

UVSS

Run by students, for students.

n., movement, you

1.] Founded in 1964, the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) provides advocacy, services and events to the 17,000+ undergraduate students at UVic who make up its membership.



Fig. 1 - UVSS Logo

2.] Synonyms: {See also} - kick-ass concerts, affordable education, emergency food bank, health & dental plan, advocacy groups, clubs, course unions, bottled water free campus, local food, late-night transit, cheap ethical coffee, student jobs, campus sustainability, 5 cent copies, used textbooks, cheapest beer in Victoria.



Fig. II - SUB

student union building



ABOUT THE UVSS

The University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) is a non-profit society run by students for students. It was founded in 1964 and represents all 17,000+ undergraduate students at the University of Victoria. The UVSS' annually elected student board of directors is responsible for a \$10 million a year operation that is housed in the Student Union Building. The UVSS works on your behalf by offering essential services, throwing great events and building partnerships to defend and promote your interests at all levels of government.

VISION

Our vision is a picture of what we aspire to create. To be a leader in providing high-quality services, advocacy and events which enhance the student experience and build a campus community that embodies our values.

VALUES

Our values are what we stand for. They underlie our vision and guide how we make decisions, perform our work and work with each other.

There are six core or primary driving forces behind all that we do:

EQUITY

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

FUN!

We believe that our campus should be fun. Students should be able to feel excited about the work their students' society does and experience a dynamic atmosphere that propels engagement and positive change.

COMMUNITY

We believe in a campus where students feel a sense of belonging, solidarity and mutual respect. We foster this by creating spaces in which students are able to come together and participate in our events, advocacy, and non-profit services.

INCLUSIVENESS

We believe that the UVSS should be as open, transparent and welcoming as possible to all students and community members. We believe that inclusiveness is an action and not a passive belief.

ADVOCACY

We believe in working with and on behalf of students to promote and defend their interests and rights to all levels of government. We will partner with other groups, raise awareness and empower students to create change.

SUSTAINABILITY

We believe that our use of resources should not only meet our present needs but also the needs of future generations. We work to reduce the environmental impact of our operations by working collaboratively with like-minded organisations.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Hello UVic Students!

On behalf of the UVSS, I would like to thank you for a fantastic 2012-2013 term. Your Board of Directors has been working tirelessly to serve students, and has had an extremely productive year.

In many respects, UVSS history was made this year. We held our first-ever summer event in June, a block party in defense of affordable post-secondary education. Our 'first week' events were more highly attended than ever before. In the Student Union Building, multi-stall gender inclusive washrooms were created, and we phased out the sale of bottled water. Significantly, we also secured funding for a major renovation of the SUB, the first phase of which will be completed by September 2013.

The UVSS continues to be a strong voice for students. 'Where's the Funding' is a coalition of student societies from across B.C. This partnership, initiated by the UVSS in 2012, is now the largest student organization in the province. Closer to home, the UVSS and Camosun College Students Society has come together to create the 'Make Transit Work' campaign, focusing attention on local transit priorities.

Operationally, we have continued to improve the financial and environmental sustainability of our businesses. We budgeted a surplus of \$48,551 and are on track to surpass this estimate. The UVSS continues to develop and build upon our long-term strategic plan.

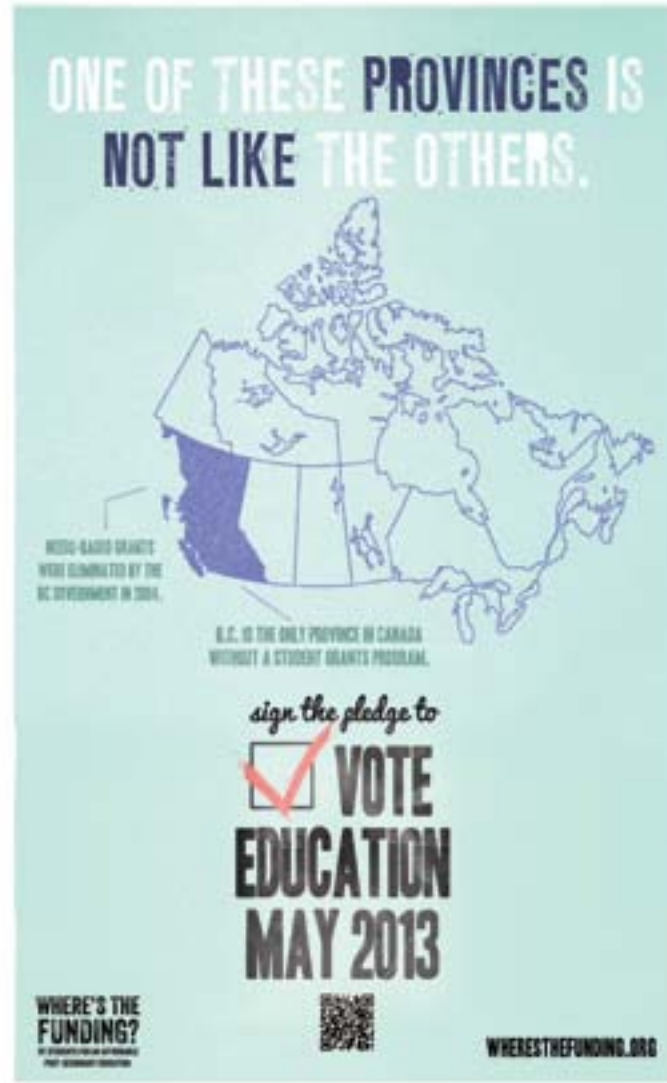
The student society exists to make students lives easier and more fun. We've added vision coverage to our health and dental plan. Students continue to take initiative in creating clubs and course unions that represent their interests, and we are proud to support each of these projects.

