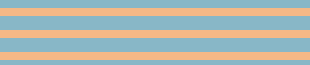




# ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## LEAD DIRECTORS



**PIERRE-PAUL ANGELBLAZER**

Director of Outreach &  
University Relations



**NOOR CHASIB**

Director of Events



**AINSLEY KERR**

Director of Campaigns &  
Community Relations



**ISABELLA LEE**

Director of Student Affairs



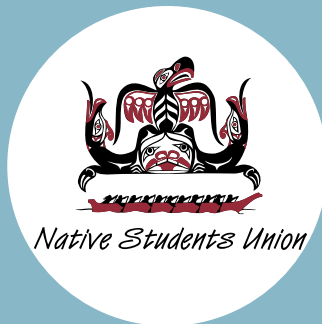
**CURTIS WHITTLA**

Director of Finance &  
Operations



**DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT RELATIONS**

Vaccant



**NATIVE STUDENTS' UNION  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Kolin Surtherland-Wilson



**CONSTITUENCY  
ORGANIZATION  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Nathan Ponce

# DIRECTORS AT LARGE



TYLER ARNOLD



GULSEERAT BOPARAI



JORDAN GILSON



ADRIENNE GRAHAM



ERIC JAKUBOWSKI



JONATHAN LORING



JASMINE PATHAK



DAVID STEVANOVIC



JULIA WITTE



MARY WOOD



SHAUN ZHANG



UVIC PRIDE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
Avria Chrystal



THIRD SPACE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
Jasmine MacGregor



SOCIETY FOR STUDENTS  
WITH A DISABILITY  
REPRESENTATIVE  
Natalie Blecha

# ABOUT US

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## **Mission**

Our mission is to be a leader in providing high-quality and accessible services, and advocacy and events that enhance the student experience and build a campus community that embodies our values.

## **Vision**

Full student engagement in our core components of advocacy, events, services, businesses, and society governance.



**university of victoria**  
**students' society**



All undergraduate students at the University of Victoria are members of the UVic Students' Society (UVSS). Founded in 1964, the UVSS is a non-profit society run by students that provides essential services, advocacy, representation, and events for our 18,000+ members. We are entirely separate from the University and we operate nine unique student-focused businesses in the Student Union Building (SUB). We work on a broad array of issues that affect students and we work hard to ensure that their voices are heard by the University administration and all levels of government.

# VALUES

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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.

## Good Governance

We take our responsibility to ensure the long-term stability and health of your students' society very seriously. To us this means ensuring participatory democracy and transparent decision-making, being prudent and judicious with your student fees, and being accountable for our actions.

## Fun!

We value fun in everything that we do. To us that means creativity, passion, spirit, lightheartedness, and not being institutional. Campus should be a fun place to be and students should feel excited and engaged about the work their students' society does.

## Excellence

We aim to be a leader not just among student societies, but among non-profits. We pursue this goal through excellence. To us that means fostering creativity, driving innovation, promoting a learning culture, investing in our people, and by taking a compassionate approach to everything that we do.

## Service

Service to students is why we exist. Our student-centered approach drives us to provide services that are high-quality, relevant, and meaningful to students. Whether it's our social enterprises, the extended health and dental plan, or the UPass, we strive to ensure that we serve all members of the UVSS.

## Social Justice

Whether we are advocating for student issues or putting the profits from our businesses back into services for students, the UVSS works every day to ensure no person is left behind. We work with campus and community partners to raise awareness and empower students to create change. To support this work, we will create inclusive and supportive spaces for student collaboration.

# GOVERNANCE

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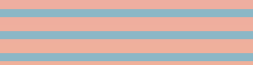
A democratically elected student Board of Directors oversees the UVSS. The Board meets twice a month in order to effectively govern the Society. Students are invited to actively participate on the Board's various committees.

# The Board consists of the following directors:

- Eleven Directors-at-Large
- International Student representative
- Four advocacy group representatives
- Native Students Union representative
- Five Lead Directors

- › Director of Campaigns and Community Relations
- › Director of Student Affairs
- › Director of Finance and Operations
- › Director of Events
- › Director of Outreach and University Relations.

