



university of victoria
students' society

2025-2026

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university of victoria
students' society

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND WHAT IS THE ANNUAL REPORT

Every year, your student government does a full recap of what has happened throughout our terms. The good, the bad, and everywhere in between - this is where we tell you what we've learned and what we've accomplished. Read through this year's Annual Report to learn about the 5 lead Directors and their portfolios, the work done by the Advocacy, Affiliate and Service Groups, and much more!

ABOUT US

The University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) has been run by students, for students, since 1964. All UVic undergraduate students are automatically a part of the UVSS, meaning we have around 19,000 members!

But we're more than just a student union - we're a movement. The UVSS is here to advocate for student rights and provide essential services to students. Plus, we throw some pretty unforgettable events too.

The Student Union Building (SUB) is home to nine student-focused businesses - a hub where students work, eat, and live their best student lives. We operate independently from the university, which means we aren't afraid to speak up and fight for what students deserve.

The UVSS is your voice on campus. We speak up and fight for you because we are you. Together, our voices are pretty powerful. We are your student union, your UVSS.

MISSION AND VISION

Our mission, vision, and values are what guide our actions here at the UVSS. From everyday decisions to implementing powerful new policies, these principles have a major impact on what we do.

Our mission is to be the voice for students, a leader in shaping campus quality of life, and to be a dependable place for advocacy, services, and all things students need. Our vision is to see full student engagement in our core components of advocacy, events, services, businesses and society governance. And our 7 values are what make us the UVSS.

GOOD GOVERNANCE - Transparent, accountable, and student-driven decision-making.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - Leading climate justice efforts and reducing our environmental impact.

SERVICE - Providing essential, student-centered resources.

DECOLONIZATION - Challenging colonial systems and uplifting Indigenous voices.

EXCELLENCE - Innovating, learning, and leading with compassion.

SOCIAL JUSTICE - Fighting oppression and advocating for equity.

FUN - Creativity, spirit, and making campus a place students love.

GOVERNANCE

The UVSS is governed by a democratically elected student Board of Directors, which meets twice a month to oversee the Society's operations, advocate for students, and manage policy and financial decisions. Students are encouraged to attend Board meetings and get involved through committees, elections, and advocacy. The Board of Directors consists of:

- **FIVE LEAD DIRECTORS** (Campaigns & Community Relations, Finance and Operations, Student Affairs, Events, Outreach & University Relations)
- **ONE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RELATIONS**
- **ELEVEN DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE**
- **FIVE ADVOCACY GROUP REPRESENTATIVES** (Students of Colour Collective, Pride Collective, Gender Empowerment Centre, Society for Students with a Disability, Native Students Union)

All undergraduate students can run in UVSS elections held each March and participate in Board and committee meetings. The Board also holds General Meetings twice a year, where students can help shape the UVSS by voting on major decisions like bylaw and issues policy amendments.

The UVSS operates through various committees, many of which are open to student participation. These committees focus on key issues such as advocacy, student services, financial oversight, and governance.

The Society's funding is set by student referenda, ensuring that student fees directly support services like mental health resources, harm reduction initiatives, affordable services and advocacy, and student-led campaigns and events.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dear UVSS Members,

What a year it's been! Despite the unique challenges posed this year by lead director vacancies, it was through the steadfast teamwork of the executive and supporting staff that we were able to accomplish the things we did this year. Most of all, every successful initiative, event, campaign, and referendum was thanks to your participation. Every student union is as strong as its membership, and each of us in the executive considers it an honour to have served you this year.

Together, we passed two referendums that will have significant impacts on the longevity of the UVSS. Because of your support, the UVSS and all its clubs, advocacy, affiliate, and service groups will operate with more financial security so that we can continue to build community and fight for students. We would also like to thank you for making this year's election more competitive than it's been in years! Outside of the election, we also hosted dozens of successful events, two incredible clubs and course union days, advocated for students at all levels of government, and raised thousands of dollars for the food bank.

As the financial pressures facing students continue to rise, the UVSS will continue to serve and advocate for you. If anything we accomplished this year should become a legacy, we hope it is our continued work with the university on the issues of food and housing insecurity and transit affordability. By standing in solidarity with each other, we can make real change on and off campus.

We fight for you because we are you! It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,

Your UVSS 2025-2025 Executive Team

Katie, Michael, Lindsey, and Abhee

YEAR IN REVIEW:

SUMMER SEMESTER:

April 28th - April 30th: Board Orientation
May 1st: Start of new board year
May 16th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
May 29th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
June 12th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
June 27th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
July 16th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
July 28th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
August 12th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
August 27th: Safer Use Naloxone Training

FALL SEMESTER:

August 30th & 31st: Residence Move in Day
September 17th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
September 2nd - 5th: Campus Kick Off (CKO)
September 3rd - 5th: Beats by the SUB
September 3rd: Free Pancake Breakfast
September 4th: Movie in the Quad
September 10th and 11th: Clubs & Course Union Days
September 23rd: Free Hot Lunch
September 24th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
October 8th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
October 9th: Puppy Playtime
October 22nd: Safer Use Naloxone Training
October 28th: Free Hot Lunch
October 28th: Annual General Meeting (AGM)
November 5th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
November 4th & 5th: Clothing Swap
November 18th: Free Hot Lunch
November 24th - 26th: Lobby Days
November 25th: Puppy Playtime
November 26th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
December 2nd: Free Hot Lunch
December 3rd: Holiday Night Market

SPRING SEMESTER:

January 6th: Free Pancake Breakfast
January 12th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
January 14th & 15th: Clubs & Course Union Days
January 26th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
January 26th - February 7th: UVSS Elections Nominations Period
January 27th: Free Hot Lunch
January 29th: Puppy Playtime
February 2nd - 6th: Global Village (SOCCxUVSS)
February 9th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
February 21st - March 6th: UVSS Elections Campaigning Period
February 23rd: Safer Use Naloxone Training
February 24th: Free Hot Lunch
February 26th: Semi-Annual General Meeting (SAGM)
March 4th - 6th: UVSS Elections Voting Period
March 9th - 13th: FEM-EXPO (GEMxUVSS)
March 11th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
March 19th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
March 24th: Free Hot Lunch
March 26th: Puppy Playtime
March 30th: Safer Use Naloxone Training
April 1st & 2nd: Clothing Swap
April 16th and 23rd: Donation Station
April 30th: Last Day of Board Term

CAMPAIGNS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

MICHAEL CARYK

Director of Campaigns and Community Relations

This year, the Campaigns portfolio was defined by **capacity building, collaboration, and collective advocacy**. A key focus of Campaigns was strengthening relationships both internally and externally to ensure that student voices were not only heard, but amplified.