As an organization, we are truly run by students, for students. You shape the direction and priorities of your student society, and we would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on the work that we do. As a board, our accomplishments wouldn't be possible without the passion of the student community. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Emily Rogers





ADVOCACY

VOTE EDUCATION

This year, the UVSS launched the VOTE EDUCATION campaign with eight other student societies from UBC, SFU, Capilano, Langara, University of the Fraser Valley, BCIT, UNBC, and Kwantlen. This coalition, which first came together in May 2011, has now formalized itself into the Alliance of BC Students (ABCS) – the largest non-partisan post-secondary advocacy group in B.C. representing over 180,000 students at nine institutions.

In order to achieve a more accessible and affordable post-secondary education, students are asking for the following:

- The elimination of interest rates on student loans.
- The re-establishment of a provincial needs-based grants program.
- An increase to core-funding for colleges and universities.

The VOTE EDUCATION campaign asks students to pledge to vote education in the May 2013 provincial election and to call on the leaders of the BC Liberal Party, BC NDP, BC Conservative Party and Green Party of BC to put funding for post-secondary at the top of their agendas.

ABCS is unique in how we organise around the issue of post-secondary education. We are a grassroots, consensus-based, non-hierarchical group that allows its partner societies to advocate on their campus in a way that suits their needs best. There are no overarching policies, bylaws, or fees other than the ones set individually that govern each participating student society. This allows the students who get involved in our campaign to collaborate with each other in a flexible, adaptive and non-restrictive way. Good times.

More info: bcpsc.org



MAKE TRANSIT WORK

The UVSS has been working hard with bus drivers and Camosun students to reduce bus pass-ups with our MAKE TRANSIT WORK campaign. We've been out at the bus stops where you are getting passed up doing a petition drive and having conversations with riders. We are lobbying the Victoria Regional Transit Commission for the following:

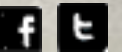
- Implement more pilot projects for bus only lanes immediately.
- Ask the province for an increase to the local gas tax.
- Lobby the province to allocate a portion of the carbon tax towards public transit.

These measures will increase service hours, speed up buses and make transit work better for students and community members. We have also met with B.C. Transit and municipal mayors to discuss the benefit of transit priority lanes. Additionally, we have been lobbying the University to expand transit infrastructure on campus to allow for more bus stops so that we can accommodate our overloaded bus exchange.

More info: maketransitwork.com



COMMUNITY & EVENTS



STUDENT GROUPS

This year we saw meaningful engagement with UVSS student groups across campus. We moved clubs and course union registration online enabling a more accessible process for students to organize. We also started an incoming student group executive training open to all clubs and course unions. We registered more than twenty-five new clubs, boosting the UVSS to more than two hundred active clubs. Our student clubs hosted events ranging from volunteer trips to pumpkin pin hole camera workshops to concerts, and countless other events. We saw outreach for clubs increase through use of the UVSS Facebook page and website. We had over twenty-five Club Special Project funds granted to throw events to enrich campus community. Our forty-five course unions continue to hold events both of a social and academic nature with this being a very busy year. Course unions hosted countless social nights, movie screenings, publications and more. Course Union Council has sent more than three hundred students to conferences this year, with UVic students continuing to boost our presence in the academic community. The UVSS is working to continue collaboration with clubs and course unions, as well as continuing to build capacity and support for people looking to get engaged with campus life.

welcomed students back with the first annual Frost Fest with over 900 people in attendance – the biggest UVSS party since the legendary SUB parties of years past. All in all, the UVSS has had a great year with record attendance and innovative new events.