Elections for these positions take place in March, with the exception of: the representatives for the Third Space Women's Centre, UVic Pride, the Native Students Union (NSU), the Students of Colour Collective (SOCC) and the Society for Students with a Disability (SSD); these groups elect their representatives to the Board of Directors at their general meetings.



# THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING [SUB]

The UVSS operates nine businesses located in the Student Union Building. These businesses are social enterprises (businesses run for a social good) and their profits go back to students in the form of advocacy, events, and services. Many of the UVSS businesses have been recently renovated so that they are better able to serve students.

## The following are the nine UVSS businesses:



### **Health Food Bar (HFB)**

House made items, rice bowls, wraps, sandwiches, fresh juice, smoothies, vegan & gluten free options.



### **The Grill**

Dahls, curries, burgers & more – vegan & gluten free options.



### **Bean There Cafe**

Pizza, sushi, bagels, muffins, breakfast sandwiches & coffee.



### **Munchie Bar**

Best drip, espresso, and Americano on campus, baked goods & gourmet sandwiches.



### **Felicita's Campus Pub**

Beer, wine, liquor, food, live music, karaoke, & other great events.



### **Cinecenta Movie Theatre**

Indie, foreign, and Hollywood films & amazing popcorn.



### **Zap Copy – Digital Print Centre**

7 cent copies, wide format printing, binding & old exams.



### **SUBText – Books & Things**

Used textbooks, magazines, cards, gifts, snacks & drinks.



### **Catering & Conference Services**

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hi everyone!

We'd like to start by thanking you for giving us the opportunity to be part of the UVSS. We've all had a great couple of semesters working for our members to improve services, run important campaigns, host fun events, and inform you of what services and supports are available to you.

We started the school year with Campus Kick-Off (CKO), a series of events that brought new and returning students together at sold-out parties in the SUB, the classic free pancake breakfast, the ever-popular Movie in the Park, and more! We've also opened up our new Peer Support Centre in the basement of the Student Union Building that provides support to students in need from trained volunteers.

We ran a hard-fought campaign on-campus to get students interested and voting in our municipal elections where we were able to double our voter turnout on campus!

We have been equally hard at work behind the scenes overseeing all clubs and course unions in order to ensure that our campus community can flourish. We have worked hard to streamline bookings in the UVSS and with UVic. We have developed a website for clubs to be able to check their account balances. We created a shared storage space for course unions and clubs to use! And lastly, we tried our best to make ratification and interactions with the UVSS a fun and engaging experience.

We've done a lot more than just that! Here are some other highlights from this year that we're proud of:

- Enhanced the referenda policy overall in order to accommodate more stakeholder groups.
- Hired and trained a new ombudsperson.
- Opened a new Peer Support Center to support students' mental health, which provides volunteer experience and co-curricular credits to students!
- Lobbied the Ministry of Advanced Education on topics including: Sexualized violence policies at universities, on-campus student housing, and methods of improving mental health resources for students.
- Increased on and off-campus partner collaborations, helping push CKO 2018 to be the best one in years.
- Transitioned to a tiered health and dental plan with better coverage and benefits.
- Made upgrades and capital improvements in Cinecenta, Zap Copy, and SUBtext to grow these student-run businesses.
- Created a new clubs and course union website for people to check their account balances.

In addition, we are currently on track to end the fiscal year having eliminated the accumulated deficit!

We were very lucky to be given the chance to serve as your elected representatives. We wish you all the best in the coming semester.

Sincerely,

The 2018-2019 UVSS Executive Team



# FINANCE & OPERATIONS

## Strategic Planning

This year, the UVSS extended and renewed the Strategic Plan of the past two Boards to create a new 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. Major strategic challenges facing the UVSS include negative public image and rising fiscal pressures. These are long-term issues that will continue to affect future Boards.

## Financial Position

The UVSS started the year with just over \$9,000 in accumulated deficit, down from \$130,000 at the beginning of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. This year, we budgeted to break even and fully pay off the accumulated deficit, assuming no unanticipated expenses.

