asks for a federal framework for funding post-secondary education in Canada, as well as an immediate tuition freeze in BC. We have worked with student societies throughout the province to find common ground in terms of student advocacy, and have played a crucial role in bringing together communities of student representatives. We have spent much of the year educating our members on the validity and possibility of a tuition-free post secondary system, and let them know how they can get involved to make lasting change. On February 3rd, we will be hosting a massive rally at the provincial legislature to let the government know that students are fed up with the staggering amount of student debt that we currently face.

We joined with students from the Canadian Federation of Student-BC to lobby all levels of government to reinstate provincial funding for Adult Basic Education. These recommendations were adopted by the BC Government’s Standing Committee on Finance & Government Services. We also brought a motion of support and presentation to the Victoria City Council which was endorsed.

We worked very closely with all the student societies in BC when Bill 41 passed through the provincial legislature during the Fall 2015 sitting. This bill poses a threat to the integral funding that supports the programs and services that we offer throughout the student union. This work brought together students from across BC to write letters, propose recommendations, conduct a media campaign, and meet with the Minister of Advanced Education. We will continue this work to ensure that student fees are protected and that our valuable services remain available for all students. e issues facing BC students to the MLAs that govern our province.

This Year We’re Voting

During this past October’s federal election, we ran one of the most successful get-out-the-vote campaigns to date for the UVSS. Based on student surveys and feedback from students, we developed a campaign with the intention to bring student issues to the forefront of politicians’ minds. We secured an on campus Elections Canada satellite office which ensured that voting was accessible and easy for students. We also created infographics and information handouts which clearly indicated how students could vote at these polls.



We hosted one of the only two science and technology debates in the country, moderated by Bob McDonald (host of CBC’s Quirks & Quarks). This event was attended by more than 500 student, staff, faculty and community members. We also hosted an all-candidates forum for the major South Island ridings as well as debates which were also highly attended. Our satellite offices were a major success, with lines of up to 3 hours at a time, and we also had a well attended election results party at Felicita’s Pub. This campaign received a huge amount of media attention, with frequent interviews on several news platforms throughout the election.



Make Transit Work

The UVSS works in partnership with the Camosun Student Society and UNIFOR Local 333 (Greater Victoria bus drivers union) to advocate for issues relating to transit. Last year we secured a non-voting student seat on the transit commission, and the UVSS has been participating in these meetings all year. We continue to advocate for better late night transit systems in Greater Victoria, as well as an end to bus pass ups. Having a student voice at the table has been integral to ensuring that student issues are brought to the attention of commission members. We are also currently lobbying the commission to create a student summer pass for members who are not enrolled in classes during the summer semesters but who continue to use transit during these months.

At the December 8th transit commission meeting, the UVSS brought forward a motion to provide free transit passes to newcomers/ refugees settling in Greater Victoria. The motion passed unanimously and was even amended to include a provision that the commission consider making this a regular yearly practice. This success instigated a nationwide campaign called #WelcomeOnBoard, and several student societies across the country are trying to achieve a similar goal in their own transit areas.

Let’s Get Consensual

This has been the most successful year to date for the Let’s Get Consensual Campaign - our campaign against the prevalence of rape culture and sexualized violence on campuses. This year we focused on ways in which we could expand the campaign not only on campus, but in the community and the province as a whole. Our second annual Sexualized Violence Awareness Week was held in September and was a huge success. The Anti-Violence Project had their clothesline project moving around campus throughout the week, and this year we hosted

a kick off event that brought in voices from the UVSS, AVP and the University. We hosted a keynote speaker event with Darnell Moore and Anna Sool where over 200 people attended and we also hosted Laci Green's talk on rape culture in the Farquar Auditorium which close to 1000 people attended.

In terms of working on the campaign with other folks and members of the community, we worked with the Anti-Violence Project to host a 3 day consent culture conference in August. This conference brought together representatives from 10 different institutions across BC to learn facilitation of the consent training program. This grew into several institutions looking to the UVSS for guidance and advice on how to run a campaign similar to LGC on their own campus. We now have many institutions which have signed onto the LGC program, as well as the Canadian Federation of Students BC. As the campaign continues to grow, we have also applied for our first grant, and we will find out the results of that in mid-February.

Where's the Support?!

Our mental health campaign working group saw success on a few key initiatives this board term. Over the summer we worked with our health plan providers Studentcare to become the first University in the country to provide coverage for mental health and disability assessments. Without coverage these assessments can cost students up to \$3500 and they are necessary in order for students to have access to important resources. In September and October 2015 we held Mental Health First Aid training for students at a discounted rate. We also held "Apples & Tea" during December exams to help students de-stress and to provide important info about mental health resources.

The Rent is too Damn High

This year our affordable housing campaign group worked to oppose the ongoing increases to residence fees as well as to expand the reach of our housing campaign to include off-campus housing as well. In September we collected over 300 postcards from students and their families during residence move-in day to let the University know that students oppose the proposed increases. Since then we have

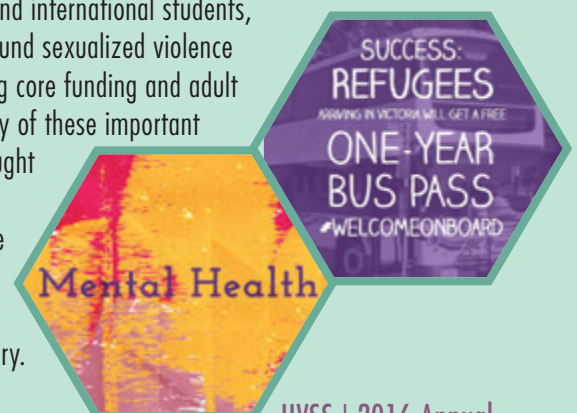
lobbied the Board of Governors and University administration to drop the proposed fee increases. In November we held a campaign action at a Board of Governors meeting where we delivered the postcards to UVic President Jamie Cassels. In regards to off-campus housing, we have been involved with the local housing campaign "Homes for All" which works to provide housing for people who are experiencing homelessness and to lobby the CRD to provide affordable housing in Victoria. The lobbying efforts towards the CRD were successful and \$30 million dollars was allocated to fund affordable or supportive housing projects.

Divest UVic

This was the first year that the UVSS ran the Divest UVic campaign after Divest UVic won a referendum vote with 77% of students voting in favour of the University's divestment from the fossil fuel industry. Throughout the year we've worked closely with the amazing organizers from Divest UVic to pressure the University's Board of Governors to vote in favour of divesting the \$30 million dollars that the University currently invests in the fossil fuel industry. This work has meant collecting thousands of petition signatures, doing outreach, climate justice training events, and working to organize a successful action at the Board of Governors Chambers this January asking the University to pick a side between a livable climate and fossil fuel investments.

Lobbying

This year the UVSS focused on lobbying all levels of government for a more robust and fully funded post-secondary education system in Canada. This has involved reaching out to student groups throughout the province and the country to ensure that our voices are heard. On a municipal level we lobbied the Victoria City Council to endorse the BCFS Don't Close the Doors Campaign fighting for reinstated funding to the Adult Basic Education program in BC. Provincially we have continued to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education on issues such as Bill 41 and general post secondary access. We are working with several student societies throughout the province to host a Provincial Lobby Days in April. These lobby asks will focus on a tuition freeze for domestic and international students, developing policy around sexualized violence on campus, increasing core funding and adult basic education. Many of these important asks will also be brought to the federal level when we lobby at the Canadian Federation of Students National Lobby Days in February.







COMMUNITY & EVENTS



Kaylee Szakacs
Director of Student Affairs

Clubs

This year we had over 200 active clubs that brought together students with similar interests, hobbies, or affiliations from all corners of campus. From the Conservative Club to the Young Communist League, Motorcycle Club to UNICEF, there was guaranteed to be a club for everybody. And if there wasn't, students could create their own club! The Make-Up Artistry Club, Motorcycle Club, and UVic SEDS (Students for the Exploration & Development of Space) Club were some of the new clubs that were founded this year. Clubs' Council voted to close all club accounts that had been inactive for over 3 years and this added around \$11,000 to their funding. Admirably, the Council voted to donate \$3000 of that money to the UVSS Food Bank in October 2015.