EVENTS

This was a landmark year for UVSS events. September saw the first ever frosh week on campus in the form of Campus Kickoff, which included events ranging from classics such as the daytime beer gardens, Movie in the Park, and Thunderfest to brand new events like the Pool Party & Beach Volleyball Tournament, and a world record-sized Capture the Flag game in the Quad. September was followed up with the Battle of the Bands series in Felicita's, the annual Fred Penner concert and the first ever UVSS Holiday Concert featuring Carmanah and Hey Ocean! In January we



TIRED OF GETTING MILKED?

BC CHARGES THE HIGHEST INTEREST ON STUDENT LOANS IN CANADA.

STUDENTS ARE NOT CASH COWS.

Sign the pledge to
 VOTE
EDUCATION
MAY 2013



WHERE'S THE FUNDING?
BC STUDENTS FOR AN AFFORDABLE
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

FINANCE & OPERATIONS



FINANCIAL POSITION

The UVSS continues to be in good financial standing. We are into another year with a projected surplus and are on track to eliminate our accumulated deficit by the end of 2013. We expect that major renovations on student spaces and food services in the SUB will increase traffic in the SUB and be positive for our businesses over the long term. We have also heard from students that we need to address seating issues for our food services so we have made targeted capital investments in support of seating expansions outside the SUB Upper Lounge and Bean There. In terms of our strategic plan, we are meeting or exceeding targets on all fronts.

SUB RENOVATIONS

We are so excited that students voted in the November 2012 referendum and decided to give our worn-out pub and SUB a little love. The SUB was built in 1964 and has not seen a major fee-supported renovation since 1996. To keep costs low for students, we are not going to build a brand new building. By renovating and refurbishing at a cost of \$2.2 million, Felicita's and the SUB are going to look new and modernized without students having to foot a \$60-100 million bill. Our new space is going to be based on our values: a modern, sustainable, accessible, comfortable space where students can work, eat, and socialize. Following our core value of sustainability, we will be using reclaimed and recycled materials during construction. We will also be implementing key recommendations from an accessibility audit of the SUB that we conducted this year. We have given this document to our architects with instructions to ensure that they incorporate it into their planning.

OUR NEW PUB & SUB





SERVICES

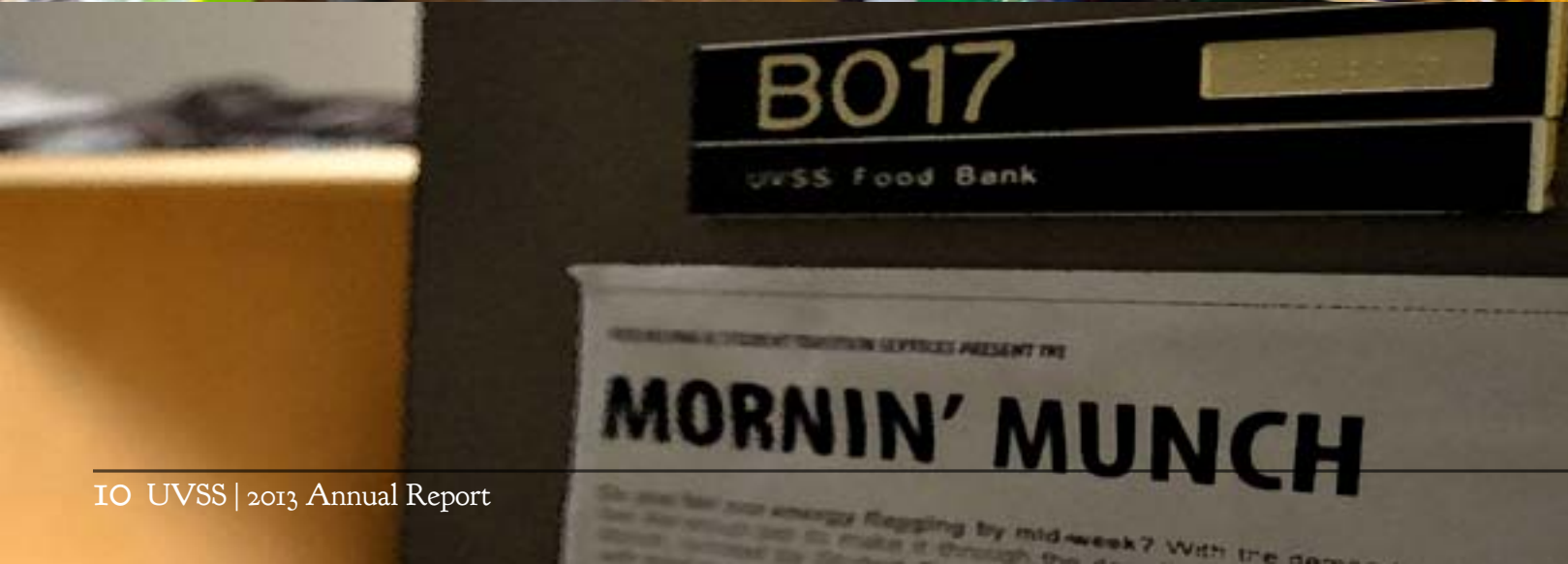


UVSS EMERGENCY FOOD BANK

The UVSS Food Bank is a service that increases in use every year, and offers an essential service to hundreds of students. Over the last year the Board has focused on making the Food Bank as accessible as possible, keeping the doors open longer, and keeping the shelves stocked with fresh and healthy food. The Food Bank was featured in the local news as an example of student-run services aimed to offer support in light of increasing financial strain on post-secondary students. With usage growing, we've been working towards the further sustainability of the Food Bank, building relationships with GSS, putting forward a referendum question to our membership, and receiving donations from more than a dozen groups ranging from clubs to UVic departments to community members. The Food Bank continues to operate thanks to our two staff and many invaluable volunteers.

HEALTH PLAN

Our Health and Dental Plan provider Student Care had an office opened in the SUB in September and January this year. This change was met with positive feedback from students who were able to have their questions about opt outs and coverage answered by people knowledgeable on the specifics of the UVSS plan. We heard from students that you would like to have increased Health and Dental Plan for this coverage, so we expanded coverage from \$750-\$850.



STUDENTCARE
.NET/WORKS



ihaveaplan.ca

SUSTAINABILITY



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL

The Environmental Sustainability Council was launched at the beginning of this board term to bring together environmental groups on campus to work on collective initiatives. This year, we have focused on starting a project called UVision. Over the next year the University will be re-writing the campus plan - a process that takes place every ten years. UVision will work to ensure that student voices are heard in this process, particularly in regards to sustainability issues. On February 6 and 7 an open house was held to collect student ideas for this initiative. These were compiled and will be used in the coming year as we continue to engage with environmental groups and sustainability-minded students on campus to create a submission to the campus planning process in an effort to answer the question: What is your ideal vision for a sustainable campus?

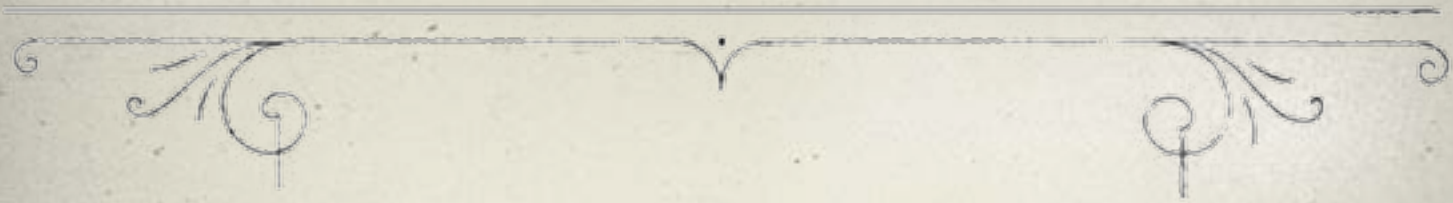
SUB SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is one of the core values of the UVSS in our Strategic Plan. We strive to make sure that sustainability is considered in every aspect of our operations. As part of this commitment, we have operationalized the comprehensive recycling program in the SUB that was begun as a partnership between the UVSS and UVSP. This move will ensure the continuation of the recycling program from year to year. The UVSS Board of Directors recently voted in favor of allocating \$25,000 from our ATM contract with RBC to the implementation of the key energy efficiency measures recommended in an energy audit of the SUB. This investment will ensure that we are moving in the right direction towards a more sustainable SUB. Changes to the building that result in energy savings also mean cost savings over time for the UVSS. We will also be working over the coming months on the development of a responsible banking and investing policy framework.

BOTTLED WATER

The Student Union Building no longer sells bottled water! We committed to being bottled water free by the end of 2012, and we fulfilled this promise. This process was initiated by a referendum in which 85% of students voted to phase out the sale of bottled water on campus. We have met with the University on multiple occasions to lobby them to move forward with a bottled water ban as well. So far, the University has instituted "bottle water free zones" and is engaging in a consultation process to move forward with the project. While the University continues to sell bottled water, we are proud to promote environmental sustainability in our business operations and public drinking water as a human right.





university of victoria
students' society

Run by students, for students.

www.uvss.ca