## Health and Dental Plan

Last year, UVSS members passed two key referenda to overhaul our Health and Dental Plan. The first referendum created a two-tiered plan, featuring enhanced options for both health and dental, and gave students the option of opting-down to less coverage for a lower price. The second referendum gave the Board, beginning in the 2019-2020 Board term, the ability to

raise or lower fees by 5% each year to keep up with inflation and changes in premiums. As the proponent for both, my predecessor, Mackenzie Cumberland, did an excellent job in outreach and raising support for these changes among members. These changes will enable the ongoing sustainability of health and dental insurance plans for all students. Working with our insurance broker, Studentcare, we have been able to successfully implement these changes for students and continue to provide excellent extended coverage for UVSS members.

## SUB Capital Upgrades

This year, we finished major upgrades to the self-serve print system at Zap Copy, which is the culmination of a year-long project. Early feedback has been very positive to this flexible new system. Cinecenta carpets and trim have been refurbished and we are looking into replacing the curtains and pulley for the stage. In SUBtext, a new point-of-sale software system is in development that will be able to handle both consignment and retail, and allow students to better track their consignment sales.

## Operations

This year has seen a lot of turn-over among UVSS staff. New faces have resulted in positive changes. We're also seeing the results of a low unemployment rate in Victoria. There's been a lot of unfilled job openings at the student level this year. This hasn't just been true for the UVSS - it has affected the broader Capital Region as well. Low unemployment will likely be an ongoing issue for the next few years.

On the businesses side, Catering & Conferences has seen large growth, primarily in the booking of the newly-renovated spaces in the SUB to large external groups for conferences, parties, and events. Munchie Bar has continued to perform really well, and I'm sure that the capital investments in Zap Copy, Cinecenta, and SUBtext will also lead to business growth.

The last few months of the Board term are likely to be quiet for my portfolio, but it's been an honour to be a steady hand guiding the finances of the UVSS for this past year. I look forward to seeing what new ideas candidates will bring to the Board in the next election.

All the best,



**Curtis Whittla**  
Director of  
Finance &  
Operations

# CAMPAIGNS

The UVSS runs multiple campaigns to represent the diverse needs of students:

## Grants Now

The logo for Grants Now, with the word "GRANTS" in teal and "NOW" in red.

This year, we continued our Grants Now campaign in partnership with the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS), the UBC Alma Mater Society (UBC AMS), and the Alliance of BC Students (ABCS).

Needs-based grants for students from lower-income families would increase access to post-secondary education. This is why we're asking the BC government to expand its grants programming. Right now, B.C. is the only province without a comprehensive needs-based grants program.

Our on-campus work for this campaign has focused on petition-signing! Through coordinated lobbying with other student unions, we will be presenting our recommendations to members of the provincial government.

## ReThink Mental Health



ReThink Mental Health is a campaign focused on de-stigmatizing conversations around mental health and giving students tools for managing stress levels

through the practice of self-care. It's our hope that by normalizing these open conversations about mental health in our community, students will have an easier time reaching out through informal or formal support systems.

This year, we have tabled around campus in order to connect with students about their lived experiences, what improvements are needed for mental health resources on-campus, and how to practice accessible methods of self-care. We created a free drop-in wellness/art space for students to relax and participate in every Friday in the Peer Support Centre, in partnership with the UVic Office of Student Life.

We provided critical feedback about student mental health resources to the Ministry of Advanced Education, along with the UBC AMS, SFSS, and other student unions. This was followed by the B.C. government's announcement of a new 24/7 mental health line for students. As well, we will be coordinating with other student unions to lobby the B.C. government for increased funding for mental health resources at post-secondary institutions, and an overarching provincial post-secondary mental health strategy.

Alongside encouraging the B.C. government to prioritize this issue, the UVSS has taken initiative at our own campus. The 5th Annual Mental Health Showcase was one of our most successful to date, with

events featuring student talent from across campus and an amazing poetry performance by Shane Koyczan!

## Rent with Rights



Rent with Rights is a housing campaign for safe, affordable, and accessible student

housing on and off-campus. This campaign was launched in 2016 as a collaboration between the UVSS, SFSS, and the UBC AMS. With vacancy rates as low as 0.6% in Victoria, students and lower-income folks are struggling to find safe, accessible and affordable places to live.