At its core, this work is grounded in a simple principle: **collective voices create collective power**. Through continued efforts to build partnerships, develop internal structures, and coordinate advocacy, we have contributed to a stronger and more unified student movement across British Columbia.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER STUDENT UNIONS

This year marked a significant step forward in building partnerships with student unions across the province. The Student Union Development Summit (SUDS) provided an important foundation for these relationships, creating opportunities to connect with student leaders facing similar challenges.

These connections and collaboration directly strengthened our ability to engage in joint lobbying efforts. As the landscape of post-secondary education continues to evolve, student unions play a critical role in challenging and shaping that direction.

Through this work, we have contributed to ongoing advocacy efforts that extend beyond a single board term. Many of the wins we see today are the result of years of sustained pressure from student leaders. This reinforces an important reality of this role: advocacy is long-term work, and progress is often achieved across multiple generations of student leadership. Keep reading to find out some of the successes we've achieved in the Campaigns and Community Relations Portfolio!

LOBBY WEEK AND PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY

In the fall, we worked alongside multiple student unions to strengthen coordinated advocacy efforts at the provincial level. Through partnerships with organizations such as the Alliance of British Columbia Students (ABCS) and other institutions, we contributed to the development of a comprehensive lobbying brief.

Our advocacy focused on key student priorities, including:

- Affordability and cost of living
- Student rights and protections
- Expanded support for students experiencing sexualized violence
- Improvements to transportation access

The **BC3 coalition**—formed in partnership with student unions including UBC AMS, UBC Okanagan, and Simon Fraser—also played a central role in this year's advocacy efforts. Representing over half of the students in British Columbia, this coalition significantly increased the strength and reach of our collective voice.

A major focus of this work was advocating for the continuation of the 2% tuition cap, particularly in the context of provincial financial pressures. Ensuring that affordability remains a priority for government decision-makers continues to be a central objective of the Campaigns portfolio.

Lobby Week also demonstrated the value of coordinated advocacy. By presenting a unified voice representing students across the province, we strengthened the legitimacy and impact of our asks. The brief we created and the lobbying that was done were the results of over 10 student unions working together.

MAJOR LOBBYING ASKS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Food Security Grant

One of our primary joint initiatives focused on addressing student food insecurity. Through collaborative research and shared operational challenges, we identified staffing capacity as a key barrier to expanding food bank services.

Our proposal to the province was a food security grant, calculated at approximately \$1.50 per student, totaling under \$650,000 provincially. This targeted investment would significantly improve the ability of student unions to deliver essential food support services.

After bringing this issue to the province in our lobbying efforts we decided to bring some more momentum to the food security grant by bringing municipalities.

BC Ferries \$10 Student rate

Another key advocacy effort addressed the lack of a university student discount within the BC Ferries \$10 fare program, which currently applies to seniors and K–12 students.

This issue was particularly visible through lived experience among student leaders from island communities. By bringing forward this gap, we were able to highlight a clear inequity in transportation affordability and advocate for more inclusive pricing structures.

While not all advocacy goals were achieved within this term, these efforts contributed to broader awareness and laid the groundwork for future progress. Advocacy work often extends beyond a single year, and these initiatives represent important steps forward.

INTERNAL COLLABORATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE WORK

Transit Commission Representative

Serving as a student representative in transit-related advocacy spaces allowed us to directly engage with decision-makers on transportation issues affecting students. This included ongoing efforts to improve service access and affordability, particularly for routes critical to student mobility.

We have successfully Advocated to keep monthly bus passes for youth

CAMPAIGNS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

and seniors at \$45, which is kept in place as well as the UVSS U-Pass deal until 2027. We have also encouraged the commission to buy more electric and double decker busses which are more cost effective and environmentally friendly.

Student Senator Collaboration

The senate at UVIC is the highest academic decision making body in the university. Collaboration with student senators, strengthened with alignment between UVSS advocacy groups and university governance structures, is vital. This collaboration ensured that student concerns were better represented across both institutional and external decision-making spaces. We provided a training and networking opportunity for all student senators to attend before lobby week. This will have a continual benefit long after this year in office is complete as this shows the UVSS is a place where student senators can get support to better serve all students because we believe our role in the student movement is to break down barriers and improve communication throughout campus to have the most efficient effective advocacy possible.

Senate Committee on Academic Standards

Participation in academic governance, including the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, contributed to ensuring that student perspectives were considered in policy discussions that directly impacted academic experiences.

This year, the senate committee on academic standards has revised the academic policy for artificial intelligence expanded the teaching of English as an additional language.

CAMPAIGNS AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Fed Up Campaign

The **Fed Up** campaign focused on addressing student food insecurity while also increasing student engagement in institutional processes.

A key initiative within this campaign was the integration of a **\$1 donation per completed survey**, tied to both the UVSS Annual Survey and the SUB Annual General Business Survey.

This initiative successfully raised approximately **\$2,000 for the UVSS Food Bank**, while also increasing student participation and awareness around food insecurity on campus. This campaign demonstrated how small, accessible actions can translate into meaningful impact, while reinforcing a culture of collective responsibility within the student community.

REFLECTION

This year's work in Campaigns and Community Relations highlights the importance of building lasting systems, not just running campaigns. Whether through provincial coalitions, internal governance, or student engagement initiatives, the focus has been on creating structures that allow advocacy to continue beyond a single term.

While not every goal was achieved immediately, the progress made reflects a broader truth: effective advocacy is sustained, collaborative, and cumulative.

The work done this year contributes to a stronger foundation for future student leaders and reinforces the role of the UVSS as a key voice in shaping the student experience—both on campus and across the province.