Clubs can apply for extra funding from the UVSS, up to \$1500 per Board term. This year, students used their Special Project Grants to build an electric car, host concerts, make movies, bring medical supplies down to rural Honduras, host a hack-a-thon, and so many more amazing projects!

Course Unions

Course Unions are essentially academic clubs for a given faculty. This year, almost 50 Course Unions were active, hosted events, and helped students with their studies. Course Unions have the ability to apply for three types of extra funding: Travel Pool, Academic Grants,

and Publication Grants. Students were granted money to attend conferences in cities as close as Vancouver and as far away as Hawaii! Some Course Unions used their Academic Grants to purchase things for their members like a communal printer and some decided to take on the gargantuan task of hosting a conference! Many will also be publishing their own journals or newspapers later this semester featuring written and visual work from students all across campus.



Clubs & Course Union Days

On September 16 & 17 and January 13 & 14, the SUB came to life with clubs and course unions showcasing who they are to the thousands of students who attended. Since the September extravaganza was right in the middle of the Federal Election campaign period, many candidates made an appearance to talk to students interested in joining clubs. Notable guests included Elizabeth May, Murray Rankin, Cheryl Thomas, Robert Boyd, Francis Litman, and Jo-Ann Roberts! Thousands of students signed up for clubs and course unions and we all ate way too much candy.





Special Events

Special Events started off the year with strong attendance and student engagement at Campus Kick-off. With lines out the door, our annual Pancake Breakfast ran until 1pm. During Sub Fair, we ran out of food and swag, and collected thousands of signatures for our campaigns. We also saw a record attendance at Movie in the Park and filled Felicita's during the Friday night Kick Off Party. After Kick Off, I spent most of my second term organizing smaller scale events and assisting the Director of External relations with UVSS campaigns. The main event organized by Events Committee after September was Octobeerfest, a beer tasting event in Vertigo and an "Activist Party" in Felicita's to complement the Activist Conference organized by our Director of External Relations. Octobeerfest was well received and benefited from infamous Oktoberfest branding; we saw a good increase in ticket and token revenue from last year's event.

I devoted the end of November and early December to planning for Sub-Zero and our February 3rd rally. Sub-Zero is a one-night music festival on January 29th in the Student Union Building to celebrate the new semester. This is a re-imagining and re-branding of our traditional "Frost-Fest"; we decided to move the party back into the SUB to highlight our pub and strengthen the SUB community. This year, Sub-Zero is the big test for the UVSS Events brand. After January, my priorities will be planning an academic Keynote event and working with the Grad Committee on the Grad Party.



FINANCE & OPERATIONS



Kylie Pettifer
Interim Director of Finance & Operations



Munchie
BAR



Organizational Strategy

This year the Society underwent significant strategic reform. Our excluded management was restructured to create the new Executive Director position. This role will help see to the long term success of the Society by adopting a more widely practiced and effective non-profit management model. Also this year the Society undertook a considerable planning initiative. We adopted an annual strategic planning model, created marketing and communications plans, and each of the SUB's nine business units developed business plans that align with and support the Society's strategic plan. Policy work in the areas of human resources and financial management have continued to help create long-term, reliable business practices for our organization. These policies will help ensure that the UVSS follows responsible employment and business practices.

Financial Position

With the significant cost of restructuring excluded management along with other challenges, the 2015/2016 year is projected to leave the operating fund in a small deficit at the end of this fiscal year. We have focussed on opportunities to build sales with renovations to Munchie Bar over the summer and the implementation of the ONE card capability (flex fund) in Food Services and Munchie Bar.

SUB Renovations

Last summer, Munchie Bar and the Cinecenta corridor underwent construction. The new design gave the area a facelift while providing for additional seating and adding a refrigerated display to increase the food options available at Munchie Bar. Renovations in the Student Union Building will enter their final phase this year. The SUB Renovations Committee is working to solidify the schematic design for the main concourse and plans for the Health Food Bar and International Grill are underway to see construction in Summer 2016.

Building Retrofits

Following the Avalon Energy Study conducted on the SUB, a retrofitting of the building's HVAC systems is in the works. This will help the Society both reduce energy use in the Student Union Building as well as lower utility costs.

Green Fund

The UVSS has worked in conjunction with the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability on the creation of a Green Fund, which was recently approved by the University administration. This fund will provide grant funding for on-campus or student projects demonstrating a viable student learning opportunity as well as furthering the Sustainability Action Plan.

The Food Bank & Free Store



In 2015, the Food Bank logged a record 10 800 visits and the Free Store shelves were consistently full. Increased awareness, including a new social media platform, has meant that our service reaches more students. The effects of rising tuition and housing costs are visible as more and more students come to the Food Bank to get food essentials. The Food Bank

continues to receive fresh produce from the UVSS garden and the Campus Community garden, and has a number of new partnerships to bring in fresh foods on a weekly basis. The Free Store's sustainability goals are being realized as many students come to get supplies at the start of the semester, and return them at the end. The support of coordinators and countless volunteers has ensured that our doors are open 9:30-5, Monday-Friday and increased our presence at campus events. Keeping up with the ever-increasing user base is a challenge that volunteers, coordinators, and the wider community are always working creatively to address!

Extended Health and Dental Plan

One exciting change came to the UVSS Health and Dental Plan this year. Students now have access to annual coverage for learning disability assessment tests and mental health accommodation exams. This means that academic accommodation will more affordable and accessible for students facing barriers on campus.

ONE Card

This year, the Society was able to implement ONE Card payment at our food services establishments, providing more convenience for students and making us more competitive with other on-campus food establishments.



ONECard

UVSS food outlets now accept ONECard and GUESTCard as pay.

Only payments from your ONECard can be accepted inside the Student Union Building under provincial regulation.



THIS YEAR
we're voting for

EDUCATION



University
of Victoria

uvicvotes.ca



Education
shouldn't be a
debt sentence!





Brontë Renwick-Shields
Chairperson

GOVERNANCE & MEMBER OUTREACH

Governance

This year we engaged in a number of significant governance and structural reforms. During the excluded management restructuring process we worked on updating all policy to represent the new structure. We are working on the Society's first human resource management policy in order to provide better training and management of our staff. We worked with advocacy groups and the Native Students Union to update policy to reflect the relationship between these groups and the UVSS Board of Directors. This involved a thorough review and edit of our Issues Policy, Hiring Policy, Electoral Policy and Board of Directors policy.

We reached quorum at our Annual General Meeting in October 2015 and passed some significant changes such as changing the name of "Chairperson" to "Director of Outreach and University Relations"*, the "Director of External Relations" to "Director of Campaigns and Community Relations"* and "International Student Representative" to "Director of International Student Relations". These changes better reflect the roles and responsibilities of these positions and eliminate perceived hierarchy in the Executive Director (now Lead Director) roles.

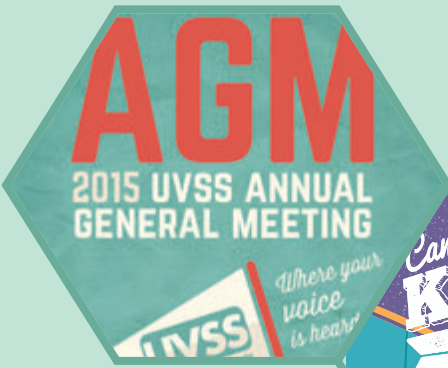
This year in conjunction with the Society for Students with Disabilities we implemented the Society's first Disability Policy, ensuring that the UVSS continues to work on increasing its accessibility to all students and actively working to address ableism and advocate for students with disabilities.

**Effective May 1, 2016*

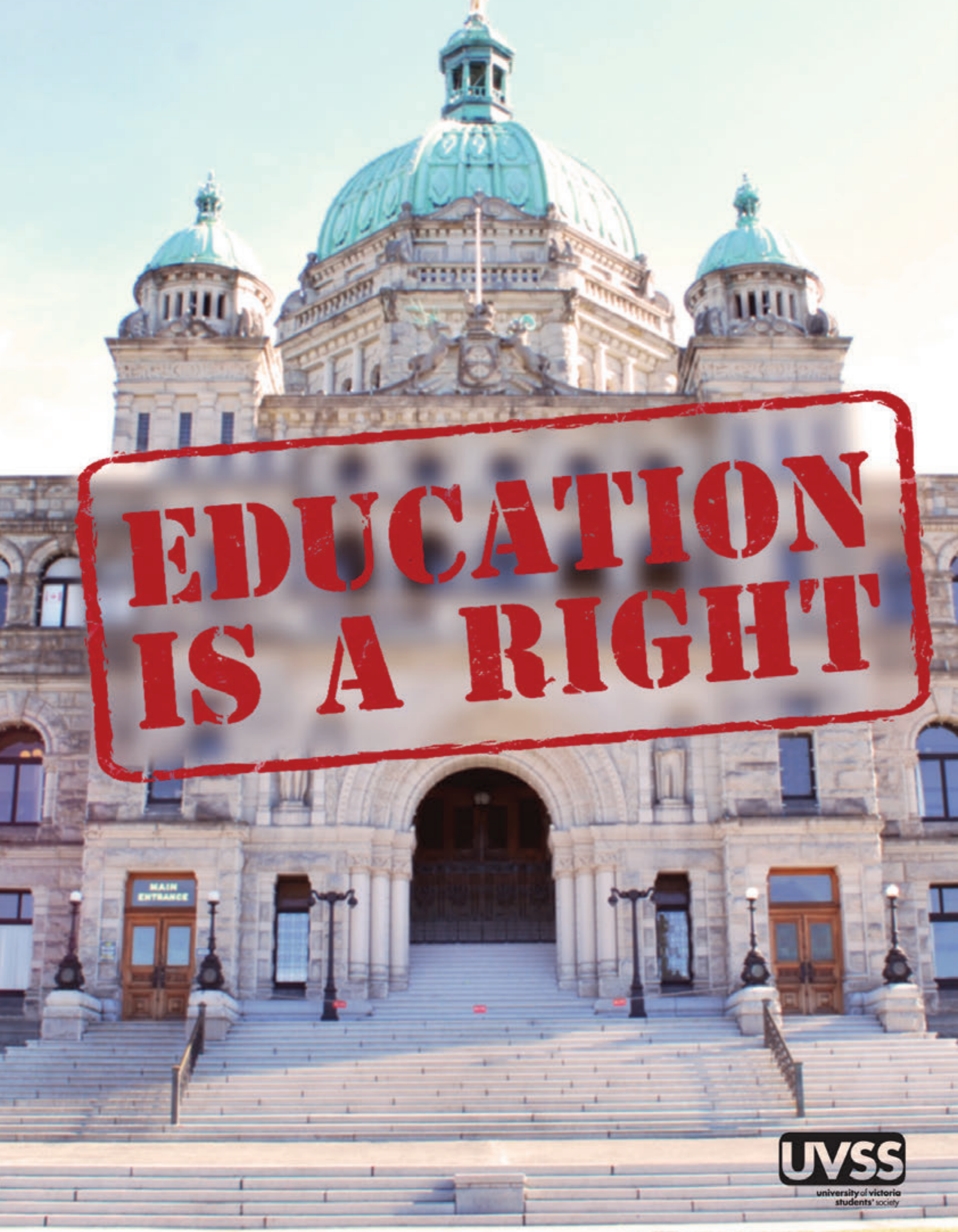
Member Outreach

The UVSS provides campaigns, services, employment, and events to our 17,000+ members. Central to providing these vital resources is effectively communicating what we offer to students on this campus and also bringing in new people to our organization through our volunteer program. This year we worked hard to create a cohesive and strategic volunteer program and we have seen more volunteer recruitment and retention than ever before. It is with the help of these amazing volunteers that we've been able to achieve all of our campaigns and events and we are so thankful to their continued passion and commitment to the Society. Through our strategic planning, we have come up with key outreach strategies from social media to tabling and this is our first year with a dedicated student staff member for outreach and volunteer coordination.







A photograph of the British Columbia Parliament Building, a grand stone structure with a large central dome and two smaller side domes, all covered in green patina. The building features classical architectural elements like columns and arches. In the foreground, a wide set of stone steps leads up to the main entrance. A large, red, distressed-style stamp is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the text "EDUCATION IS A RIGHT" in a bold, sans-serif font. The stamp has a rough, hand-painted appearance with irregular edges.

**EDUCATION
IS A RIGHT**