We achieved a significant campaign victory when BC Premier John Horgan pledged \$123 million to allow UVic to develop more on-campus housing. We will continue to push for residential rights for students living on-campus. This includes working with UVic Residence Services to clarify and further develop residence housing processes and policies!

We are continuing to lobby all levels of government, including the Ministry of Housing and Social Development about the need for more on-campus housing. We participated in a Student Housing Working Group with the ABCS, AMS and SFSS. We also conducted several media interviews, including one with the CBC, about the increased need for student housing, and the safety and security issues students face as tenants. The UVSS has been quoted in over 10 media articles, including the CBC and the B.C. government website.

In October we used social media to share horror stories that UVic students submitted about their housing situations to further illustrate the importance of safe and effective on-campus housing!

## Safer Use



The Safer Use campaign was developed in response to the ongoing opioid crisis in B.C. Recognizing that the fentanyl crisis partially exists due to the stigmatization of substance use and a lack of resources was an important part of building the philosophy that guides this campaign. A harm reduction approach recognizes that students are going to use substances and, without judgement, works to provide information and materials so that students can use substances in a safer and informed manner.

We partnered with UVic Health Services to become one of the first campuses in BC to offer naloxone training. Since September 2017, we have been offering free naloxone training sessions to students, and have even coordinated sessions for individual cohorts on request. We're also coordinating with other student unions to lobby the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions for greater support for harm reduction at post-secondary institutions. We tabled on-campus, talking to students about the new on-campus cannabis policy, and consulted with UVic about the policy in advance of its implementation.

This year, we are working to expand Safer Use training to get free CPR training on campus. In order to do this, we have budgeted for CPR training workshops to be held through the Peer Support Center

(PSC), to be confirmed if the PSC referendum question is passed!

## Make Transit Work



We meet regularly with our fellow members of the Greater Victoria Transit Alliance, which is comprised of Unifor 333,

Camosun College Student Society and the UVic Graduate Students' Society) to bring our ideas for more efficient service back to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission.

We are currently working with UVic and BC Transit to establish a dedicated student summer U-pass, available to students who are not in classes during the summer! Staff from BC Transit have worked with us to create a proposal for approval at a Victoria Regional Transit Commission meeting in February. We are hard at work to create the administrative processes through which students will purchase the pass! It's our hope to make this pass available to students by the end of summer 2019.

## Let's Get Consensual



Let's Get Consensual is a joint campaign created by the UVSS and the

Anti-Violence Project (AVP) and is run on-campus in partnership with UVic. LGC is a campaign that any students' society can choose to partner with the UVSS on!

Our mission is to make our campus safer by providing judgment-free consent education and training, and to fight rape culture on campus

by creating consent and education-based community events. From condoms to consent training, we do this in a number of ways: events, poster and media campaigns, workshops and training, safer sex packets, tabling with free swag, and much more!

This year we have worked to clarify our partnership terms of references and to create campaign processes to ensure that our partnerships with other student unions on this campaign will provide them with consistent, predictable, and comprehensive support.

In September, we held our 6th Annual Sexualized Violence Awareness Week, featuring burlesque, slam poetry and an open-question panel. As well, for the first time ever, this year we will be holding a second Sexualized Violence Awareness event in February 2019. This event will follow the same format and focus on conversations about pleasure, consent, and bodily autonomy.

Thank you to everyone who has provided time and support to all the UVSS campaigns!

All the best,



**Ainsley Kerr**  
Director of  
Campaigns &  
Community  
Relations



# CLUBS & COURSE UNIONS

## Clubs

The UVSS has over 175 active clubs that cover a wide range of interests. Whether you are interested in politics, chess, or skydiving, there's a club for you! If you still can't find a group that catches your eye, you can always start your own!

Students started over 20 new clubs this year! We now have Students for the Salish Sea, Bloc Québécois, and Precious Plastics clubs. All clubs have the chance to apply for Special Project Funding in addition to their base funding. Some of the projects clubs have completed with this funding include: hosting a heavy metal concert, putting on a Model United Nations conference, attending a formula hybrid racing competition and even doing work in outer space!

## Course Unions & Professional Development Unions

The UVSS has over 40 faculties represented by course unions and professional development unions (PDUs). These unions are a great way for students to interact and make connections with students in their faculties.