FINANCE & OPERATIONS

The Finance and Operations portfolio is responsible for maintaining the financial stability and operational effectiveness of the UVSS. Over the past year, the portfolio focused on ensuring responsible financial management, supporting the long-term sustainability of UVSS services and businesses, and maintaining transparent financial practices. While much of this work happens behind the scenes, it plays a critical role in ensuring that the Society can continue to provide affordable services, advocacy, and programming for undergraduate students.

A central responsibility of the portfolio is overseeing the Society's financial planning and budgeting processes. Regular financial oversight allowed the Board to maintain a balanced approach between sustaining core services and responding to emerging needs within the student community.

The portfolio also supported the preparation and presentation of key financial documents, including the annual budget and financial updates presented to students at our Annual General Meeting. These processes are essential to maintaining transparency and accountability within the Society, allowing students to better understand how their fees support UVSS services, advocacy initiatives, and campus programs.

In addition to financial oversight, the Finance and Operations portfolio works closely with UVSS staff and business managers to support the day-to-day operations of the Student Union Building (SUB). The SUB remains a central hub of student life on campus, hosting services, events, and businesses that provide affordable food, printing, entertainment, and gathering spaces for the campus community. This year the portfolio focused on maintaining stable operations while identifying opportunities to improve efficiency and service delivery across these spaces.

Maintaining the long-term sustainability of UVSS operations also remained a priority. Throughout the year, staff reviewed operational processes, assessed ongoing needs within UVSS businesses, and ensured that facilities and equipment continue to meet the demands of a busy student environment. These assessments are ongoing and help ensure that the Society's services remain reliable, accessible, and responsive to student needs.

Another important component Finance and Operations is supporting the various committees that oversee financial decisions and operational planning within the UVSS. Through these committees, Board members were able to review policies, discuss financial priorities, and ensure that decisions were made in alignment with the Society's mandate to serve students. Committee discussions also provided opportunities for student representatives to engage directly with the financial and operational governance of the Society.

The Finance and Operations portfolio plays an important role in supporting student services that rely on UVSS funding and administrative support. From food security initiatives to health and dental plan administration, many of the services that students depend on require ongoing financial coordination and oversight. By maintaining clear financial structures and stable operational support, the portfolio helps ensure that these programs remain available to students throughout the year.

While the work of Finance and Operations is often less visible than other areas of the Society, it forms the foundation that enables the UVSS to function effectively. Careful budgeting, financial oversight, and operational coordination ensure that the Society remains accountable to its members while continuing to support the programs, services, and advocacy efforts that improve student life at UVic.



Catering & Conferences
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA STUDENTS' SOCIETY



STUDENT AFFAIRS

KATIE KING

Director of Student Affairs

Thank you all for such an amazing year in the student affairs portfolio - it has been a privilege to serve as your Director of Student Affairs! This has been an exciting year and I'm thrilled with the progress that I have made within the portfolio and excited to see what the incoming 2026 / 2027 director of student affairs will do next.

The student affairs portfolio is complex - it supports over 150 clubs, 30 course unions, 4 faculty student societies, and five advocacy groups. Over this year my goals have been:

- Increasing accessibility at Clubs and Course Union days
- Expanding sexualized violence prevention training within the student affairs portfolio
- Increasing financial accountability surrounding the funding process for clubs and course unions

CLUBS AND COURSE UNIONS

Clubs and Course unions are crucial points of community at UVic. This year, we implemented a number of changes and updates to the portfolio to make things more efficient and accessible, and allowed us to be more accountable to students. We saw a record high numbers of clubs being ratified, with 160 clubs and 30 course unions ratified each semester. We also hosted Clubs and Course Union Days (CCU Days) both in September and January here in the SUB! We had up to 190 UVSS clubs and course unions tabling for both days. CCU days is an incredible event and it was lovely to see all of you connect with students and share your passions and interests. Moreover this year we've seen both higher engagement and collaboration between clubs and course unions across campus.

With all of this said, my biggest achievement this year has been running a successful referendum campaign for the clubs and course unions fee increase. This increase will allow for clubs and course unions to have more financial stability to continue to shape the community at UVic, as well as open opportunities for better administration behind the scenes.

Key Achievements:

- Hosted two successful CCU days with the focus on increasing accessibility
- Implemented sexualized violence prevention training for the faculty student societies
- Oversaw the transition from the Tools for Change sexualized violence prevention training course to Sexualized Violence Prevention 101

- Worked with EQHR, OSU, and AVP to create a list of potential courses for clubs, course unions, and faculty student societies
- Updated clubs and course unions policy to make it more user friendly and efficient for the portfolio
- Created training manuals for club and course union executives
- Better organized the student affairs records
- Allocated over \$150,000 to clubs and course unions through base funding, special project grants, travel pool, publication, and academic funding
- Offered opportunities for feedback in Council attendance forms and then compiled feedback
- Created a mail box for clubs and course unions in the Board of Directors Office
- Ran a successful referendum for the club and course union fee increase
- Updated the clubs and course unions page on the UVSS website to be more user friendly and better support students and student groups

ADVOCACY GROUPS

This aspect of the student affairs portfolio is focused around supporting the four constituency groups (the Students of Colour Collective, the Society for Students with Disability, the Gender Empowerment Centre, and the Pride Collective), and the Native Students Union. The Director of Student Affairs is the chair of the Advocacy Relations Committee (ARC). This portfolio and committee are responsible for creating a safe, cooperative, and accessible space for advocacy representatives to meet regularly and liaise with all five groups. Over the past year we've met every two weeks either fully online or hybrid to allow for better accessibility. We focused this year on collaboration as well as addressing student concerns. It has been a privilege to be able to work with representatives from all five groups and be able to play a part in the collaboration and formulation of creating a safe space for students.

Key Achievements:

- Updated advocacy groups policy to allow for better flexibility and accountability as well as to make it more user friendly
- Onboarded three new advocacy representatives and a new fire keeper to the Board of Directors
- Worked with the advocacy groups and Board of Directors to reestablish the SUB Occupants Committee
- Created and compiled training documents for the Director of Student Affairs to use when onboarding new advocacy Representatives or new Fire Keepers
- Approved funding support for events from the advocacy groups including Global Village, FEMExpo 2026, and a canoe trip with SOCC, NSU, and AIR

STUDENT AFFAIRS

REFLECTION

As I reflect on my past year in the Student Affairs Portfolio, I am happy with the progress that I made on issues and gaps I noted in the portfolio. Setting up the handbooks, guidelines, changes to policy, and extensive updates to the student affairs training material, I hope that the Student Affairs Portfolio and all those who benefit from it will be set up for success. I hope that by laying the groundwork, we can all work together to support our students and community members more.

With the Club and Course Unions referendum passing, there will be more money coming into the portfolio, leading to more opportunities for club and course unions to continue to represent and support their communities, as well as allowing UVSS and the Director of Student Affairs to look into better ways to support administration behind the scenes while not taking away money from clubs and course unions.

When we look at what we will be seeing from this portfolio in the future, the achievements that have been reached not only in this year but in all the years before me will continue to support the portfolio. I look forward to seeing what the next Director of Student Affairs will do!

Despite the demanding nature that is associated with this portfolio it has been a privilege to serve as your Director of Student Affairs and support this work.

-Katie



Society for
Students with a
Disability



EVENTS

LINDSEY ANDREW

Director of Events

What a year this has been for events! This year I set out to host events that would serve the material and wellness needs of students. Inflation and the cost of living crisis hit students hard, and our student union should be a resource to support students through food and housing insecurity. A primary goal and a key campaign promise of mine was to use the events portfolio to ease the burden imposed on students by rising affordability. We run each event with the acknowledgement that the land they take place on belongs to the Lekwungen peoples (including the Songhees and Esquimalt) and WSANEC peoples. We thank them for their historic and ongoing stewardship of these lands.

CAMPUS KICK OFF 2025

SUB Fair

- Vendors and sponsors set up tables outside of the SUB to engage with students and raise funds for our organization.

Pancake Breakfast

- The Board of Directors get to welcome students to a new semester with fresh, hot, free pancakes! These events are a fantastic first introduction to the UVSS for students.

Beats by the SUB

- Formerly bands on the roof, Beats by the SUB has been relocated to the ground to reduce costs and improve visibility. While the idea of having bands on the roof is awesome, the reality is less awesome when there are new residence buildings blocking the sightline. The music sounds just as good at ground level.

BEvERage Gardens

- Felicitia's patio was expanded to the new location of the bands playing in Beats by the SUB. This event serves as a good promotion for our campus pub, which in turn raises revenue that goes back into serving students.

Movie in the Quad (MiTQ)

- Every year, we set up a pop-up screen in the Quad and watch a movie. This year, the students voted to watch Mean Girls! It was great to see so many smiling faces and pink shirts. What was even better was how much money we raised for the foodbank through popcorn sales.

YEAR ROUND EVENTS

Free Hot Lunches

The monthly free hot lunches are perhaps our most popular recurring events. One of the first initiatives we took to fight food insecurity this year was to increase the monthly budget for the free hot lunches. We run them out of Vertigo Theatre from 11:30-1:00pm, or as long as supplies last. We always make sure to have vegan and gluten free options available, making the event accessible to as many students as possible. We are also very grateful to work with UVic Food Services, who contribute an additional 100 litres of food to each event. This year we tried out a new collaboration with the UVic Alumni Relations team, and we hope to keep this partnership going next year. Together, we estimate to have served over 1000 students each month! These events don't just feed students, they cultivate community over shared meals and values. They function as a strong outreach tool and we have seen this year how they inspire students, staff, and administration to fight food insecurity on campus. We hope that the free hot lunches continue to grow far beyond our term.

Puppy Playtime and Preventing Burnout

University life is stressful. We believe that promoting mental health is every bit as important as promoting physical health. This year we continued our ongoing partnership with PATs and nearly doubled the number of Puppy Playtime events. We also partnered with the SSD and Dawn Schell to bring students a workshop on preventing burnout as we went into fall exam season.

Winter Holiday Market

My favourite event! Our winter holiday market on December 3rd, 2025 brought 30+ vendors and artists to Vertigo Theatre. Some of our vendors were market veterans, and others were students who had no prior market experience. With the help of a free hot chocolate station that went through 10lbs of hot chocolate mix, the market brought in hundreds of students to support local artists and small businesses.

Clothing Swap and Donation Station

Sustainability is a key value of ours, and the clothing swap and donation station are valuable initiatives that promote sustainability, serve students, and bring people together. The clothing swaps create accessible opportunities for students and community members to practice slow fashion while providing some light-hearted fun during otherwise stressful times of year. The donation station likewise provides students moving out of residence an easy means of passing along items they no longer need without throwing them in the garbage.

ADVOCACY GROUP EVENT COLLABORATIONS

Some of our favourite events this year were in collaboration with the advocacy groups. In October, we partnered with the Pride Collective to bring students the first ever Hexxed Up! drag event and Halloween costume swap/workshop. This event was a massive success and it is one we hope continues to be supported for years to come. There is definitely room for it to grow next year. In February, we had our second Global Village with the Students of Colour Collective, and it was twice as big as last year with a full week of back-to-back cultural events. In March, we put on another fabulous Femexpo with the Gender Empowerment Centre. The advocacy groups bring a lot of traffic into the SUB and generally have very engaged communities who are eager to volunteer for big events like these.

EVENTS

MESSAGE FROM LINDSEY

The number one goal I had when I set out to lead the events this year was to use the events to serve students' material needs. I would say that goal was met. I had big ambitions when I stepped into this portfolio, and I couldn't have pulled any of it off without the incredible support of UVSS staff and volunteers, or the directors who served on the events committee. I am so grateful to have gotten the opportunity to serve such a vibrant community of diverse students with incredible talents. Most of all, I am so incredibly grateful for you lovely UVSS members who attended the events. Everything I've done and all the work I've put in has been my way of giving back to a student community that has supported me throughout my entire undergraduate degree. Thank you for trusting me to lead your events this year, UVic!



UVSS Events Presents:
**free
HOT
LUNCH**
Come enjoy a free hot lunch provided by the UVSS.



OUTREACH AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

The Director of Outreach and University Relations is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. They are responsible for upholding the integrity of our bureaucratic processes and procedures by enforcing and keeping up to date the Democratic Rules of Order as well as the policies outlined in the UVSS Constitution, Bylaws, and Board of Directors' policy. In addition to their duties as chair, the Director of Outreach and University Relations is responsible for UVSS' social media and the relationship with the university administration.

OUTREACH

This year, The Outreach portfolio helped carry out a number of important things for the UVSS. With social media, we worked with Events to promote activities throughout the year and with Campaigns to help show off the student activism being done. We also hit a record number of followers (12,300!) - thanks to all of you for following along with our silly little trends and fun graphics.

The Outreach portfolio also worked with the many partners at the UVSS and in the SUB to promote the Annual General Survey, a survey conducted to help get student feedback on the UVSS, student issues, and more.

ANNUAL GENERAL SURVEY

The Annual General Survey is one of the largest projects that the Outreach portfolio has, and this year we introduced a new incentive. For every survey filled out, Alumo (previously StudentCare) would donate \$1 to the UVSS Food Bank. Not only did this raise over \$1300 for the food bank, it inspired other organizations within the UVSS to also offer this alongside their surveys. We project that \$2000 will be raised for the UVSS Food Bank by the end of the school year!

ANNUAL AND SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Another large project managed by this portfolio is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Semi-Annual General Meeting (SAGM). These two meetings, the AGM in October and the SAGM in February, are the chance for student voices to be heard. Though many people reading this probably remember the AGM, both these meetings saw us give away some awesome prizes.

Thanks to the very large attendance we had at the AGM (over double what we needed for quorum!) we were able to pass some important policy changes, including the removal of Faculty Representatives in the Student Society. Instead of 9 Faculty Representatives and two Directors at Large, we now have 11 Directors at Large. Thanks to this change, we no longer need to continuously extend our election process to fill spots that otherwise remained empty.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Policy Updates

Some other policy changes that came about this year were updates to our Electoral policy introducing an electoral ban if necessary, and updates to the Board of Directors Policy such as implementing more structure around office hours for the board.

We were also able to connect with the university administration on crucial issues that impact students on the Ombudsperson Advisory Committee and in the Operational Relations Committee. In the Ombudsperson Advisory Committee, we updated policy to make it more efficient for UVSS Lead Directors to chair the committee and made several clarifications on the second chair position. We began a review of the terms of reference this year as well, which we hope the next board will pick up and see through. In the Operational Relations Committee, we worked with the university administration to combat food and housing insecurity facing many students, as well as on improving and providing feedback on academic accommodations policies for students.

2026/2027 Elections

Finally, we concluded this year with a very exciting election! The 2026/2027 Board of Directors Election cycle ran from January 26 all the way until March 6, and we got to see campaigning period, voting period, and more! This year, every position at the UVSS went uncontested - meaning every position had at least 2 people running for it. We haven't seen this turnout in an election since 2011. Thank you to everyone who ran!

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, we can't wait to see what the incoming Director of Outreach and University Relations will do. Thank you to everyone for following along with our socials, saying hi at all of our events, and for being a part of the UVSS!



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RELATIONS

ABHEE

SENTHILKUMARAN

Director of International Student Relations

The International Student Relations portfolio focuses on addressing the needs of international students in the form of better services, events, communications, etc. International students face distinct obstacles while navigating a new academic and cultural environment and the primary goal of the Director of International Student Relations (DISR) was to bridge this gap. This year, the portfolio's main aim was to increase engagement with international students through partnerships, advocacy, lobbying, and events.

By collaborating with campus partners and advocacy groups, the portfolio worked on enhancing existing support systems and fostering community to ensure that international students felt welcomed, safe, and connected both on and off-campus.

COLLABORATIONS WITH CAMPUS PARTNERS

The International Student Relations (ISR) portfolio alongside the UVic Global Community hosted the first UVSS x GC Lawn Games at the Quad event and helped out with the Fall International Student Orientation. These collaborations helped create more coordinated support for international students across campus, especially students who needed more guidance during the start of their new academic pursuit. Tabling at these events allowed for more direct, personalized engagement with the hundreds of new students coming in each semester.

GLOBAL VILLAGE

The ISR portfolio has contributed immensely in last year's SOCC Global Village and continued to do so in its second year. The event commemorates and celebrates the diverse global cultures represented across UVic's student body. This year, it was a week-long event where the DISR assisted in managing the Bollywood Karaoke Night and other events. This collaboration reinforced the UVSS' commitment to uplifting BIPOC artists, businesses, and community members through meaningful and entertaining programs.

CONTINUAL EFFORTS FOR ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

Advocacy has remained an integral focus of this portfolio. International students continue to face increasing financial and academic uncertainties and obstacles, especially with the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada International Student Cap and rising cost of living. An

interview was done with the Times Colonist, where the DISR highlighted the uncertainty and mental health tolls created by the cap. This interview provided a platform to elevate student voices and increase awareness in the broader public conversation. Additionally, a document, made by a former DISR outlining the common issues faced by international students and potential solutions, was also worked on this year. It is important to note that advocacy and lobbying efforts are a gradual process and so the best course of action will be to have the next DISR to continue working on this as well.

HOUSING SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Housing insecurities disproportionately impact international students as it exacerbates existing financial pressures. Building on the success of last year's Roommate Mixer, the ISR portfolio continued to expand housing support resources catered towards international student needs. The Housing Checklist on the ISR webpage has been continuously and meticulously updated to reflect current housing market conditions in Victoria. This includes help on understanding BC Tenants Rights, where to get the right help, rental listing websites, and most importantly, scam prevention.



ADVOCACY GROUPS AND NATIVE STUDENTS UNION



Native Students Union

NATIVE STUDENTS UNION (NSU)

This year, the NSU focused on building a long-lasting foundation to drive generational change for students in the years to come. Last year, the NSU passed a referendum to increase fees. This fee increase took effect this year. With these additional funds, the NSU chose to focus on regular programming, with a special emphasis on food security. With increasing costs, we know how hard it can be to keep fridges full. This year, we used a grant from the Victoria Foundation and our fee increase to fund our Onecard Giftcard Program, Foodbox Program, and monthly Community Cooks.

We worked on increasing our outreach through social media branding and by launching our mailing list. We launched our new website (www.uvicnsu.com), which is more accessible and makes it easier to contact us. We utilize our networks to share events, opportunities and resources.

Next year, we hope to maintain our grant funding to run our food security programming. We also hope to build on collaborations with other organizations and groups on campus. If you are interested in running an event with us or sharing opportunities with our email list, please email CONTACT@UVICNSU.CA.



STUDENTS OF COLOUR COLLECTIVE (SOCC)

The Students of Colour Collective (SOCC) is a collective of self-identifying racialized students at the University of Victoria. SOCC serves all students who identify with a visible or invisible ethnic/cultural minority and works to promote and support cultural diversity on campus and in the Greater Victoria Community. SOCC strives for its members to feel celebrated, supported, uplifted, and appreciated on campus through its various initiatives.

SOCC's work centers on art, awareness, education, action, advocacy, and support for members. We aim to engage in meaningful dialogue, create moments of cultural exchange among collective and non-collective members, celebrate BIPOC joy, and advocate for the needs of racialized students.

Our 2025/2026 Artist in Residence is Judy Woo (hir/they/she/xe), a multidisciplinary visual artist and poet exploring intersectional identities. A UVic alum and former SOCC member, Judy brings their Chinese cultural background and artistic practice to enhance wellness and creativity within the collective.

Over the academic year, SOCC organizes a variety of events ranging in size and scale. Aside from hosting monthly collective meetings, SOCC hosted:

- Arts and expressions workshops
- Hosts picnics and movie nights
- Offers info sessions and community circles

This year, SOCC continued running the Communal Pantry Program, helping members address ongoing food insecurity. The Lounge remained a communal safe space for BIPOC students, hosting Collective M-eatings and other gatherings. We partnered with the AIR Program to provide inclusive recreation, hosting BIPOC Pickleball and Badminton, and collaborated with the Equitable Outdoors Campaign for a run + walk clinic. Other activities included a Canoe Clinic with a RCABC-certified instructor, Henna night with GEM, crafting nights, and poetry workshops.

SOCC hosted the second Global Village with the Director of Events and UVSS, and expanded it into a week-long cultural exhibition. Day one featured Bollywood Karaoke, followed by Global Kitchen on day two, serving Ethiopian, Indian, and Korean dishes alongside the Pavilions market fair and welcoming over 400 attendees. Day three included a panel, What Does It Mean to Call Multiple Places "Home?", alongside Before the Rain Falls: An Immersive Pre-Show Installation and Around the World Board Game Night. Day four featured the PULSE Art Exhibition and an evening showcase of music, poetry, and visual art. Day five concluded with a panel on having not just a seat but a voice, exploring identity, social perception, community empowerment, and authenticity pressures. The exhibition was a major success, reinforcing the need for cultural celebration on campus.

In addition, SOCC collaborated with ACSA and BLA for Black History Month events, and with EQHR and the Scarborough Charter steering committee to host an Afro Beats night. We supported student initiatives including Turkish Students Sip & Paint, Ana Falasteeni cultural showcase, and the Vietnamese Students Lunar New Year fundraiser.



GENDER EMPOWERMENT CENTRE (GEM)

The Gender Empowerment Centre (frequently known as the GEM) offers on-campus advocacy focused on the needs of self-identified women, non-binary, trans, and gender nonconforming students and community members. Since our establishment in 1981 as the UVSS Women's Centre, we have operated as a drop-in centre, referral service, and library, and continue to offer a variety of programming, resources, and education. Our core offerings include social and educational events, and the provision of free reproductive and sexual health resources (including condoms, dental dams, pregnancy tests, emergency contraception, pads, tampons, menstrual cups, and rectal douches).

ADVOCACY GROUPS AND NATIVE STUDENTS UNION

The GEM is governed by a collective of students, volunteers, and staff, who meet monthly (at minimum) to discuss the current happenings at the Centre, and make decisions about programming, spending, and initiatives we will focus on as a group. We use a consensus-based decision-making model during our meetings to ensure that everyone's voice is heard and considered.

The 2025-26 year was a busy year for GEM. We started our first volunteer program, instated official referral hours and guides, trained our staff on peer support, and hosted a total of 55 events. The two biggest events were our 16 days of Activism mini expo from November 25 to December 10, and of course our staple, The Feminist Empowerment Expo (FEM-EXPO) from March 9 to March 13. These two events represent what GEM is all about, which is to be a strong intersectional feminist voice on campus. This year we focused on building community and upholding our values of intersectional feminism, bodily autonomy, sex positivity, and collective liberation. GEM will continue to design events that inspire learning, foster community, and strengthen us in our daily battles against systemic injustice. With the support of UVSS Events and many of the Advocacy and Affiliate Groups, GEM delivered an exciting variety of workshops, resources, art, and performances that were enjoyed by over 2,300 students and community members.

I year we have had. We hosted several community-building events, including our ongoing potlucks aimed at addressing food security. Our potlucks are designed to be accessible, students are not required to bring anything to participate, but those who do contribute can receive reimbursement. We also continued to offer drop-in crafts and study groups, creating opportunities for students to connect, share experiences, and build community.

Our Peer Support Groups remained a cornerstone of our programming. This year, we facilitated groups focused on Chronic Pain, ADHD, Autism, and a general disabled students group. These peer-led spaces provide safe, inclusive environments where students can connect and support one another. All groups were offered in both in-person and online formats to maximize accessibility. In September, we hosted our 3rd Annual Mental Health Resource Fair, bringing together a range of on- and off-campus organizations to share resources with students. This year, we also expanded the event to include local artists, allowing them to showcase and sell their work. We are excited to continue growing this event in the years to come. Throughout the year, we delivered a variety of workshops, including Neurodivergence and Disability Awareness Training, Accessible Recreation, Understanding Burnout, Accessible Grocery Shopping, Sex and Disability, Introduction to Gardening, and Resume Building. These workshops aim to educate both students and staff while fostering open, honest, and supportive conversations.

Looking ahead, SSD remains committed to listening to students and evolving our programming to meet their needs. Student feedback continues to guide our work, and we are excited to build on this year's momentum to further strengthen accessibility, advocacy, and community at UVic.



**SOCIETY FOR
STUDENTS WITH
A DISABILITY (SSD)**

The Society for Students with a Disability (SSD) is an advocacy group within the UVSS dedicated to promoting the full participation, inclusion, and empowerment of students who self-identify as disabled. Our goal is to support students by reducing barriers across the social, emotional, and educational aspects of student life. We offer a wide range of supports and services, including events, workshops, and ongoing programming designed to foster community and accessibility on campus. In addition, we provide one-on-one student support. Whether you are having difficulty communicating with a professor or navigating services such as the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL), we are here to assist you. Students can also access our physical space in the Student Union Building (room B111), where staff are available Monday through Friday to provide support. The space includes a comfortable lounge area, free printing, and snacks. We also offer access to a bookable respite room, a quiet, low-sensory environment for students who need a break while on campus. In addition to direct support, SSD leads advocacy initiatives such as the #Access4All (#A4A) campaign, which promotes the expansion of hyflex learning options. While we strongly value in-person learning, we advocate for increased flexibility so that students have more accessible ways to engage with their education.

The 2025-2026 fiscal year has been a year of transition for SSD, with an entirely new staff team and many new council members. While it took time to settle into our roles, we are proud of the successful and impactful



**UVSS PRIDE
COLLECTIVE**

The UVSS Pride Collective is an advocacy group operating on the stolen territory of the Lekwungen and WASÁNEĆ peoples. We believe that Queer liberation is possible through the relationships we nurture and build with each other. We value community care, and our intersectional programming reflects that sentiment. We provide a variety of free gender affirming care products, as well as a variety of safer sex supplies, menstrual products, and safer use supplies. Our physical space is stocked full of snacks, foods, mental health and Queer-oriented educational resources, and remains open and accessible to the student population Monday-Friday. The Collective is proudly run by a variety of UVSS staff, work study students, student volunteers, and more.

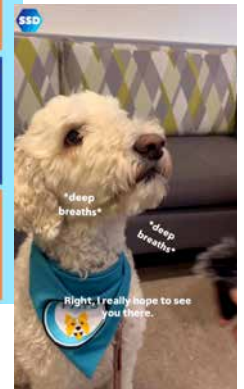
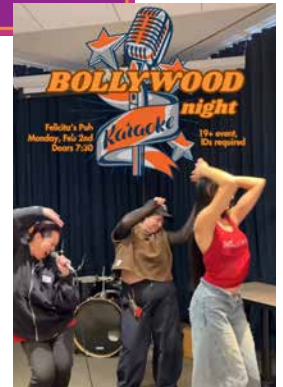
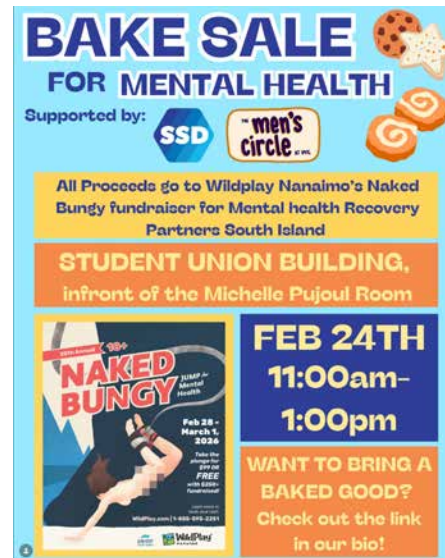
This year the Pride Collective has worked to expand our services and presence on campus. We kicked off the fiscal year with Gay in the Garden, a spectacular outdoor event in collaboration with CFUV and the Campus Community Garden. At this event, we also launched our first annual Pride Zine, featuring local Queer and Trans community members,

ADVOCACY GROUPS AND NATIVE STUDENTS UNION

collectives, and businesses. Leading into the school year, Pride welcomed back our campus community, making sure to keep the lounge stocked with snacks and free gender-affirming-care supplies! In October, we had a blast at Hexxxxed Up! A Queer Halloween night of drag, dancing, and debauchery, hosted at the campus pub Fels! Throughout the school year we have hosted several bi-weekly community circles (Trans-Fem, Trans-Masc, A-Spec, Lesbian, Queer-Fem, Queer Umbrella, and BIPOC), giving peoples a safe space to mingle and bond with peoples of shared identity.

The Pride Collective is so thankful for our amazing volunteers that facilitate all of the community circles. This year, Pride has been working on launching a new program centered on addressing and supporting Trans mental health and wellbeing concerns. This program was developed based on the wants and needs of our community, outlined in a survey that Pride launched in September 2025. Alongside developing new educational resources, the Pride Collective hosted our first event for this new program at Fem-Expo. The event invited a panel of peers, mental health, and medical professionals to speak to community members and answer questions about hormone therapy. Also, the Pride Collective will be partnering with the Student Wellness Centre to make people more aware of their free harm reduction program, including helping people access materials for hormone therapy injections.

Overall, the Pride Collective has had a lovely year with our community. We have so much love and respect for the Pride community, our collective members, volunteers, work study students, council, and staff. Thank you to everyone who has accessed our services, attended events, or simply kept up with our work! We look forward to another year of fostering and uplifting UVic's Queer and Trans community.



AFFILIATED GROUPS



UVIC CAMPUS COMMUNITY GARDEN

The UVic Campus Community Garden (CCG) is an Affiliate Group within the UVic Students' Society. We manage an urban agriculture and permaculture space on campus, host free educational workshops, volunteer work parties, fun events, and rent out allotment plots to staff, students, and faculty. There are ~90 plots at the garden, 10 of which are managed by staff and dedicated to growing food for donation to the UVSS food bank. We value decolonization, anticapitalism, and anti-oppression, and work actively to encourage sustainable practices and resilient communities by sharing knowledge, space, and time in the garden with others. We think food should be accessible, culturally appropriate, and shared.