Course unions and PDUs have access to base funding as well as academic and publication grants. Some course unions used their academic funding to put on conferences or to host events, such as "meet the prof" nights.

Several course unions also produced publications that feature student work, such as The Albartross and OnPolitics. All undergraduate students have access to Travel Pool funding, which Course Union Council administers. This year, the travel pool sent students far and wide: to Canada, the United States, and Europe.

This year, clubs and course unions received a new shared storage space. We developed a website to make it easier for clubs to check their account balances. We also brought the cheque requisition process online. We completed a multi-stage overhaul of clubs and course union policies. Clubs Council made quorum every meeting and we've established a new way to get everyone ratified quicker. Lastly, we streamlined space bookings with UVic and the UVSS!

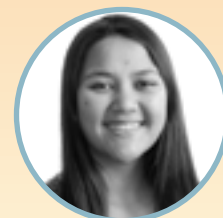
## Clubs & Course Union Days

Clubs and Course Union Days were held on September 12 & 13, 2018 and January 9 & 10, 2019. They featured over 140 UVSS clubs and course unions as well as numerous other Vikes clubs and on-campus student groups. The hallways were flooded with thousands of students who signed up to join new clubs. It was a fun-filled four days where students saw robots, tried virtual reality, learned to dance, were defeated in Mario Kart, and everything in between!

## Advocacy Groups

This year was a busy year for advocacy groups! Programming included: weekly lunches and tea at the Society for Students with a Disability, juice and rebuilding in the Third Space, photography and 'zines with the Students of Colour Collective, workshops and caucuses with UVic Pride, and community lunches and open houses in the Native Students Union! We held Advocacy Relations Committee every two weeks for members to share events, pass policy, and approve funding.

Thank you everyone for a great year! I am looking forward to exciting things ahead.



**Isabella Lee**  
Director of  
Student Affairs

# EVENTS

## Special Events

The 2018-2019 school year has gone by quickly. I am proud of the work our Board has done and will do in the coming months!

Campus Kick Off 2018 was an overall success. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to run it a second time around. It takes a lot of time and coordination to get all the moving pieces together and our partners and volunteers made that process run smoothly. We've been working hard to make sure that all students, first year and beyond, have events that interest them. We are always looking for new ways to engage students!

Our goal this year was to increase the quantity of events while also maintaining their quality. I am pleased to say we have surpassed many of our initial goals. These include: Having at least 80% of the events each semester take place in the SUB, remaining within 5% of our budget and having ticket sales within 5% of their targets for 80% of events in each semester. We are on track to make this year one of the best that UVic has seen in years.

Each event presents its own set of unique challenges and lessons. Being in the Events portfolio a second time has also allowed me to look over our

events as a whole in a more critical lens. I'm in a spot that not many other directors find themselves in, and so I'd like to use this opportunity and perspective to provide detailed feedback from the lessons I've learned, and to also ease the challenges and help refine events for future years.

After the resounding success of our November Reading Break ferry shuttle service last semester, we will be bringing back a shuttle service for Reading Break this month. We've heard from students and know that there is a need to provide an easier way to get to the ferry in a timely and less stressful manner. I'm happy with how the service is turning out and have made recommendations to continue providing it in the future.

Besides hosting events, we are also committed to staying proactive. For example, the UVSS Accessibility Checklist has been an invaluable resource that we are constantly updating and re-assessing to make sure we continue to uphold our promise to host events that are as accessible as possible for all students. Taking inspiration from all different directions, we continue to make UVSS events unique, safe, inclusive, and fun for all.

As you can see, we're staying busy and always looking to push the Events portfolio in the right

direction. This means receiving more feedback from students whenever possible. If you have ideas, questions or feedback please feel free to chat with me or drop me a line.

Best,



**Noor Chasib**  
Director of Events  
[events@uvss.ca](mailto:events@uvss.ca)



# MEMBER OUTREACH & GOVERNANCE

It's been an awesome year for outreach, and this would not have been possible without the support of volunteers. You all showed up super early for Pancake Breakfast and super late for Movie Night in the Quad - so thank you for that. We've been working to promote our services, including the new Peer Support Centre! This year's annual survey broke our record for survey responses with more than 2000 respondents!

We also ran an outreach campaign to get students excited about and voting in the municipal elections as well as in the proportional representation referendum. We hosted debates for the Oak Bay and Saanich mayoral elections as well as having an open house with mayoral and council candidates from Victoria, Saanich and Oak Bay. We brought voting stations straight to students here on campus, doubling voter engagement at our polling stations from the last municipal election.

This year we handed out a ton of awesome swag items! Compared to previous years, not only has the reception to our swag improved, according to our survey data, but we always manage to give away all of our items to our members!

## Governance

We worked through most of our large-scale policy updates last year, with this year mostly focusing on crafting interesting ideas to bring forward to General Meetings as well as a significant overhaul of Electoral Policy.

This year we:

- Crafted motions that outline how to create faculty representatives, improve Director at Large by-elections, and create new checks and balances on the actions of the Board.
- Overhauled the process for getting students on University committees by delegating the authority to a committee of the Board to ensure that students are given equal opportunity to participate and that vacancies are filled in a timely manner.
- Revamped electoral policy on referenda to fit with practice and have realistic limitations around things like financing limits and staff involvement.

We will soon begin work on improving our transition documents. As it is my last term on the Board, I want to ensure my successor is as well equipped as they can be. This includes a

dedicated training manual that borrows best practices not only from the UVSS but also from other organizations. This will open the way to more meaningful outreach.

Best,



**Pierre-Paul Angelblazer**  
Director of Outreach & University Relations



# PEER SUPPORT CENTRE

## Grand Opening

In September 2018, we launched the new Peer Support Centre (PSC)! Located in the basement of the SUB, the space offers students an open, comfortable and judgement-free zone to relax and chat with qualified volunteer helpers. PSC volunteers are happy to chat with students about questions or concerns about mental health, accessing

mental health services both on and off campus or simply provide space for students to share their stories.

Our dedicated team of volunteers undergo extensive training in order to provide this valuable service. This includes: mental health literacy, Indigenous acumen training, self-care and boundaries, and more. All volunteers receive co-curricular credits for their transcripts.

Our trained volunteers are passionate about promoting mental health and self-care in a positive way. Volunteers listen and offer members completely confidential, non-judgemental and empathetic support.

Drop-in sessions are from Mondays – Thursdays, 11 am – 3:30 pm in SUB B035. Come say hi!

The Peer Support Centre & The Office of Student Life have collaborated to bring you an exciting new service: The Wellness Space!

## The Wellness Space

The Wellness Space is a safer space featuring independent, drop-in, self-care activities to promote individual wellness and mindfulness.

These self-care activities include art projects such as: finger-paint-



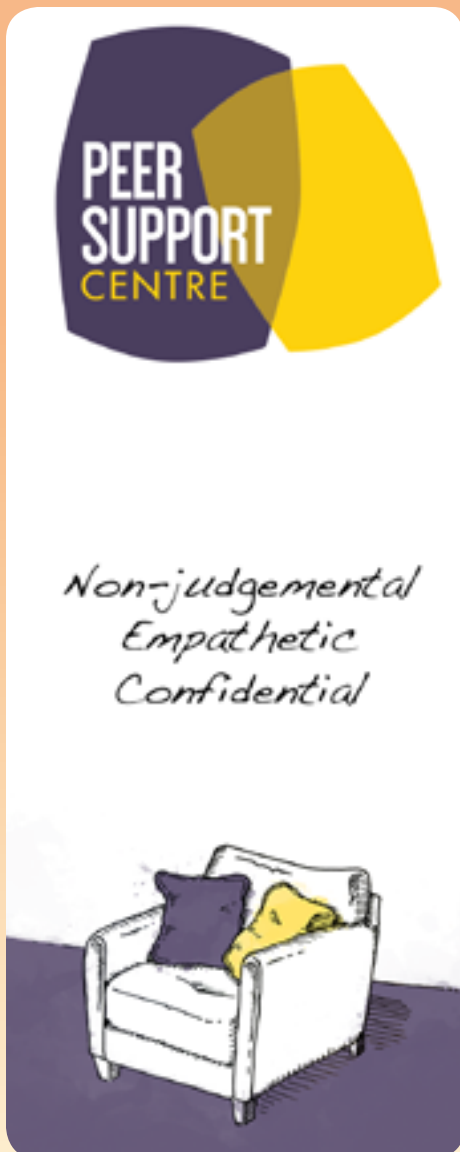
ing; arts & crafts; scrapbooking; drawing; writing; colouring; sketching; and diverse drop-in sessions lead by art professionals and community members.