This year the garden expanded the amount of public events we host with several open mics, 2 improv shows, tattoo artists, an outdoor movie viewing, a mariachi band, a brass quintet and several other live music events through the Spring, Summer and Fall. We also ran several workshops including a miso workshop, a fencing (sword fighting) workshop, a honeybee workshop, and much more. We finished our table top bed and finished phase 2 of our gravel paths making our garden more accessible than ever. We also started to build a seed library that will be put up in the SUB this Spring to give seeds away to students!

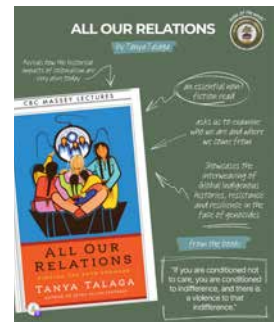
Food security is a big issue for us and one we are dedicated to helping solve through community support. This year we hosted the Community Cabbage club in our garden and received over 350 people over two days to receive free meals. We donated over 800 lbs of fresh produce grown in the garden to the UVSS food bank and released the first edition of our food security pamphlet that lists all the resources open for students to access free groceries and meals in our community. You can find it by our office or online on our website!



UVIC SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

The University of Victoria Sustainability Project (UVSP) is a student-run group working on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen-speaking Peoples and WSÁNEĆ Nations. The UVSP works to re-conceptualize sustainability, recognizing and seeking to confront how it has been reduced to a buzzword or a checkbox in the last few decades. It also seeks to expand conceptions of what sustainability truly encompasses and how it can be activated.

The UVSP's work on-campus centres itself in inter-organizational collaborations, strong commitments to accessibility, inclusivity, intersectional environmental justice, and breaking down barriers. Sustainability is a wide umbrella and a multifaceted concept and practice.



SERVICES GROUPS



**ANTI-VIOLENCE
PROJECT (AVP)**

anti-violence project

With a steadfast commitment to survivor-centred care, the Anti-Violence Project (AVP) continues to serve as the on-campus sexual assault and gender-based violence resource centre. AVP provides free, confidential, and non-judgmental support, resources, and advocacy to individuals of all genders who have been impacted by sexualized or gender-based violence, including those supporting someone who has experienced harm. Grounded in a trauma-informed and anti-oppressive framework, AVP recognizes the interconnected roots of violence and systemic oppression, and works to foster a campus culture rooted in consent, accountability, and community care.

Over the past year, AVP built upon the previous year's efforts to restart regular programming by fully implementing and expanding many of these initiatives. Outreach remained a central focus, with AVP participating in several campus tabling opportunities, student fairs, and community events. These engagements created opportunities to connect directly with students, share information about AVP's services, and facilitate conversations about consent, harm reduction, and sexualized violence prevention. Increasing AVP's presence in visible campus spaces helped strengthen awareness of available supports and encouraged more students to engage with the centre.

AVP also hosted a range of community-focused programming designed to foster dialogue and connection. Events such as panel discussions and open houses invited students to learn more about AVP's work and engage in conversations around gender-based violence and community accountability. In addition, AVP launched a series of Community Care Circles, which provided a supportive space for participants to come together, share experiences, and build networks of care. These gatherings reflected AVP's commitment to collective healing and survivor-centred approaches to community support.

Education and capacity-building remained a key component of AVP's work. Staff and volunteers facilitated workshops across campus on topics including consent, violence prevention, and supporting survivors. Multiple volunteer training sessions were also held throughout the year, welcoming and preparing a new cohort of volunteers who play an essential role in peer support, outreach, and educational programming. To further inform future initiatives, AVP launched a student feedback survey to better understand awareness of services and identify evolving community needs. The feedback gathered provided valuable insight that will help guide programming, outreach, and service development moving forward.



**PEER SUPPORT
CENTRE (PSC)**

With one work-study student and 30 active volunteers this year, the Peer Support Centre (PSC) successfully provided drop-in support sessions from Monday to Friday, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. In addition to our drop-in services, the PSC facilitated two biweekly support groups from February to April: an anxiety support group and a school stress & burnout support group. Each group ran five sessions during the term, offering students targeted peer support in a welcoming environment. Students could attend as many support groups and sessions as they liked, as each group met on different days.

The PSC actively engaged with the broader campus community by participating in several university-wide events, including ThunderFest, the Society for Students with a Disability's (SSD) Mental Health and Resource Fair, Club & Course Unions (CCU) Days in September and January, and the UVic Libraries Destress Fest. At each of these events, we gave out PSC swag, such as stress balls, mugs, pins, and stickers, and held a raffle prize to encourage student engagement with our booth. In addition to collaborative efforts, the PSC organized and hosted various events and workshops throughout the year. Wellness-focused programming included a workshop with counsellor Dawn Schell from the Wellness Centre, a gratitude event at the UVic Library, and body doubling sessions aimed at enhancing focus and productivity.

We also offered community-building activities such as the Winter Festive Paint Night and the Bead & Breathe event, both free for students to attend. To further increase awareness of our services, the PSC maintained a consistent presence across campus through tabling initiatives and pop-up events, including pin-making sessions that encouraged student engagement and connection.



**UVSS
FOOD BANK**

Since its creation by the UVSS Board in 2000, the UVSS Food Bank has grown from a small emergency service into a vital support system for UVic students and their families. What began as a service for a limited group of undergraduate students now provides a stigma-free, grocery-style experience for a diverse population.

The success of the Food Bank would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our student staff and volunteers. Their dedication, advocacy, and compassion have ensured that we continue to meet the growing needs of the student community. Despite the challenges we face, their commitment has allowed us to serve thousands of students and their families.

A special thank you to the UVSS, SUB, Society for Students with a Disability, Campus Community Garden, and all of the amazing students who helped donate and fundraise for our food bank this year. Thanks to you all, we received over \$200,000 in donations this year which allowed more students than ever access to the UVSS Food Bank.

CONCLUSION (and thanks for reading!)

Thank you to everyone who took the time to read through our Annual Report. We hope you've learned a little bit more about how the UVSS runs and why it's so important. If you haven't yet, **follow the UVSS on Instagram (@uvss)** or **subscribe to our newsletter** to keep up to date with all we'll be doing next year, and make sure to check out all of the amazing groups living within The SUB to find some of the amazing services they offer. This is our final sign off of the year, from your Board of Directors,

Michael, Katie, Lindsey, and Abhee