Feel free to even just come in for a cup of tea and a chat!

The Wellness Space is open EVERY Friday in the Peer Support Centre (SUB B035) from 11:30 am – 3:00 pm beginning November 9th!!

Come join our friendly, trained, and kind volunteers who are eager to promote the importance of mental health through engaging self-care activities!

Questions? Email [peersupport@uvss.ca](mailto:peersupport@uvss.ca)!



# FOOD BANK & FREE STORE



## The Year in Review

2018 was an excellent year, beginning with the successful passage of the Food Bank referendum during the Spring referendum period. Over 2500 students voted 'yes' for an increase to the Food Bank fee, and this increased budget has made a dramatic difference to the daily lives of the many students who rely on the UVSS Food Bank and Free Store.

## Usage

Currently, the Food Bank serves over 300 students every week, with numerous members of the UVic community relying on the Food Bank as their primary support system for food security.

With the rising costs of housing and basic essentials throughout the Capital Region, the UVSS Food Bank has expanded food security workshops to help teach them how to mitigate food costs,

alongside our continued efforts to provide basic essentials such as milk, eggs, produce, and more to students in need.

## UVic Meal Exchange

Throughout 2018, the Food Bank partnered with UVic Meal Exchange to host free workshops on topics including fair trade food, cooking soup from scratch, locally sourced food, and more! As we head into 2019, we will continue our food literacy program, and are currently planning workshops on topics such as low-cost cooking, accessing food security resources while living with a disability, Indigenous food sovereignty, and navigating the world of food labels.

## Food-based Activism

In October, the Food Bank connected with Trick or Eat, a program hosted by Meal Exchange Canada to raise awareness about food insecurity while also collecting canned goods for the Food Bank. In November, the Food Bank was represented at the Resetting the Table Conference, hosted by Food Secure Canada, to raise awareness of food insecurity on college campuses and the impacts of food security on accessing higher education. Food Bank staff also presented at November's CRFAIR Good Food Summit, alongside our campus partners in food activism, the Campus Community Garden, UVic Meal Exchange, and the Community Cabbage.



## Cultural Foods Program

Each month, our clients are comprised of roughly 30%-50% international students. Adjusting to Canadian culture can be challenging, especially with limited food access. A lack of cultural foods in particular can contribute to feelings of homesickness and isolation, and is an ongoing issue for both international students and for those who self-identify as racialized students.

Alongside providing basic food essentials, this past year we have expanded our offerings to help meet these specific needs of our community in accessing a variety of cultural foods, and are now providing regular workshops aimed at providing traditional foods while fostering a sense of community and connection. Moving forward, we will be hosting a celebratory Cultural Foods Festival on March 8th, and hope to use the opportunity

to celebrate UVic's diversity and to build stronger connections across cultural boundaries.

## Ongoing Challenges

While we continue to face a range of challenges relating to our mission of ending food insecurity at UVic, most notably a high cost of living and tuition that makes healthy food inaccessible to numerous students, we are grateful to belong to a community that continuously supports us as we attempt to feed as many hungry UVic students as possible.



## Thanks to our Partners!

In particular, we would like to thank our community supporters: Mustard Seed Victoria, Hoyne Brewing, Fernwood NRG, Phillips Brewing, UVic's Office of the Associate Vice President, the Emmanuel Baptist Church, the Victoria Chinese Commerce Association, Victoria's Food Share Network, CRFAIR, Meal Exchange Canada, Community Cabbage, and UVic's Community Garden, all of whom have supported us and enabled us to provide for our community.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to our many volunteers and supporters within the UVic community, who are truly the heart of all that we do.



UVSS.CA

RUN BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS.