



# **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**2021-2022**





# INTRODUCTION

For the last year, students faced ongoing life and societal changes brought on by the pandemic. The atypical rising costs of living coupled with negative real wage growth and increases in ancillary and tuition fees further exacerbate the struggle to access and be successful in post-secondary education. Member locals and the Federation have been navigating these waves of adversity and have demonstrated resiliency in the face of unprecedented times. The Federation continues to adapt and relentlessly advocates for accessible, affordable, quality education for all. The following report provides an overview of steps taken by the Federation over the past year to forward the student movement.

In the Fall of 2021, the Federal election demonstrated the necessity of accessible voting for post-secondary students as one of the demographics that received the least support during the height of the pandemic. The collective efforts of the Federation, member locals, and non-member locals empowered students and youth voters to participate in political discourse and encouraged young people to make informed decisions through the get-out-the-vote campaign, Influence the Vote. Though faced with a barrier brought on by the removal of on-campus polling stations, the campaign's outreach expanded across the western provinces. Further, the advocacy efforts resulted in meetings with Elections Canada and other student groups in the province to re-establish on-campus voting in future elections.

The continuation of the pandemic has prolonged issues with community engagement on campuses, with continued pauses to in-person activities and uncertainty around course delivery, affecting the ability to engage members. The Federation has adapted by strengthening our collaborative community approach to organising through building coalition partnerships and bolstering our voices, resulting in two significant wins for students. First, in December of 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a mandate letter with directions to eliminate interest on student loans and increase the repayment threshold to \$50,000. Second, in March of 2022, the provincial government announced a review of public post-secondary funding through a sector-wide consultation process. These announcements align with the Federation's recommendations in the Knock out Interest and Fund It. Fix It. campaigns. A focused approach on organising through a collaborative lens has been a successful tool for improving the ability to support students across the province.

Through recognizing the intersectionality of our communities in the student movement, we have also been able to increase public awareness of the issues within the post-secondary system and push for policy changes that benefit all British Columbians. This year, the Federation joined with the BC Federation of Labour to advocate for ten days of Paid Sick Leave for all workers. In January of 2022, an announcement stated workers would receive a mandatory five paid sick days per year. The Federation strives to build on this achievement and push for policy reflective of the student experience to reduce barriers both domestic and international students face as young workers.

As we move into a new year, we must acknowledge the challenges ahead without losing sight of, and celebrating the successes achieved by the collaborative work of students across the province and Canada. With a progressive return to in-person activities emerging, we look forward to continuing to build on our impactful lobbying approaches. The Federation is committed to ensuring we are prepared to tackle the upcoming year and continuing our work to support students by centring our vision of an accessible and affordable post-secondary system in all that we do.







# **CAMPAIGNS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

## 2021-22 CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS PLAN

Each year at the Federation's summer general meeting, delegates discuss and vote to adopt a campaigns and government relations plan, which then guides the advocacy work of the Federation and member local unions for the next six to twelve months.

### CENTRAL CAMPAIGNS

Central campaigns address direct issues of access to post-secondary education: funding, fees, and financial aid. The 2020-21 plan contains three central campaigns as follows:

#### FUND IT, FIX IT

The goals of the Fund It, Fix It campaign are to increase funding for institutions; secure a progressive funding model that provides stability to the post-secondary education sector and accounts for inflation; and immediately freeze and progressively reduce tuition and other user fees. The campaign intends to move public opinions more in favour of properly funding institutions and reducing tuition fees.

One aspect of the campaign is to increase public awareness about the actual cost of education — be it trades training, diplomas, or professional designations. To make an emotional appeal, the materials for this year's campaign focused on children's dreams—what they want to be when they grow up—in comparison to the costs of attaining the education necessary for those careers.

It is also of the utmost importance to remember that many other advocacy priorities of the Federation relate to underfunding: International students pay exorbitant fees, sky-rocketing student debt, Indigenous peoples' lack of access to education, and food insecurity. All of these relate to the underfunding of our post-secondary system. Hence, work on the Fund It, Fix It campaign is essential.

#### Materials

Materials for this campaign include a blank rave card that can be addressed and used to invite guests to attend a local action (like a Board of Governors or community meetings) to discuss the campaign; an information rave card; and a poster with a QR Code that directs people to the campaign website. The Federation also has a campaign video hosted on its campaign page and various digital assets that Locals can utilize throughout the year.

#### Coalition

Building solidarity amongst community partners is crucial to securing a campaign victory and has been a priority of the Executive Committee. To date, the Federation and Locals have





presented this campaign to the Vancouver Community College Faculty Association, the Vancouver District Labour Council, and the Hospital Employees Union to ask them for their support. Feedback has been positive, and the Federation is working with these new coalition partners to support the campaign. The Federation encourages Locals to do presentations to their local unions, community groups, and institutions.

### Government Relations

The Federation continues to promote the Fund it, Fix it campaign as a cornerstone of its advocacy efforts. Increased funding was a core ask during the Federation's 2022 lobby week. Increased funding for post-secondary and the progressive reduction of fees is a long-term goal of the Federation, and consistency is key to achieving our goals. Locals are encouraged to meet with the MLAs in their community to discuss chronic underfunding issues.

### Promotion

The Federation engaged the communications firm NOW Group to help develop and implement a digital advertising strategy. The strategy aimed to build support for the campaign by reaching student-adjacent audiences like parents and family members of children, future university and college students, and those who support social justice calls. With that in mind, the Federation worked with NOW Group to create host-read and actor-read advertising scripts and static and dynamic ads for digital platforms. The Federation also invested in promoting its pre-existing campaign video.

Advertisements were placed on streaming services, podcasts, Google, and The Score – a sports app. The campaign completed its first run of ads on May 9 and delivered over 1.7 million impressions. The viewer video completion rate was 70%, and the click-through rate was 0.44% - much higher than industry standards. The Google Adword search garnered a 2.25% click-through rate, with the most popular search terms being “UBC campus life,” “international student loans BC,” and “Selkirk College British Columbia” this high click-rate shows the campaign message is resonating with viewers.

Additionally, the podcast advertising campaign spots delivered over 240,000 impressions. The campaign beat all industry averages for engagement and will be reinitiated for the start of the 2022 fall semester.

### GRANTS NOT LOANS

The Grants Not Loans campaign was the most recent iteration of the Federation campaigns calling for the creation of an up-front, needs-based student grant program, following others such as Education Shouldn't Be a Debt Sentence and Squash the Squeeze. In the 2020 provincial budget, the government announced \$41 million in annual funding for the creation of the BC Access Grant, a program the Federation has been calling for since its elimination in 2001. This grant will provide up to \$4,000 yearly in need-based financial assistance.

The Federation has continued to advocate for more investments into the BC Access Grant. It is estimated that the program needs an additional investment of \$59 million to allow all those who require funding to receive it. This campaign, while important, has remained a government relations advocacy point and does not yet have a public-facing component.

### KNOCK OUT INTEREST

The goal of the Knock Out Interest is the elimination of interest charged on federal student loans to remove the financial barrier to post-secondary education; interest charged on student loans is nothing more than a tax on low- and middle-class students and their families simply because they cannot afford to pay for their education upfront. With interest charged



on the provincial student loan successfully removed, eliminating the interest charged on the federal portion of student loans, which makes up 60 percent of a person's total student loan, will reduce the student debt.

In 2019, the Federation launched the campaign, and supporters have sent well over 6,479 emails to Prime Minister Trudeau and their local Member of Parliament. In addition, 30 non-member students' unions across the country have endorsed the campaign.

On December 16, 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau issued his mandate letter to Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough with directions to eliminate interest on student loans and to increase the repayment threshold to \$50,000, which are both in line with the asks of the Federation.

The action email on the campaign website has been updated to a thank you email to hold the Prime Minister accountable for his promises until we see implementation. The Federation's current focus is ensuring the implementation of the mandate to eliminate interest and apply relevant reforms to the Canada Student Loan Program.

## **SUPPORTING CAMPAIGNS**

Supporting campaigns address other issues that can affect access to post-secondary education. Additionally, in years where elections are expected, a campaign to encourage youth voter engagement is included in this section.

### **FAIRNESS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

After 16 years of funding cuts to public colleges and universities, the recruitment of international students, who pay tuition fees that produce a profit for the institutions, has become a method used by institutions to cover budget shortfalls directly. Additionally, contrary to domestic students with the Tuition Fee Limit Policy that caps tuition fee increases each year, international tuition fees are unregulated, resulting in an inability to understand how much these fees can increase yearly.

The Fairness for International Students campaign calls for provincial regulation of tuition fees for international students, the creation new international education strategy for BC, and increased awareness among domestic students of the unfair treatment international students receive.

#### **Materials**

Materials for this campaign include postcards that can be used to lobby the Board of Governors, informational handouts, stickers, and posters. In addition, the Federation created a number of digital assets for social media promotion.

The Federation also has a campaign page on its website with a story collection tool. This tool will be used to collect international students'



experiences (anonymously if they wish) to better personalize and inform the work of the Federation.

Finally, the Federation has produced a comprehensive research document, International Students in British Columbia, which was updated in Fall 2021. The document contains case studies, a breakdown of how much international students pay in fees, international education's contribution to the BC economy, and issues with the funding model. The audience for this document is government officials, academics, and institutional administrators, and it should be distributed accordingly.

## **OPEN TEXTBOOKS NOW!**

Open Education Resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain and permit free use and re-purposing by others. These resources commonly include textbooks and open access journals but can also be modules, tests, videos, and study guides. The cost of textbooks and course materials has long been a financial challenge for students. Constantly changing versions of textbooks and skyrocketing prices have put many textbooks beyond the reach of students. These unchecked cost increases add another financial barrier to low- and middle-income students. Further, the funds paid by students for these materials frequently end up in the pockets of major publishing houses and do not flow back to the creators of the academic materials. This system is the product of a copyright law regime that benefits knowledge owners to the detriment of creators and users.

The Open Textbooks Now! campaign aims to better connect knowledge users and creators through a fully funded system of OER that is free to students and instructors in BC. The campaign goals include increased provincial funding to support the creation and adaption of OERs and increased on-campus adoption of OER by faculty. To achieve these goals, the Federation works with BCcampus, the mandated provincial coordinator of open education resources, on issues regarding OER.

The Federation partnered with BCcampus on an Instagram takeover. The Federation created several social media feed posts, story posts, and videos for BCcampus to use on their social media to help celebrate the many victories students achieved and share information regarding the Federation's Open Textbooks Now! Campaign. The Federation facilitated a giveaway for Open Education Week, and five winners received both BCFS and BCcampus swag.

The Federation attended the celebration of the BCcampus' 10th anniversary of the BC Open Textbook Collections on June 16.

## **The Open Education Conference**

The Federation attended the Open Education Conference on October 20, 2021 and participated in a panel made up of a diverse group of students and OER champions. Discussions centred on the work done to promote OER at post-secondary institutions, how different institutions provide and adopt open resources, and the ongoing challenges in adopting OERs.

## **YOUTH VOTING**

The Federation's Campaign and Government Relations plan includes provisions for a get-out-the-vote campaign in years of an expected election..

## **INFLUENCE THE VOTE**

Ahead of the writ drop of the 44th general election, the Federation developed Influence the Vote. The campaign's main goal was to increase youth voter participation in the federal



election. Influence the Vote encouraged members and young people to vote by appealing to their desire to be involved in the political discourse and empowering them to make informed decisions.

The campaign messaging was similar to previous campaigns, keeping a positive tone that encourages social voting. In addition, supporters could sign up to receive various election-related communications, including information on where and how to vote and campaign updates, as well as a volunteer opportunity to promote the campaign on social media.

The campaign website included a page where candidates could submit a statement that appeals to young voters. The Federation also reached out to all major parties and their candidates in British Columbia to submit a statement.

### Materials

Locals received the campaign posters shortly after the writ was dropped to promote the campaign on campus and in the surrounding communities. The Federation also engaged external poster agencies in Vancouver to put posters around the city in high-pedestrian traffic areas. In addition, the Federation created flyers and did in-person canvassing in Port Moody, Victoria, and Kelowna. Materials featured a QR code to the campaign website, which received over 500 scans.

### Website

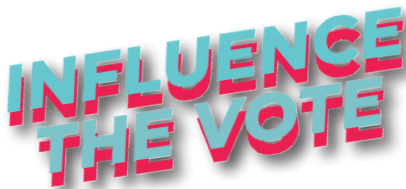
The campaign was housed on [Influencethe.vote](https://influencethe.vote). This website had two ways to engage with supporters. People could sign up and receive basic voting information and become an 'influencer' to recruit others to sign up.

A candidate search page was also created for supporters to search through the list of candidates who had submitted a candidate statement. To generate this page, a separate form had to be made for candidates to fill out that would populate their candidate statement on the website. This tactic was beneficial but would be more successful in an election where there was knowledge of the candidates running further in advance, allowing candidate statements to be made available to members more timely.

### Social Media

Digital outreach was another significant component of this campaign; a suite of digital materials to display on social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram were created, including, but not limited to, Instagram albums, social media headers, campaign videos, Facebook profile photo frames, shareables, and story templates.

To reach members more organically, the Federation invested in having social media influencers and celebrities create campaign videos through Cameo, blogs and Instagram posts/stories.



Supporters could also become ‘influencers’ and invite others to sign up. There was a leaderboard where people could see which influencer had the most recruits to the [influencethe.vote](https://influencethe.vote) website. The Federation encouraged recruitment by providing giveaway prizes to the top 3 recruiters.

The Federation ran a series of boosted posts on social media to promote the campaign. Additionally, the Federation ran an advertisement on Google that would appear if people searched for information about the election. Member locals were encouraged to engage in paid advertisements and boosted posts on social media as a primary engagement tool.

### Email Communications

The Federation also sent out a total of five emails throughout the campaign. Open rates for campaign emails ranged between 24% to 53% percent, with a clickthrough rate that ranged from 0.52% to 3.5%, far above industry standard. Emails were initially sent to the Federation’s broad campaign list more generally to collect initial pledge signatures and occasionally to tap into previously engaged members throughout the campaign. Once the Federation and member locals began collecting pledges, emails were sent to pledge signers, discussing party platforms, information about mail-in ballots, and reminders about early voting and election days. Emails to listservs, both by the Federation and member locals, proved to be a very effective outreach strategy for online campaigning and resulted in more pledge signatures than other tactics.

### Endorsements

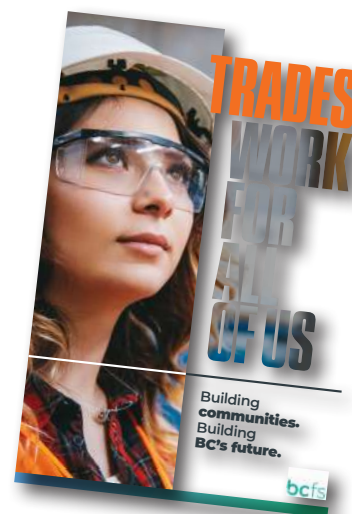
A substantial amount of outreach was done to non-member students’ unions to join the campaign to have a unified student voice. The Alberta Students’ Executive Council endorsed the campaign, a provincial organisation representing 17 students’ associations and over 100,000 post-secondary students in Alberta.

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

October 15, 2022, is election day for the 2022 General Local elections across the province. The campaign period officially begins on September 17 and runs until October 15. In preparations for this election, the Federation produced a series of on-campus promotional materials to help members determine what the municipal governments do and how to get more involved. Materials will be delivered to campus in August 2022.

### TRADES WORK FOR ALL OF US

Whether building infrastructure, getting goods from point a to point b, manufacturing essential products or providing necessary services, the trades and trades workers are an integral part of BC’s economic and social tapestry. Trades education and workers should be supported and encouraged to meet the challenges posed by a





post-pandemic world successfully. These essential jobs require skilled tradespeople who go through training, many at public post-secondary institutions.

The goal of this campaign is twofold: to advocate the government for more support for trades students and to build awareness of the Federation and member locals to trades students.

The Federation engaged NOW Communications to develop and implement a social media advertising campaign. The campaign targets the general public and trades students by targeting schools and using strategic locational targeting.

The Federation has also partnered with the Construction Maintenance and Allied Workers (CMAW) union to plan lunch and learn events on campuses, with interested member locals, for trade students. CMAW is Canada's only independent construction trade union and can help anyone interested in the construction trades through assistance with education and work placement on unionized projects.

## **COALITION CAMPAIGNS**

The Federation are experts in the student experience but acknowledges that there are other issues our members care about and want to be more involved in. Coalition campaigns are run by other organisations that members have decided to endorse and actively participate in at General Meetings. While the Federation plays a role in assisting with the on-campus activities, these are not campaigns created by the Federation.

### **PERIOD PROMISE**

Period Promise is a campaign led by the United Way of the Lower Mainland to raise awareness of period poverty and advocate for greater access to menstrual products in public bathrooms. As a result, the Ministry of Education has committed to providing free menstrual products in all public elementary and secondary schools. This coalition aims to see a similar outcome for the public post-secondary sector.

The Federation collaborated with the United Way of the Lower Mainland to develop an on-campus campaign toolkit; the toolkit—including an information guide, information leaflets, a fact sheet for administrators and a petition—was completed and provided via Dropbox to member locals for campaigning.

### **Successes**

On May 11, 2021, Local 5 was successful in its lobbying efforts, with Thompson Rivers University announcing that they would offer free menstrual products in all washrooms on campus in September 2021.

On March 12, 2021, Local 20 and Northern Undergraduate Student Society representatives successfully lobbied the university to invest in a pilot project to offer free menstrual products on their Prince George campus.

On March 25, 2022, Local 6 was successful in its lobbying efforts with Douglas College, which installed 50 new dispensers on campus and began providing free menstrual products in all bathrooms on campus.

On May 2, 2022, Local 16 was successful in its lobbying efforts with Vancouver Community college, which provides free menstrual products to students on both Downtown and Broadway campuses with plans to expand and add more dispensers in different washrooms.

On May 5, 2022, Local 13 was successful in its lobbying efforts with Vancouver Island University, which announced that they would also begin providing free menstrual products on campus in all washrooms.

These victories result from Locals working hard and not giving up on their advocacy with their institutions. The Federation encourages member locals to take advantage of these victories to lobby campus administrators while continuing to pressure the provincial government to mandate free menstrual products in all public buildings in the province.

### **MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN**

The Moose Hide Campaign is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys standing up against violence against women and children. Wearing a moose hide patch signifies your commitment to honour, respect, and protect the women and children in your life and to work together to end violence against women and children.

The Moosehide campaign was initially scheduled for February 10, 2022, but due to COVID-19, the campaign organisers decided it was safest to postpone the campaign day to May 12. The Federation and member locals shared campaign information and social media posts to support the campaign's day of action.

### **AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**

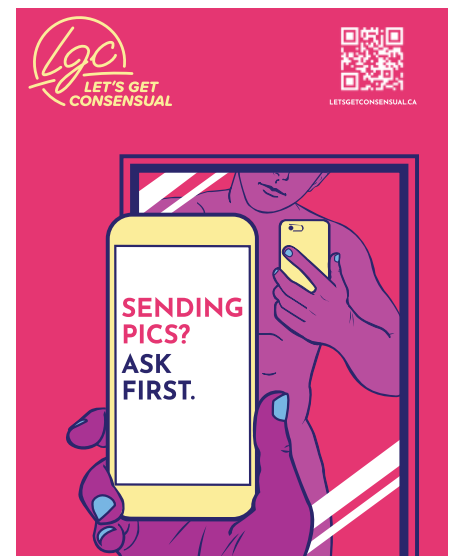
Awareness campaigns are a series of materials to raise awareness on different social issues and provide Locals with tools to begin discussions on campus. The Federation continues to create supplementary materials for the awareness campaigns, including stickers and buttons that member locals can use in beginning conversations with members around consent culture, workers' rights, climate and the focuses of the unlearn campaign.

### **CONSENT CULTURE**

One of the initiatives that the Federation undertakes to provide member local unions support on consent culture work is implementing the Let's Get Consensual campaign from the Anti-Violence Project and the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS). The Let's Get Consensual campaign aims to combat rape culture, advocate for sexualised violence training, and build a consent culture on campus. The Federation has been working with these groups to create physical materials, including posters and rack cards that feature QR codes to resources to use on campuses to start conversations around these topics.

### **RECONCILIATION THROUGH EDUCATION**

At the 80th Semi-Annual General Meeting, the Federation was directed to redevelop this campaign with Indigenous Caucus to include more direct actions surrounding access to education. The



Federation met with multiple Indigenous-led firms to begin this redevelopment. Unfortunately, many firms have been unable to take on this work due to heavy workloads and limited resources. The Federation continues to work with Indigenous Caucus to find an appropriate firm to begin this work.

## RELATIONS WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AGENCIES

The Federation held its annual Lobby Week virtually from November 16 to 18. Federation representatives met with 26 Members of the Legislative Assembly and Cabinet Ministers, including 18 BC NDP Members, 8 BC Liberal Members, and the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training. These were group meetings, with various MLAs meeting students from that region. Representatives from Locals 1, 4, 6, 12, 13, 16, and 20 participated, along with the BCIT Students' Association representatives.

The complete list of meetings is in Appendix 2 of this report.

### LOBBY DOCUMENT

A lobby document was created for the meetings based on the Campaigns and Government Relations Plan adopted at the 80th Semi-Annual General Meeting. This year, the document added a section regarding trades training. The seven recommendations are divided into four key areas as follows:

#### Student Financial Assistance

- Increase funding to the BC Access Grant to provide \$100 million in non-repayable financial aid annually to increase access to post-secondary education and skills training.

#### Institutional Funding and Fees

- Undertake a comprehensive review of funding in the advanced education and skills training sector to determine government funding gaps, particularly for regional colleges and universities, including an infusion of \$200 million annually.
- Freeze tuition fees and develop a plan to progressively reduce tuition fees at public colleges, institutes, and universities to lessen the financial burden on students and their families.
- Strengthen the Tuition Fee Limit Policy to ensure that institutions are not increasing fees beyond the prescribed limits in the form of new ancillary fees.

#### Regulation of International Student Tuition Fees

- Amend the Tuition Fee Limit Policy to include regulation of fees for international students to ensure fairness, consistency, and predictability of international student tuition fees.

**FUND IT.  
FIX IT.**

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
FEDERATION  
OF STUDENTS  
BC STRONG

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AS A  
KEY TO BC'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY



- Develop a new BC international education strategy that will provide sufficient support for international students to assist in their cultural, social, and academic integration.

### Trades Training

- Develop an apprenticeship completion strategy which includes provisions for returning apprenticeship counsellors to campuses

## 2022 SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

In August 2021, the BC Legislature's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services held a budget consultation process to hear priorities and feedback from the public regarding the 2022 provincial budget.

The Committee released the Report from the consultations on November 15, 2021. The following recommendations were included in the final budget report:

- Provide additional support for Indigenous learners, including Elder programs and similar initiatives that provide connection to culture and community, Indigenous counsellors and advisors, and mechanism to ensure improved access and affordability.
- Recognize the value and contributions of international students and diversity by continuing to promote BC as a welcoming jurisdiction for international students, including examining the business model, providing wrap-around support, and ensuring safety and fair treatment as well as transparency and predictability regarding tuition fees.
- Recognize the value and importance of post-secondary education by examining the funding model to ensure investments position BC to meet the needs of the future workforce, address operational pressures and programming demands, and include consideration for short-term financial flexibility with clearly defined accountabilities and transparency to support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Increase investments and opportunities for upskilling, reskilling, co-ops, and micro-credential programs, as well as apprenticeships and trades training.
- Reduce financial barriers to post-secondary education, including by temporarily expanding grant funding, to ensure students have increased levels of support for the years following the COVID-19 pandemic and to encourage participation in and completion of post-secondary.
- Improve transparency regarding course fees, ancillary fees, and other expenses related to the direct and indirect costs of education.
- Invest in the continuum of mental health services and infrastructure for all ages recognizing the specificity of support required for different populations.
- Fund universal access to no-cost prescription contraception.
- Recognize the critical importance of digital connectivity and significantly enhance and expedite efforts to ensure the provision of affordable accessible internet across the province, with particular attention to rural, remote, and Indigenous communities.

## BC BUDGET 2022

BC Budget 2022 was released on February 22, 2022. The Federation received one ticket to attend the budget "lock-up," where media and stakeholders receive a presentation of the budget and review the documents with access to ministry staff for questions in advance.

Budget 2022 did not contain significant increases in student financial assistance and institutions' funding. However, the budget did include the following investments that relate to our membership:

- A partnership with the Federal government to create 40,000 new licensed childcare spots, at an average cost of \$20.00 a day, working towards full implementation of \$10 a day childcare. Also, Budget 2022 allows for increasing seamless childcare in an additional 20 school districts.
- An investment in high-speed internet infrastructure to bring internet services to 280 rural and Indigenous communities.
- A significant investment to Wildfire Services BC to allow year-round support to prevent and contain forest fires.
- Additional funding to support new seats in skilled trades training and health care to fill the job shortages.

Due to COVID-19, the budget event was significantly smaller than in previous years. However, the Federation was pleased that the Ministry prioritized students as stakeholders and invited the Federation to attend.

## **2023 SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

The BC Legislature Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services held a budget consultation to receive public feedback informing the 2023 provincial budget. The Federation presented to the committee on June 15, 2022, emphasizing that investments in post-secondary education as an essential tenet of post-pandemic economic recovery. The recommendations included amending the Tuition Fee Limit policy and adding a cap on international students' tuition fee increases; infusing \$200 million annually into institutional operations grants, applying a government freeze on tuition fees, and developing a plan to progressively reduce tuition fees at public institutions to lessen the financial burden to students.

## **PROVINCIAL FUNDING REVIEW**

On March 31, 2022, the provincial government launched a review of public post-secondary funding through a sector-wide consultation process. Don Wright, previous president of the British Columbia Institute of Technology and held various roles in public service until 2020, is leading the process. This review will help the government develop "an updated, modern funding model" as it focuses on three areas:

1. Establish a funding model that fairly and impartially distributes provincial financial resources across the public post-secondary sector.
2. Align provincial funding with the education and skills training needs of British Columbians and the communities served by the 25 public post-secondary institutions.
3. Support student success by ensuring access to affordable, high-quality post-secondary education and expanding key student supports.

The Federation is identified as one of the stakeholders in the consultation. Federation Organiser Davies met with Rachel Franklin, Executive Director of the funding review, to discuss an in-person consultation with members of the Federation. As a result, the Federation

hosted an in-person consultation on June 11, 2022, where Wright and Franklin were in attendance. The Federation also invited representatives from the University of Fraser Valley Student Union Society and BCIT Students' Association to attend and participate.

Each Local and the Federation also has the opportunity to submit a written submission by July 15.

### **BCCAMPUS**

The Federation maintains a strong relationship with BCCampus, a publicly funded organisation that provides support in education. The Federation holds a seat on the BCCampus Open Education Advisory Group, and Chairperson Chirino currently occupies the seat. The Advisory Group meets regularly to discuss ways of increasing the use of open educational resources (OER) on campuses across BC. Throughout the year, the Federation collaborated with BCCampus in multiple engagement efforts and events, as mentioned in the Open Textbooks Now! section.

Students have now saved over \$31 million through OER – this success is due to the continuous work of the Federation, member locals and Bccampus. There are currently 264,567 BC students using open textbooks at 43 BC institutions; further, there are 818 known faculty who have adopted OER.

### **RELATIONS WITH MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING**

On November 26, the new government cabinet was sworn in, and Anne Kang, MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake, was named the new Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training. See Appendix 3 for the Minister's Mandate Letter.

### **BC POST-SECONDARY DIGITAL LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The COVID-19 pandemic forced institutions to shift from in-person to digital learning models. Classes and services usually delivered on campus were transitioned to an online model without sufficient planning. The Ministry began engaging the post-secondary institutions to better understand and support digital learning models in post-secondary education in British Columbia, both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this process, the Ministry initiated the BC Post-Secondary Digital Learning Advisory Committee to lead a collaborative process across the post-secondary system to achieve the goal mentioned above.

The committee works with post-secondary institutions and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training to improve digital learning by developing research-based recommendations and updating institutional policies.





The working groups within the committee include:

- Quality Reassurance
- Digital Literacy & Citizenship
- Technology, Finance & Admin

Federation Staff Davies sits on the Digital Literacy & Citizenship working group, which met for six months. Meetings focused on drafting a framework for digital literacy starting in the K-12 system. The draft framework outlines learning outcomes and suggests two streams for learning in post-secondary: creating a micro-credential for upgrading and implementing learning outcomes into specific post-secondary degrees and classes. The draft framework is complete and presented to the Ministry for approval and implementation.

## **INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION APPROACH**

The Ministry is currently working on a student-centred and sustainable approach to international education. To support this work, the Federation ensures that student voices and other non-traditional stakeholders in the post-secondary education sector are being consulted.

The Federation participated in a third-party-led, independent consultation process regarding international education in the province on May 16, 2022. Member locals raised concerns about international students not having a cap on their tuition fees, the lack of bursaries for international students and institutions depending on international tuition fees to fill in the gaps in post-secondary education. The Federation followed up with written feedback addressing these concerns and will stay in touch with the ministry.

## **SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND MISCONDUCT POLICY WORKING GROUP**

BCcampus facilitates a working group for representatives from institutions and students' unions to work towards the creation of a student survey on sexual violence and misconduct on campuses. This survey is to gauge students' levels of understanding of the sexual violence and misconduct policies on their campuses and their general knowledge of consent and sexual violence.

## **STUDENT HOUSING BEST PRACTISES WORKING GROUP**

The BC Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) legislates the protection of renters. It enshrines the minimum standards for rent increases, notice needed to enter suites, and renters' rights. However, the RTA excludes all students who live in on-campus student housing, meaning that students in on-campus housing do not have the same rights as other renters.

The purpose of the Student Housing Working Group was to create a series of best practices for student housing. The Working Group reviewed the nine recommendations by a coalition of student representatives. Most of the recommendations aligned with the current Federation's at-issues policy and perspective.

The Working Group began meeting over two years ago, but its meeting schedule was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The final version of the best practices document was completed in April 2021 and submitted to the Ministry. The document's release date is not yet known.

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND RESILIENCY WORKING GROUP**

As the Ministry focuses extensively on student mental health, BCcampus's special projects department was tasked with creating two Mental Health and Resiliency working groups,

each with different focuses. The first comprises institutional staff, faculty, and student representatives and will focus on the student side of mental health; former Chairperson Klassen represents the Federation in this working group. The second comprises faculty and administration representatives and focuses on how instructors and institutions can aid students in their mental health journeys. These working groups aim to provide more comprehensive support for student mental health.

On November 24, the group met to provide feedback to the consulting firm hired to review the final guidelines for institutions. The consulting firm identified several gaps in support, such as resources on suicide awareness and prevention, international student supports, and Indigenous student supports.

## **HERE2TALK**

The Premier's Awards is an awards ceremony for the BC Public Service where British Columbians celebrate some of the last year's achievements. The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training reached out to the Federation to participate in a video for the Premier's Awards nomination for the Here2Talk app. The Federation participated with Chairperson Chirino speaking about the importance of mental health tools and resources that are student-friendly and accessible.

## **RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY INCLUSION**

The Federation meets regularly with staff from the Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion – the federal ministry that most closely works with the post-secondary sector.

The Federation had regular contact with Ministry staff and has discussed issues surrounding the failed Canada Student Service Grant Program, international students, pandemic relief, and the elimination of interest on student loans.

The Federation has also discussed with the Ministry the legislative costing note released by the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer breaking down how much it would cost to eliminate interest on student loans. This costing note states that eliminating interest on federal student loans for the fiscal year 2021-22 would cost \$315 million. This confirms that the Federal government at least has an interest in fully eliminating interest on student loans. The Federation will continue to advocate for its full elimination.

### **FEDERAL BUDGET 2021 SUBMISSION**

Every year the federal government accepts submissions in order to inform the following year's budget. The Federation submits a written document each year to ensure the needs of students in British Columbia are heard at the federal level. In this year's submission, the Federation outlined its recommendations to eliminate the interest charged on federal student loans, provide an investment of \$20 million through the Council of Ministers of Education to assist with the production of OER in all provinces, and continue their current level of investment into the Canada Student Grant Program—which is double what it has been previously—following the end of the pandemic.

### **FEDERAL LOBBY DAYS**

The Federation participated in federal lobbying with the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA). The Alliance intended on hosting an in-person lobbying session in February 2022,

but a combination of an outbreak of COVID, the convoy blockade of Ottawa, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine meant a change of strategy. The FSAA planned a series of meetings with 29 Federal MPs and bureaucrats over March and April 2022.

The FSAA created a lobby document, *Going Further: Post-Secondary Education as a Key to Canada's Economic Recovery*, with the following asks:

- Call on the government to maintain its recent doubling of the Canada Student Grant beyond 2023 and reform the student loan application process to reflect the current needs of students better;
- Create an expedited pathway to permanent residency and redesign citizenship processes that can be pursued without legal representation;
- Invest in infrastructure to ensure connectivity across Canada and ensure the rates for appropriate internet speeds that are affordable for all;
- Increase funding to the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and ensure every Indigenous learner is given funding, and simplify the process for all applicants by creating one central resource for those wishing to attend school; and
- Create streamlined student job placement programs accessible to a larger pool of students and businesses year-round.

### **BILL C-216**

A Health-based Approach to Substance Use Act (Bill C-216) is a federal private member's bill by Gord Johns, the MP for Courtenay-Alberni. This bill aims to end the epidemic of overdose deaths in Canada caused by toxic street drugs by decriminalizing possession of drugs for personal use; expunging records of a criminal conviction for personal use; providing access to a regulated, safer supply of drugs for users; and, expanding the availability of treatment, recovery and prevention programs throughout Canada. The Federation has been invited to participate in the organising work, and Researcher Reid has been attending the working group. The Federation will continue to support this work where appropriate.

### **VOTE ON CAMPUS WORKING GROUP**

The Vote on Campus program started in 2015 as part of a larger pilot project to help address youth voters' barriers during federal elections. This program was expanded during the 2019 federal election, with over 110,000 Canadians casting their ballot at 119 Elections Canada on-campus offices across the country. Unfortunately, this program was not available during the 2021 federal election. Along with many other student groups across Canada, the Federation signed on to the letter expressing how this decision negatively impacts youth voter turnout, especially in light of the existing barriers to youth voting.

Elections Canada launched a Vote on Campus Working Group to obtain support and guidance in the planning and deployment of a Vote on Campus program for the 45th General Election. The working group allows for collaboration and the provision of expertise and guidance on setting up campus polling stations during general elections. The working group will also suggest how to communicate employment opportunities and voting options to students.

The working group met on May 18 and discussed the barriers that youth voters face, issues with wait lines at on-campus polls, how to include students in their communications strategy and a possible expansion of on-campus voting. Elections Canada will be sending a survey to members of the working group. The Federation will share the survey with Locals to distribute to members. The working group is expected to meet every four months to continue the discussion to make this program more efficient for youth voters.





# **COALITION & SOLIDARITY WORK**

## **ALBERTA STUDENTS' EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Alberta Student Executive Council is a provincial students' group that provides advocacy services on behalf of 17 students' unions across Alberta. The Federation was invited to participate and help facilitate the ASECs Goals planning conference from August 3 to 5, 2021, in Red Deer, Alberta. The conference was an opportunity for ASEC member locals to choose their provincial advocacy goals for the upcoming 2021-22 year. Then Secretary-Treasurer Gauld and Organiser Davies attended on behalf of the Federation. The Federation used the opportunity to help build upon the previous work of the Federal Students' Advocacy Alliance, a students' organisation advocating for Western Canadian students.

The Federation was invited to participate in the ASECs leadership conference June 6 to 9, 2022. Secretary-Treasurer Kootenayoo and Organiser Davies attended, and Organiser Davies gave a presentation on the history of the student movement.

The Federation continues to work closely with ASEC, especially around issues relating to student union autonomy. The province of BC is one of the only provinces that enshrine the right to organise as student unions, and it is crucial that we help assist those who do not have such protections for the longevity of the student movement across Canada.

## **BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR**

### **THE BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR**

The BC Federation of Labour is one of the Federation's oldest allies representing over half a million workers in every part of BC through over 50 affiliated unions with over 800 locals. They have a long history of fighting for the rights of all working people to a safe workplace and fair wages. Students are often workers, and issues in post-secondary impact working people in the province, so partnership among the Federations and the labour movement is invaluable.

### **PAID SICK LEAVE COALITION**

In August 2021, the Federation joined the BC Federation of Labour's Paid Sick Leave Coalition that aims to have government implement a program that provides all workers in the province ten paid sick days a year. The Federation participated in monthly meetings with the Coalition.

The government produced a survey to ask British Columbians what provisions exist at their workplaces and to test for the popularity of three, five, or ten sick days. The Federation committed to the BC Federation of Labour to support the ten paid sick days, allowing for a full quarantine for illnesses like COVID-19.

The BC Federation of Labour released a new report titled An Equitable Recovery – The Case for Paid Sick Leave as a Right of Employment. This report includes polling results that show there is wide support across the political spectrum.

On November 24, 2021, the government announced that as of January 1, 2022, workers in BC will receive a mandatory five paid sick days per year. The Federation recognizes that this is an important achievement as so many students and young people don't currently have access to any paid sick leave. However, the Federation has two main concerns about the limitations in the announcement.

The requirement of needing a doctor's note creates a barrier for workers and put an additional strain on the health care system; additionally, the paid sick leave will apply only to those employed for longer than three months, ultimately leaving many students who rely on summer employment behind. The Federation has been invited to participate in the BC Federation of Labour's precarious workers' subcommittee and will continue to support the efforts to expand paid sick leave in the province to ten days.

## **YOUNG WORKER'S COMMITTEE**

The BC Federation of Labour represents unionized workers throughout British Columbia and has historically been one of the Federation's strongest allies. The Federation has represented student voices on the Young Workers Committee (YWC) for many years. It actively provides a student perspective when speaking about the realities for young workers and their communities. Outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Gauld is currently appointed to the YWC.

The YWC hosts a yearly camp where young workers across the province can network and learn skills to bring back to their worksites at Camp Jubilee. However, the pandemic has postponed this for the past two years and will hopefully resume in the upcoming year. Some of the first post-pandemic in-person events that the YWC facilitated are a number of Grant's Law sit-ins across the province, a memorial highlighting the need for worker safety in remote and isolated workplaces – especially overnight. This year's central YWC Grant's Law event was held on June 4, 2022.

## **BC HEALTH COALITION**

The Federation is a member of the BC Health Coalition, a democratic, non-profit, and non-partisan network that brings organisations and over 800,000 individuals across BC together to strengthen, defend, and improve public health care. Together the Coalition runs campaigns, educates the public and lobbies the government to improve the public health care system. Director-Operations Patigdas holds a seat in the Coalition.

The working group met in January and discussed the BC Health Coalition's recent victory against the Cambie Surgery Centre and Dr. Brian Day. The decade-long legal battle attacked and sought to weaken the BC Medicare Protection Act. Judge Steeves's ruling re-affirmed that access to health care must be based on the need and not the ability to pay.

The working group discussed how to continue promoting this victory and the issue of other medical services creeping into the private sphere, such as telehealth services, including Telus Babylon or Maple. The committee discussed how to advocate for increased health services to remain in the public sphere.

In the fall of 2021, the Coalition responded to a Request for Proposals on the Crisis Hotlines put out by the government, which was thought could threaten the non-profit organisations that currently provide services in the province and increased the potential of the privatisation of the service. Consequences of privatisation of the crisis hotline services include eradicating acute and region-specific provision of help to callers, volunteer opportunities for students, and further introducing the profit-making model into public services. The Federation participated in the lobby efforts and community organizing to overturn the Request for Proposals. The Coalition has identified more significant issues on government policies in the Request for Proposal process. The Anti-Privatisation Working group will be taking on work to address these issues in the upcoming year.





## BC POVERTY REDUCTION COALITION

The Poverty Reduction Coalition is a non-partisan coalition composed of over 70 organisations that initially came together to advocate for a provincial poverty reduction plan to address homelessness and inequality in British Columbia. The Federation remains active in the Coalition and assisted with their strategic planning listening session which informed the drafting of their policy priorities that were needed after the BC NDP Government adopted its poverty reduction plan.

## CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The Canadian Union of Public Employees represents over 700,000 workers nationwide in public services, including health care, emergency services, education, early learning and child care, libraries, municipalities, transportation, and airlines. CUPE represents many students' union staff across the province, and the Federation's staff are also represented by CUPE local 2396.

In February, Organiser Davies met with the young workers' committee of CUPE BC to present the Fund it, Fix it. campaign. The committee was impressed by the campaign and brainstormed different coalition and partner organisations that could be approached to endorse the campaign.

CUPE BC held its provincial convention from May 19 to 21, 2021, where elections took place. Karen Ranaletta was successfully elected as President. Ranaletta was previously the President of CUPE 2950, representing University of BC library workers. The current Secretary-Treasurer, Trevor Davies, was also re-elected. The Federation sent a letter of congratulations to Ranaletta and expressed excitement about working with them further on post-secondary issues.

The Federation continues to work closely with CUPE BC on post-secondary education and workers' rights issues and has endorsed many of their initiatives, including Public Childcare Now. At the 40th Annual General Meeting, members endorsed the Seconds Count campaign by the CUPE 8911.

This public campaign raises awareness about critical underfunding and staff shortages at E-Comm 9-1-1. The campaign exposes that recent long wait times and unanswered emergency calls are symptomatic of an understaffed and underfunded service.

## FEDERAL STUDENT ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

Over the past three years, the Federation has built relationships with students' unions outside the province to engage in federal advocacy work. Specifically, the Federation has been working with representatives from the Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC) and the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association (SPSA) on federal lobbying opportunities. In 2021, the Federation, ASEC and the SPSA formalised their relationship and created the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance (FSAA). The Alliance will provide each participating organisation representing a province with the opportunity to put forward shared federal lobbying priorities for the year. Together, the organisations created a mission, vision, and values statement and are finalising the Alliance's foundational documents and organisational structures.

## HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

The Hospital Employees' Union (HEU) represents more than 50,000 members working in all areas of healthcare. The Federation and the HEU have been working closely together in supporting each other's initiatives. The Federation invited Barb Nederpel to do a greeting at the 81st Annual General meeting and speak on how we can work together. The Federation passed a motion to endorse HEU's Care Can't Wait campaign at the 40th Annual General Meeting. This campaign focuses on fixing BC's long-term care by creating new public or non-profit spaces for long-term care. Looking at ways to fix the staffing crisis, with common standards for better wages and benefits, better working conditions, and ensuring that private long-term companies follow regulations and transparency.

The Federation presented the Fund It, Fix it campaign to the HEU's Young worker's committee on June 20, 2022, and is looking forward to giving this campaign to the HEU executive for endorsement.

## HEALTH SCIENCES ASSOCIATION

The Health Sciences Association (HSA) represents more than 20,000 health care and social services professionals in hospitals, community health settings, child development centres, and other community agencies across British Columbia. The HSA president Kane Tse greeted delegates at the 80th Semi-Annual General Meeting and talked about the importance of both organisations collaborating. At the 40th Annual General Meeting, the Federation passed a motion to endorse HAS's campaign End the Shortages. This campaign focuses on increasing training to recruit more health science professionals to replace the ones retiring, getting sick or burning out and to increase pay to retain health science professionals in BC struggling with the high cost of living.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SOLIDARITY: UKRAINE ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS

On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine after years of a fraught relationship between the two countries since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. This geopolitical issue significantly impacts Europe and beyond, and the threat of more nations embroiled in a war will significantly impact students everywhere. The Federation contacted the Ukraine Association of Students (UAS) to offer solidarity and assistance. The UAS connected the Federation with their Organiser and asked for assistance in spreading its message in the global community.

In addition, the Federation wrote a blog post to provide resources for those interested in supporting ongoing humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. The Federation made donations to the organisations below.

- The Kyiv Independent is an English-language media outlet created by journalists who fought for editorial independence to report on Ukraine issues, providing daily coverage of the War.
- The Voices of Children is an organisation in Ukraine that helps children manage the psychological damage of War.
- OVD-Info is a human rights organisation in Russia that provides legal support and bail to protesters arrested in Russia protesting the War. The Federation will continue communicating with the UAS organisers to offer support and solidarity.

## **METRO VANCOUVER ALLIANCE**

The Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) is a non-partisan alliance of diverse community associations, multi-faith congregations, and unions representing over 40,000 people. During the pandemic, like many not-for-profits, the MVA went dormant and has recently kickstarted efforts to get started again.

In fall 2021, the MVA approached the Federation to find ways to work together. The Federation invited the MVA to attend the December Executive Committee Meeting to present their organisation and what it would mean to join. The Executive directed the Federation to participate in some events as observers and bring a recommendation about the formal joining of the MVA to a future Executive Committee Meeting.

Since the meeting, the Federation has participated in their Leadership retreat on May 11, where participants discussed working together and how it could help further each participants organisational goals.

## **TENANT RESOURCE AND ADVISORY CENTRE**

The Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre (TRAC) is a non-profit organisation that provides free legal education, representation, and advocacy on residential tenancy matters. The Federation has represented young people on TRAC's Board of Directors for many years. Outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Gauld currently sits on the TRAC Board as an elected Director. TRAC held nine meetings over the reporting period.

TRAC discussed further funding schedules and continued negotiations with the City of Vancouver to establish a renters service centre, which would increase their ability to resource tenants throughout the province. TRAC also received increased funding from the BC Lottery, which extends the reach of its services. Over the past fiscal year (May 2021 to April 2022), the organisation assisted tenants directly through their website, social media, email, and phone. During this time, the organisation helped 11,163 tenants and provided direct advocacy to 218 tenants.





# **SERVICES**



## THE DEALS APP

The Federation has coordinated the provision of local and provincial discounts for individual members for several decades. This service is one of the most tangible, direct benefits of membership in the Federation. By saving members and non-member students' money in their day-to-day lives, the Federation and member locals are working to reduce financial barriers to post-secondary education.

### MOBILE APPLICATION

The Deals app is the evolution of a discount program that used a physical card to save students money at participating businesses. The app, launched in 2019, was developed to better fit members' needs by allowing them to easily find savings near campus, in their hometown, or while travelling throughout BC. The app has three key components: a map feature showing discounts nearby, a discount listing grouped by category to make browsing specific discounts easier, and a unique virtual identifier that students can present to business partners when using a discount.

The app is free for members to download through the App Store and Google Play. It is also available for non-member locals to access for an annual per member fee or for non-member students to access individually for an annual fee, which allows the Federation to offset some of the development and maintenance costs.

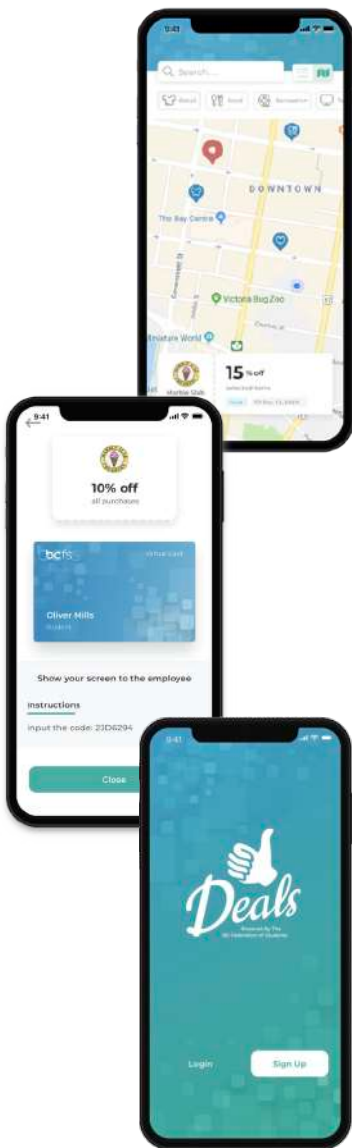
### DISCOUNTS

The value of the discount program is a joint effort between member locals and the Federation's BC office. The BC office works to secure regional and province-wide discounts to serve as "anchor" discounts with well-known or easily-accessible business partners. Meanwhile, member locals focus their solicitation efforts on local businesses; the local knowledge of students' unions is key in building and maintaining relationships with businesses that are popular and valuable to students in the area. The BC office also develops Deals branded materials to aid in the discount solicitation, solicitor training, and promotion of the app.

### 2021-22

At the direction of the Executive Committee, the Federation purchased iPads for each Local to support solicitation efforts. The iPads were preloaded with the Deals App and JotForm, an application that allowed for the creation of the Deals App Agreement as an online form. The iPads were mailed to Locals for use during the solicitation and renewal period. The Federation again engaged Earncliffe Strategy Group to assist in securing the app's anchor discounts, including successful partnerships with GoodFood, Uber, Evo, and a back-to-school offer with Mark's Work Warehouse.

The Northern Undergraduates Student Society entered into an Agreement to pay a discounted, up-front, per member fee for the 2021-22 school year that allowed them to offer the Deals App as a



service to their members. Branding materials and solicitation training were provided, and the app was made available to their members in August, a month ahead of schedule.

This partnership allowed for collaboration on app promotion and solicitation efforts in Prince George between NUGSS, Local 4, and Local 20. The agreement with NUGSS has been extended for the 2022-23 school year.

### 2022-23

Currently, the Deals App has over 250 discount partners, with discounts at over 450 locations, including provincial discounts with nearly two dozen companies; new partnerships include Vessi, Sheertex, Happipad, Diva Cup, Tuex Education, and a new offer with Telus. Solicitation and renewal efforts for the upcoming year are ongoing. The Federation staff continues to offer solicitation training by request to ensure directors interested in participating in member local solicitation and renewal efforts have the necessary training and resources.

In addition to the Facebook page, the Federation created an Instagram account (@The\_DealsApp) to share new discount partnerships, promote existing offers, host giveaways and engage members about the types of discounts they would like to see on the app.

In May, after reviewing members' and member locals' feedback, the Federation began working with the app's developers, Freshworks, to develop two key upgrades. The first upgrade will see the user login transition no longer be case sensitive to improve users' ease of logging in. The second upgrade will be creating an online Deals category that will allow all online offers to be grouped for members to browse more easily. Both upgrades are expected to be ready before the 2022-23 school year begins.

## MEMBERS' HANDBOOK AND DAYPLANNER

The Members' Handbook and Dayplanner Service was created by member locals in 1993 as a means of delivering high-quality, ethically produced, and affordable products for members. While the service was initially created to benefit small member locals, students' unions of all sizes benefit from the economies of scale and shared resources when purchasing handbooks. The handbooks contain a section about the Federation, a local-specific section, and weekly and monthly calendars. The quantity produced has allowed for better quality paper and full-colour pages while achieving savings in writing, editing, designing, printing, and binding costs. The savings enable students' unions greater flexibility in the amount of advertising content, making room for more local-specific information. The Federation sells cover advertisements on those covers not sold by member locals as an additional way to subsidise the cost of the handbook project and keep costs low for participating locals. The





handbooks are produced in BC by a unionised printing facility using recycled paper and vegetable-based inks. Further, the printing facility uses industry-leading processes to ensure all waste from the production is reused or recycled responsibly.

## **2021-22 PRODUCTION**

The Federation coordinated the production of handbooks for twelve member locals and the Federation for the 2021-22 year. Due to the distribution challenges caused by COVID-19 in the previous year, many locals decreased the number of handbooks from the number typically ordered; a total of 30,000 books were produced — a decrease of close to 16,700 units from the 2020-21 year, which was reflected in the increased price of the project.

Based on the positive feedback received from member locals about the layout changes made in the previous year, the calendar extension once again replaced the notes section. The last page of the handbook featured a low or no-cost self-care checklist for members. A sticker page was again offered as an optional add-on and was used by 10 participating locals, and the BC Office. The handbooks were delivered to all participating locals on time and allowed for distribution in welcome kits and at on-campus events.

## **2022-23 PRODUCTION**

The Federation again secured a contract with Mitchell Press for the 2022-23 production year, including a price increase reflective of a rise in the cost of paper and other production materials and shipping costs. Twelve locals and the Federation are participating in the service for the 2022-23 year; a total of 30,165 books are being produced.

As directed by the Executive Committee, the weekly and monthly calendar pages have been updated to increase the functionality of the organisational pages for members. Advertisements in the handbook include an ad for Vancity (where regionally relevant), the Deals App, the BCFS, and the Fairness for International Students and Fund It. Fix It. campaigns. This year's handbook also includes 3 notes pages and a checklist that students can use to find out more information about the Federation and their students' union, how to get involved in the student movement, and how they can make the most of their Federation membership. It is expected that handbooks will be delivered to campuses between August 16-30, which will allow for distribution in advance of or during the first weeks of classes.

## **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MATERIALS**

The Federation coordinates a bulk purchase program through which member locals can purchase membership development materials that are ethically produced and of high quality while maintaining a low price. The Federation works with Fairware, a Vancouver-based company dedicated to providing ethically-sourced materials for the provision of the service. Students' unions order based on what their members want and are able to customize designs. By purchasing products collectively through the Federation, students' unions realise cost savings through increased purchasing power and become leaders in making campuses sweatshop-free.

## **2021-22 ORDERS**

The Federation facilitated two order intakes in the past year: a summer order and a winter order. Eleven member locals and the Federation participated in the summer bulk purchase, collectively ordering nearly 60,000 items. The winter order offered the most popular core items from the summer order as well as an assortment of new items, including pencils, webcam privacy covers, sweatpants and a new style of tote bags, as well as pencil pouches;

8 member locals and the Federation participated, ordering just over 24,000 items. All materials arrived early or on time to campuses.

The Federation worked with Fairware to develop better processes to ensure that artwork fees and item descriptions were accurate and that contact with member locals and resolution of product issues was more efficient.

## 2022-23 ORDERS

The store offerings were updated to include a wide range of giveaway materials, including a mix of core items, the most popular items from last summer, a range of items from a wheat straw collection, and requested items such as umbrellas, bucket hats, and mini water bottles.

The Federation's Shopify store was opened for member locals to place orders from May 30-June 20. Orders have been placed by thirteen member locals and the Federation. Over 90,000 items were ordered collectively. Items are expected to arrive on time. Due to ongoing challenges faced by the industry and inflation, the cost of many items saw a higher-than-normal increase.

## ONLINE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

The Federation's suite of digital services primarily focuses on the coordination and centralisation of purchasing online services on behalf of participating member locals. This centralisation allows member locals to access their account administrative panels and enables the Federation staff access to resourcing and technical support. The coordination of purchasing provides a discounted rate for some parts of the service but particularly benefits those locals that don't have credit cards, as that is the only way to pay for these services directly.

## DOMAIN REGISTRATION AND NETWORK SETTINGS

For a website to be hosted, the domain needs to be registered, and the domain network systems (DNS) settings need to be hosted. The domains of Locals 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 and the Federation are hosted on the server.

## WEB HOSTING

The Federation works with Rackspace Cloudsites Web to provide stable, independent cloud-based website hosting that allows member locals to host WordPress, Drupal, or PHP websites that are fully customisable.

The websites of Locals 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 and the Federation are currently being collectively hosted through this service. Member locals utilising this service also can create sub-domains for clubs and other local initiatives.



## EMAIL HOSTING

The Federation works with Rackspace to coordinate email hosting for member locals. While the central coordination doesn't reduce costs, it reduces the administrative burden on individual students' unions. Additionally, the central coordination assists locals who lack the organisational capacity to manage their email system on their own. The Federation currently coordinates emails for Locals 4, 10, 14, 15, 20 and 21.

## ADOBE CREATIVE CLOUD LICENSES

The Federation centrally purchases Adobe Creative Cloud license subscriptions for participating member locals. The centralisation of purchasing enables member locals to benefit from significant savings and ensures that locals use the appropriate license for business use. These licenses are purchased and retired at the request of participating member locals. Collectively 28 licenses are being coordinated through this service.

## MOBILE APPLICATION

The Federation coordinates a master user agreement with Ready Education (formerly OOHLALA Mobile Inc.) for use by member local unions and individual members. The application serves as a communications platform between the Federation, member locals, campus groups, and individual members and extends communication of campaigns and services beyond print and social media platforms. Internal Affairs Policy Section O: Ready Education Partnership Service outlines cost-sharing with participating member locals.

### User Agreements

The Federation renewed its two-year master user agreement with Ready Education with the new terms beginning August 1, 2021, and expiring July 31, 2023. The renewed agreement includes a license for Locals 1, 2, 4, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, and 21. The new contract also outlines the process and fee to add participants mid-way through the contract should other member locals wish to set up an app. Ready Education has been directed to release the inactive applications from any Local not listed above. The Federation was assigned a new Campus Success Consultant who facilitated ideas-sharing sessions for participating member locals and supported with the onboarding and launch of Local 21's app.

## INSURANCE SERVICES

### BC STUDENT HEALTH CONSORTIUM

The Federation coordinates a buying consortium for health and dental insurance, along with connected products, with the primary purpose of using the collective expertise and combined purchasing power of participating members to secure lower rates and better coverage for individual members.

### Consortium Membership

The Consortium is composed of Locals 1, 2, 4, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 21. Within the Consortium, Locals 2, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 21 make up the "Block Plan" to pool their revenue and claims to create plan and rate stability for members. Local 10 will be joining the Block Plan in the 2022-23 year.

### Carrier Relations

The Federation continues to work with Green Shield Canada (GSC) for the health, dental, and travel components of member local's plans. For accidental death and dismemberment insurance, the Federation works with Wawanesa. The accidental death and dismemberment



benefit will be upgraded to an accidental death and dismemberment and life insurance policy in the 2022-23 year to provide more coverage for members.

### **Broker Relations**

The Federation and Consortium members use the services of Prosum Health Benefits Consulting (Prosum) as their broker for all insurance services provided through the Consortium.

### **Third Party Administrator**

The Federation and Consortium members use the services of J&D Benefits as their third-party data administrator (TPA). J&D Benefits was onboarded in the 2020-21 year and continues to manage the following: the enrollment data, billing, the hosting of the member portals, which contain information about a member's coverage and; the opt-out sites, which includes a function allowing students to add one or more dependents and processing dependent fees.

### **STAFF BENEFIT PLAN**

The Federation coordinates a staff benefit plan, which is now entering its seventh year of operation. To date, Locals 1, 2, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 21 have joined the plan, which also includes Federation staff and full-time elected members of the Executive Committee.

### **PROPERTY, CASUALTY, AND LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The Federation continues to work to develop a bulk purchase arrangement for various forms of property, casualty, and liability insurance using a BC-based provider called Aon Reed Stenhouse (Aon).

Locals 6, 13, 16, and the Federation purchase property, casualty, and liability insurance from Aon in Victoria, with most using the carrier/underwriter Northbridge.

## **MEMBER SUPPORT AND WELLNESS SERVICES**

### **LEGAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE**

The Federation works with Sykes Legal to provide members free over-the-phone legal advice on a wide range of topics and substantial discounts on legal referrals. The service is currently offered as an added value option to member locals participating in the BC Student Health Consortium. Still, the service is universally available to all Federation member locals. The service is currently used by Locals 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, and 21. Sykes developed local-specific marketing materials for all participating member locals to support their efforts to promote this service to members. In 2021, the service was improved to include the review of simple legal documents up to 6 pages and the provision of a simple legal letter.

### **GOEVISIT**

GOeVisit provides access to medical appointments with a doctor or nurse practitioner through a secure web portal or mobile app 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The doctors and nurse practitioners can diagnose and prescribe treatment for over 300 illnesses through this mobile service. The service costs \$100 per year or \$10 per month; however, for many years the Federation has secured a partnership with GOeVisit that allows Federation members to access the service for free. In May 2022, GOeVisit notified the Federation that members would no longer be able to access the service free of charge but would still be able to access a discounted rate for the service. This cost change has not yet been seen by other online clinic services, including TELUS Babylon Health, which is available at no cost to anyone with an MSP number; as such, the Federation has decided to promote these no-cost services to members instead.



## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

Since 1985, the Federation has held an annual skills-building symposium for member local representatives in BC. The Skills Development Symposium consists of workshops and seminars that provide elected representatives and local staff with the opportunity to acquire, learn about and develop a broad range of skills required to operate a students' union effectively. The Symposium allows participants to exchange information and develop relationships in an informal setting. Fully subsidised by the Federation for one participant from each member local union and partially subsidised for the next 11 attendants, the Symposium is highly accessible to member locals.

### 36TH ANNUAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

Usually held in May, the 36th Annual Skills Development Symposium was postponed based on public health office orders and was held from November 5 to 7, 2021, once BC's reopening plan allowed for gatherings. It was held at the Vancouver Sheraton Airport Hotel in Richmond. Over 90 participants from 12 member locals, as well as from the Alberta Students' Executive Council and the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association.

Workshop facilitators included Federation staff and directors, local staff who are experts in the fields in which they presented, external presenters recruited from the Federation's coalition partners, and external firms. Participants had the opportunity to complete evaluation forms to rate and provide comments on each workshop and the Symposium overall. Participants who submitted feedback provided helpful comments to be considered when planning for the 37th Annual Skills Development Symposium.

Sessions included:

- Introduction to the Students' Union;
- History of the Students' Movement;
- Director's Rights and Responsibilities;
- Event Planning;
- Understanding Students' Union Finances;
- Using Social Media Effectively;
- Effective Meeting Participation & Facilitation;
- Effective Campaigns Organising;
- Membership Outreach;
- How to Lobby;
- Combatting Disinformation;
- Working Together;
- Media Relations; and
- Strategic Planning



## 37TH ANNUAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

The 37th Annual Skills Development Symposium was held at the Delta Ocean Pointe Resort in Victoria from May 26 to 28, 2022. Over 140 participants attended from 13 member local unions, as well as from the Students' Union Society of the University of Fraser Valley and the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Students' Association.

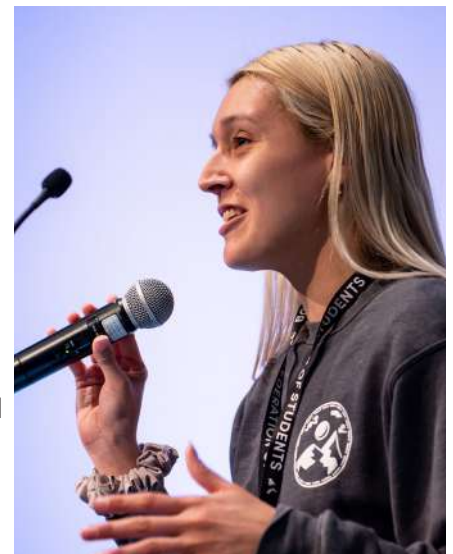
Sessions included:

- Introduction to the Students' Union;
- History of the Students' Movement;
- Engaging your Membership Online and Offline;
- Director's Rights and Responsibilities;
- Negotiating Contracts;
- Understanding Students' Union Finances;
- Effective Meeting Participation & Facilitation;
- Effective Campaigns Organising;
- How to Lobby;
- Combatting Disinformation;
- Working Together;
- Media Relations; and
- Moving Forward: Applying your New Skills to your Role

Workshop facilitators included Federation staff and directors, local staff who are experts in the fields in which they presented, as well as external presenters from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), CUPE 8911, the Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC, Arvay Finlay LLP, Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, Tompkins Wozny LLP and the BC NDP. Participants again had the opportunity to complete evaluation forms to rate and provide comments on each workshop and the Symposium overall. Participant comments will be considered when planning for future symposiums.

## YEAR-ROUND TRAINING

Member locals have identified that because elections are held at various times throughout the year, there is a gap in training and skill-building for new board members and directors who start in the fall or spring semester. To address this, the Federation published the Students' Union Director's Resource Guide in 2020. The guide contains eleven chapters which teach topics like students' union finances, working with staff, negotiating contracts, membership outreach, and media relations. The Federation has begun phase two of this project, which is creating online training modules to help teach the manual's content so that member locals can provide training to their elected representatives and staff any time of year. The Federation engaged Jean Pak a curriculum and e-learning specialist certified by Thinkific to help develop the learning modules. This work is on-going and projected complete date is early September 2022.









# **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Executive Committee is the Federation's board of directors comprised of 21 elected directors: one representative per member local, elected by each member local and six-at-large directors elected at the annual general meeting. Members of the Executive Committee are responsible for the Federation's management, similar to a local students' union board of directors.

The following is a list of changes within the composition of the Committee since the July 2021 semi-annual general meeting:

### Campaigns Coordinator

Quinn Cunningham	May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022
Aashna Thapar	May 1, 2022 to present

### Chairperson

Melissa Chirino	May 1, 2021 to present
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### Indigenous Students' Representative

Tashia Kootenayoo	May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022
Quinn Cunningham	May 1, 2022 to present

### Representative-Local 1 Members

Joseph Welton	December 6, 2020 to December 3, 2021
Olivia Cundiff	December 3, 2021 to present

### Representative-Local 2 Members

Sam Braun	December 6, 2020 to December 3, 2021
vacant	December 3, 2021 to March 11, 2022
Seoyeon Lee	March 11, 2022 to June 10, 2022
Ava Ghaffari	June 10, 2022 to present

### Representative-Local 4 Members

Aasha Thapar	June 18, 2021 to May 1, 2022
vacant	May 1, 2022 to June 10, 2022
Jasvir Singh	June 10, 2022 to present

### Representative-Local 5 Members

vacant	September 26, 2020 to June 10, 2022
Azul Sky Billy	June 10, 2022 to present

### Representative-Local 6 Members

Amrita Ramkumar	June 18 2021 to June 10, 2022
Mehre Dllir	June 10, 2022 to present



### **Representative-Local 10 Members**

Stephanie Schneider	June 12, 2020 to June 19, 2021
vacant	June 19, 2021 to September 24, 2021
Ishika Tripathi	September 24, 2021 to present

### **Representative-Local 12 Members**

Ahmed Ahmed	June 18, 2021 to June 10, 2022
Cade Desjarlais	June 10, 2022 to present

### **Representative-Local 13 Members**

Sean Desrochers	May 3, 2021 to June 10, 2022
Cole Reinbold	June 10, 2022 to present

### **Representative-Local 14 Members**

Jaahljuu	December 6, 2020 to present
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### **Representative-Local 15 Members**

Christopher Scarlatti	June 18, 2021 to June 10, 2022
Alex McColm	June 10, 2022 to present

### **Representative-Local 16 Members**

Hemvir Singh	March 13, 2021 to December 3, 2021
Dilara Örs	December 3, 2021 to present

### **Representative-Local 17 Members**

Puneet Kaur	June 18, 2021 to May 1, 2022
vacant	May 1, 2022 to June 10, 2022
Jessie Niikoi	June 10, 2022 to present

### **Representative-Local 20 Members**

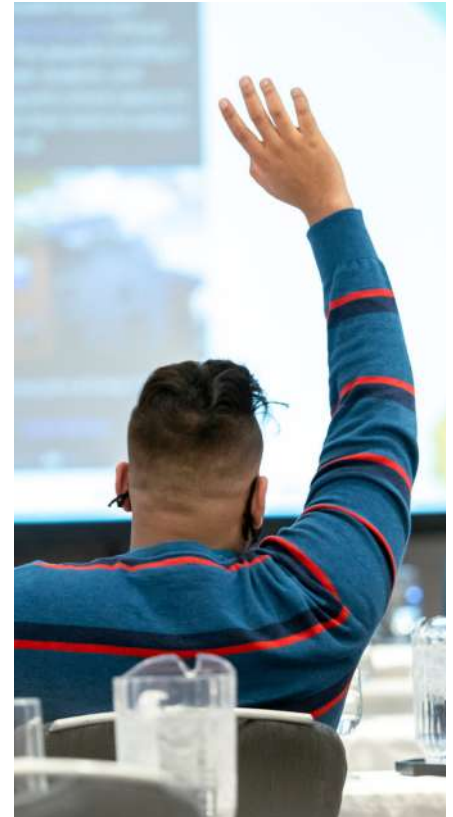
Abby Dooks	June 8, 2020 to June 10, 2022
Saad Ahmed	June 10, 2022 to present

### **Representative-Local 21 Members**

Praveen Sivakumar	December 6, 2020 to December 3, 2021
Lief Garrett	December 3, 2021 to present

### **Representative-Local 22 Members**

vacant	April 30, 2021 to December 3, 2021
Isobel Casey	December 3, 2021 to present





### Secretary-Treasurer

Michael Gauld May 1, 2020 to May 1, 2022  
Tashia Kootenayoo May 1, 2022 to present

### Services Coordinator

Jennifer Gullins May 1, 2021 to present

### Women Students' Representative

Haby Ka May 1, 2021 to May 1, 2022  
Puneet Kaur May 1, 2022 to present

## MEETINGS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee met on the following dates:

July 15, 2021  
September 24 to 26, 2021  
December 3 to 5, 2021  
March 11 to 13, 2022  
June 10 to 12, 2022  
July 14, 2022

### 80TH SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 80th Semi-Annual General Meeting was held virtually from Thursday, July 15, 2021, to Saturday, July 17. 53 delegates were present from 14 member locals.

The Federation received a letter of greetings from the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Opposition. The Federation also received video greetings from the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training and Jagmeet Singh, Leader of Canada's NDP.

At the meeting, the Federation welcomed Barb Nederpel, President of the Hospital Employees' Union, Karen Ranaletta, President of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and Kane Tse, President of the Health Sciences Association, who each gave greetings.

### The following sessions were held at the meeting:

**Compulsory Trades** – an overview of the provincial government's process to restore compulsory trades and what the initiative meant for women in the trades. (Brynn Bourke, Executive Director of the BC Building Trades, and Kristine Byers, Red Seal Journeyperson)

**Election 2021: Federal Landscape** – a brief on the federal landscape and key issues in the federal political realm in the lead-up to the fall federal election. (**Brent Farrington, National Director of Political Actions and Campaigns, Canadian Labour Congress**)

**Planning for Success** – a workshop providing an opportunity to reflect on their learning during the meeting and begin their back-to-school planning for their Local. (**BC Office**)

**The Federation also received the following three proposals for Open Sessions:**

**Period Promise: strategies, implementations, and wins!** (Local 16, submitted by Sydney Sullivan)

**Students Against Fraud** (Local 4, submitted by Damon Robinson)

**Student Rights and Fair Treatment on Campus** (Local 10, submitted by Lori MacDonald)

## **40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 40th Annual General Meeting was initially planned as an in-person meeting from January 14 – 17, 2021, but changes to provincial guidelines and pandemic protocols moved this meeting virtually to January 14 – 16, 2021 instead. The meeting had 70 delegates with representatives from 14 member locals.

The Federation received remarks from the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training; Jagmeet Singh, Leader of Canada's NDP; and Donald Grant, President of CUPE 8911.

**The following sessions were held at the meeting:**

**Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion** – a session that provided a framework for Locals to use to prepare for the development of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion frameworks at their students' unions by learning about processes undertaken by the United Way British Columbia. (**Neal Adolph, Provincial Director of Labour Participation for the United Way British Columbia**)

**Free Education and Social Equity for All**– inspired delegates about how our fight for free and accessible post-secondary education could change the landscape of Canada for everyone. (**Larry Rosseau, Vice President of the Canadian Labour Congress**)

**Trades Training** – a presentation on the work of Construction Maintenance and Allied Workers Canada (CMAW) to recruit more people into the trades and how the Federation and its members can work together to help our members get access to well-paid unionised trades jobs. (**Mike Jensen, Business Agent for CMAW**)

**The Federation also received three proposals for Open Sessions, but due to time constraints only the following session was included:**

**Issues Facing Indigenous Students in Post-Secondary** (Local 12, submitted by Tashia Kootenayoo)

## **STAFFING**

Federation staff are unionised with CUPE Local 2396.

After the 80th Semi-Annual General Meeting, the Federation concluded its hiring for Director-Operations and Phoebe Lo Patigdas was the successful candidate. Patigdas previously held elected roles at Local 13 and the Federation and worked as staff at Local 16. Patigdas started in the role on August 2, 2021.



The Executive Committee and staff are still exploring a new staffing structure that better reflects the dynamic roles of each staff position and the unique nature of the office environment and operations.

In December 2021, the Labour Relations Committee and CUPE 2396 concluded collective bargaining; it was conducted earlier than scheduled per the union's request to serve the staff and the Federation workflow better. The current collective agreement is now in effect until 2025.

The Federation applied for and received a Canada Summer Job grant from the Federal government and hired a summer student Dana Kessler for the role of Services-Discount Program Coordinator. Kessler started on May 30, 2022, and the position will conclude on September 1, 2022.

## **STUDENTS' RIGHT TO ORGANISE**

### **BACKGROUND**

Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights provides people fundamental freedoms, including the Freedom of Association. A provision to have a right to establish, belong or maintain any organisation unless it is illegal. Traditionally, we understand this from the labour perspective, as it provides workers with the right to associate with unions to represent their collective interests to employers. It also allows each of us the right to belong to students' unions. However, for Students' Unions and the Federation to do their work and secure their continued survival, they need to be able to collect fees from members.

While the Labour Unions have the Rand Formula, a feature of Canadian labour law, requiring anyone covered under a union's Collective Agreement to pay membership dues, student unions do not have something similar enshrined in law. Until 1994, no legislation existed in BC that provided for the right of post-secondary students' unions to have their membership dues collected. Before 1994, students' unions were continually under threat, as institutions could cease to collect their dues solely at the administration's whim.

Between 1994 and 1999, the Federation fought for a number of amendments to the College and Institute Act and University Act to strengthen the right for students to organise for themselves.

In 1999, the Federation won an amendment to the Acts that required Institutions to give students' unions their fees so long as they provide the institution's board of governors with an annual notice that includes:

- the amount of the membership fee to be collected;
- an indication that the financial statements are available to the membership, and
- assurance that the union remains in good standing with the Registrar of Societies.

Provided the students' union fulfills the duties outlined above, an institution's board of governors is obligated to collect and remit the membership fee to the union. However, the Federation has maintained its position that the union is accountable to its members, not to the institution's board of governors. Hence the clauses still permit an institution to undermine the union if it disagrees with its political or advocacy aims.

### **THREATS TO STUDENTS' RIGHTS TO ORGANISE**

Since the 1990s, the Federation has fought against any attempt to limit students' right to organise. The largest threat is legislation that would make students' union membership

optional on an individual basis. In British Columbia, the BC Liberals have either discussed or attempted to amend legislation in 2002, 2004 and most recently in 2015. These attempts were thwarted by organising of the Federation and member locals. But British Columbia is unique. No other jurisdiction in Canada has protections for students' unions. In 2019, Doug Ford's government in Ontario announced the Student Choice Initiative – which introduced opt-in student union membership. This Initiative is overturned after cases at the Ontario Divisional Court and Court of Appeal, but this was undoubtedly a costly endeavour for students in Ontario.

The Federation will continue to stand against attacks on students' right to organise and will remain vigilant in ensuring attempts get stopped as soon as possible. The Federation has also been working with the Alberta Student's Executive Council to help inform their fights for legislative protection and will continue to work with any democratic student organisation that needs support.

## **FINANCES**

### **2021-22 BUDGET MANAGEMENT**

The Federation's budget is a revenue and expense projections adopted annually by voting members at each semi-annual general meeting. The Executive Committee manages the Federation's annual spending by these projections.

Adjustments to the 2021-22 fiscal year reflect the change brought by the pandemic in the revenue and expenditures, such as allowances for enrolment decreases. Specifically relevant to the Federation campaigns and advocacy plan expenditures to deliver all campaign work without in-person interactions. For example, prioritizing the promotion of Federation campaigns including Fund it Fix it and Trades Work for All of Us. Also, an unplanned federal election occurred in the fall of 2021, and the Federation developed the Influence the Vote campaign.

### **MEMBERS' EQUITY**

The members' equity currently exceeds \$6 million, which includes the Federation's wholly-owned office space (valued at approximately \$1.2 million) and other capital assets. The remainder is composed of cash (approximately \$ 1.6 million), short-term investments (approximately \$1.4 million), and long-term investments (approximately \$1.9 million).

The Capital Fund, established for purchasing or upgrading property for the Federation's operations, stood at \$300,000 at the commencement of the current fiscal year.

The Disabled Access Fund, established to enhance the accessibility of the Federation for people with accessibility needs, stood at \$311,451 at the commencement of the current fiscal year.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Legal Defense Fund, established to assist member locals and the Federation in the event of legal cases against them related to ongoing membership issues, stood at \$100,000 at the commencement of the fiscal year.

### **ANNUAL AUDIT**

The audited 2020-21 financial statements were distributed to, and approved by, members at the 40th Annual General Meeting.

Preparations for the audit of the 2021-22 financial statements will begin upon the close of the fiscal year, which is August 31, to conclude the formal audit in October 2022.

## JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AUDIT

As previously reported, the Federation engaged Bakau Consulting to perform a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) audit of the organisation. The audit included a survey of respondents involved with the Executive Committee and had a 97.5% response rate. As a result, at the September 2021 Executive Committee meeting, the Executive prioritised a number of initiatives with short, medium, and long-term goals.

One issue identified after the JEDI audit was that, though it provided a helpful window into the equity work to be done, it lacks the context on the unique work the student movement does. With that said, the following initial actions are completed:

- Recreated the harassment grievance committee to ensure that meetings remain safe while upholding the principles of restorative justice;
- Ensured that the Federation confronts the past racism and prejudices of the student movement by teaching our shared history; and
- Invested in considering how the Federation ensures that class and social equity are at the centre of campaign initiatives and government relations.

Since the work of the student movement is so unique, it requires a unique approach to anti-oppression work. The Federation reached out to Sacha Médiné, who provides JEDI support to healthcare workers and social service providers. His approach centres on individuals and he believes that without clear and intentional behavioural changes in all aspects of our spaces, including our participation, JEDI policies and practices will not go far enough. The Federation has used his expertise in helping develop a framework to find and create more appropriate JEDI supports for the student movement. This ongoing work has highlighted the lack of non-corporate JEDI supports available in the province and country. The Federation is in the process of putting together a proposal to use Médiné's expertise on a formal and ongoing basis.

### SHORT TERM GOALS

- Create yearly anti-oppression training (ongoing)
- Actively recruit a diverse range of candidates for leadership positions (complete). The Federation created the Candidate Search Committee as a resource for those seeking nomination and seeking candidates from diverse cultural, religious, regional, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Center compassion and community building within and outside of meetings when engaging with locals (ongoing) – The BC Office has reimaged the internal communications process with member locals to create longer-lasting connections and provide grounded support.

### MEDIUM TERM GOALS

- Amending the constitution to explicitly spell out the Federation's commitment to social equity in its fight for free education for all (ongoing)



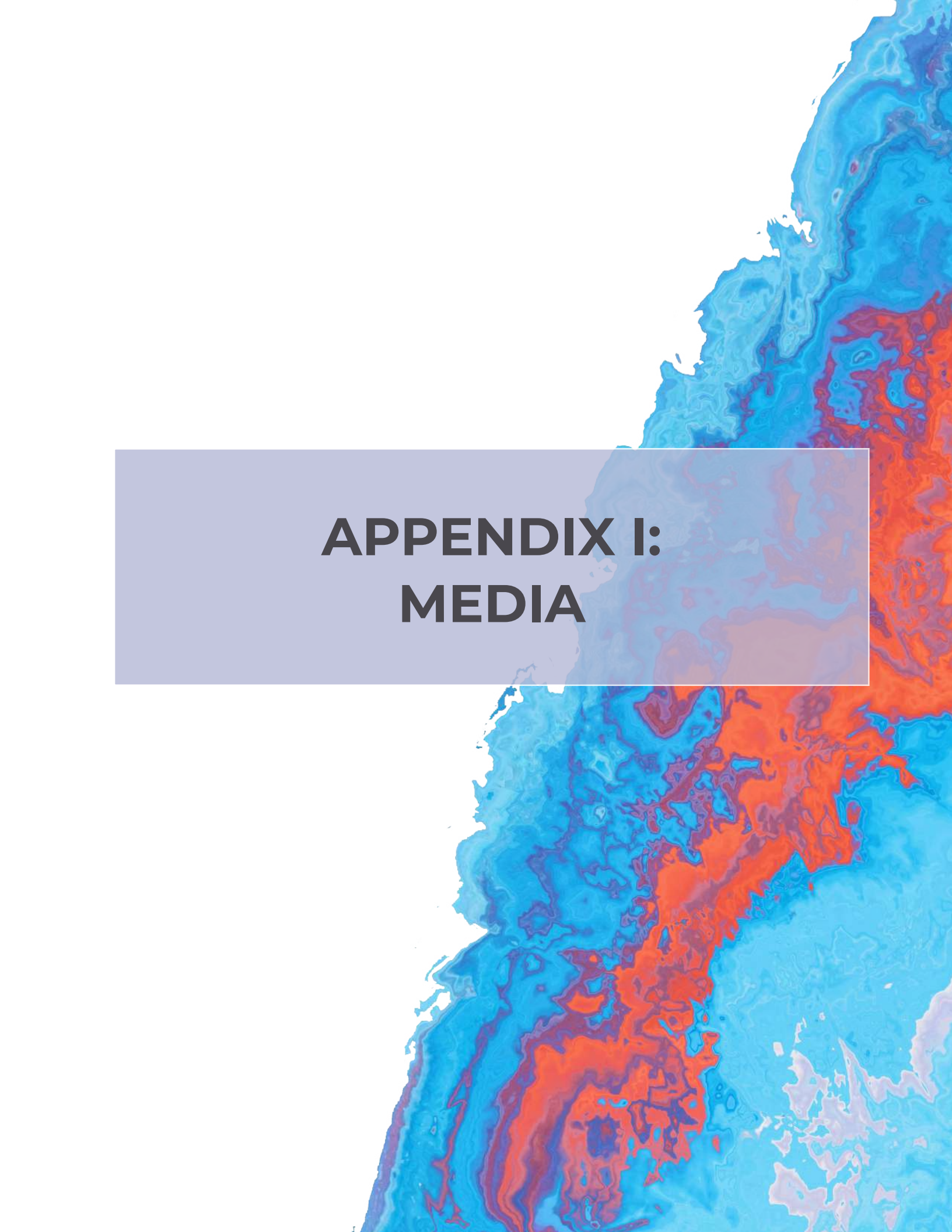
- Develop awareness of privilege and power and how it manifests in group settings and group decision-making (ongoing)
- Develop conflict management and unconscious bias training for students' unions (ongoing)
- Have a clear mandate to highlight and teach the exclusionary history of post-secondary institutions on the bases of race, class, gender, and sexuality within the Federation's history module (complete)

### **MEDIUM-TO LONG-TERM GOALS**

- Developing opportunities for more interfaith collaboration to increase religious diversity and inclusion (ongoing)
- Explore ways to include a diversity of lived experiences to inform all advocacy efforts of the Federation (ongoing)
- Create an election toolkit for Locals to improve their inclusion efforts (ongoing)

The Federation's JEDI work is ongoing and requires all Federation members to continuously unlearn neo-liberal capitalist society norms and learn through a decolonial, anti-capitalist lens while centering on building community and solidarity with one another.





# **APPENDIX I: MEDIA**



# APPENDIX I: MEDIA

## EARNED MEDIA

The following list outlines the media earned during the reporting period.

DATE	OUTLET	SUBJECT
2021/08/07	Fairchild TV News	Effects of Covid-19 on students
2021/08/03	CBC	Return to campus
2021/08/12	Spice Radio	Mask mandates on campus
2021/08/16	AM 1150	Influence the Vote
2021/08/16	CP24	Influence the Vote
2021/08/16	Saanich News	Influence the Vote
2021/08/16	Williams Lake Tribune	Influence the Vote
2021/08/16	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News	Influence the Vote
2021/08/18	CHLY 101.7FM	Influence the Vote
2021/08/24	My Prince George Now	Influence the Vote
2021/08/24	Nexus*	Influence the Vote
2021/08/25	CBC Radio	Vote on Campus initiative cancellation
2021/08/25	CBC	Safety measures on campus
2021/08/25	Fraser Valley News	Safety measures on campus
2021/08/25	Abbotsford News	Vote on Campus initiative cancellation
2021/08/25	Peace Arch News	Vote on Campus initiative cancellation
2021/08/25	The Free Press	Vote on Campus initiative cancellation
2021/08/25	BC Local News	Vote on Campus initiative cancellation
2021/08/28	Radio Canada	Safety measures on campus
2021/09/18	The Varsity*	Appointed student leader representation
2021/11/09	The Globe and Mail	Period Promise
2022/01/21	Radio-Canada	Here2Talk
2022/03/11	Vancouver Sun	Food Insecurity
2022/03/31	CBC Radio	Review of Post-Secondary Funding
2022/04/15	The Runner	Review of Post-Secondary Funding

\* denotes student media

## NEWS RELEASES AND MEDIA ADVISORIES

The following list describes news releases issued during the reporting period.

DATE	TITLE
2021/07/21	What Students should know about Returning to Campus in the Fall
2021/08/16	Western students announce Influence the Vote campaign aimed to get young voters to the polls
2021/09/07	Welcome back to a new year!
2021/09/30	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
2022/01/18	COVID-19 Update: Return to Campus Spring 2022
2022/02/01	A Statement on the Ban on Conversion Therapy
2022/02/08	Ongoing National Survey Provides Insight into Canadian Students' Experiences on Campus
2022/02/22	BC Budget Invests in Increased Access to Post- Secondary Education
2022/02/25	Calls to Action: A Statement in Support of Ukraine
2022/04/01	BC students' calls for a funding review of public post-secondary institutions have been answered

## PRESS REVIEW

The following media was earned by member local unions during the reporting period.

DATE	OUTLET	SUBJECT	LOCAL
2021/08/11	Vernon Morning Star	COVID-19 concerns	12
2021/08/13	Hope Standard	Mask and vaccine mandates	12
2021/08/20	Vernon Morning Star	Affordable housing	12
2021/08/24	My Prince George Now	Influence the Vote	4
2021/08/24	Nexus*	Influence the Vote	17
2021/08/25	Prince George Daily	Influence the Vote	4
2021/08/25	CKPG	Influence the Vote	4
2021/08/29	Infotel	Municipal transportation	5
2021/08/31	Vernon Morning Star	Hybrid class options	12
2021/09/03	Campbell River Mirror	Youth-centered debate	15
2021/09/03	CBC Radio	Hybrid class options	12
2021/09/04	CBC	Class cancellations	12
2021/09/11	Parksville Qualicum News	Youth-centered debate	15
2021/09/29	Kamloops This Week	Student housing	5
2021/10/06	Infotel	Student housing	5, 12

## PRESS REVIEW (CONTINUED)

DATE	OUTLET	SUBJECT	LOCAL
2021/10/05	Global News	Student housing	12
2021/10/18	Global News	Affordable housing	1
2021/10/18	Kelowna Capital News	Affordable housing	1
2021/10/19	Castanet	Affordable housing	1
2021/10/19	Global News	Affordable housing	1
2021/10/20	Penticton Western News	Affordable housing	1
2021/10/20	Castanet	Affordable housing	1
2021/10/20	Kelowna Capital News	Diversity on campus	12
2021/10/20	Campbell River Now	Bursary donation	15
2021/10/20	Comox Valley Now	Bursary donation	15
2021/10/20	Comox Valley Record	Bursary donation	15
2021/10/26	North Island Gazette	Bursary donation	15
2022/01/25	CKPG Today	International Students Rights	4
2022/03/09	Nexus *	Spring Students Elections	17
2022/03/22	Navigator*	Fairness for International Students	13
2022/03/23	Castanet	Sexual Health Awareness Event	12
2022/04/08	Kamloops This Week	Funding Review	5
2022/05/05	VIU News*	Free Menstrual Products on Campuses	13
2022/05/06	Alberni Valley News	Student Mental Health Supports	15
2022/05/10	Peak	Free Menstrual Products on Campuses	13
2022/05/11	My Powell River Now	Free Menstrual Products on Campuses	13
2022/05/11	My Coast Now	Free Menstrual Products on Campuses	13
2022/05/12	The Lounge 99.9	Free Menstrual Products on Campuses	13
2022/05/12	The Wolf 106.9	Free Menstrual Products on Campuses	13
2022/05/12	The Wave 102.3	Free Menstrual Products on Campuses	13
2022/05/12	The Beach 88.5	Free Menstrual Products on Campuses	13

\* denotes student media





## **APPENDIX II: MEETINGS**

# APPENDIX II: MEETINGS

## GENERAL

**Meeting:** Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills Training Staff, Jennifer Girard

**Date:** March 9

**Subject:** Indigenous policy framework

**Meeting:** Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills Training Staff, Kathryn Beaulac

**Date:** May 16

**Subject:** International Education Approach

## MEETING: ADVOCACY WEEK

**Date:** November 16-18, 2021

**Subject:** Regulation of International Student Tuition Fees, Institutional Funding and Fees, and Student Financial Assistance, Trades training

## 2021 FALL ADVOCACY WEEK MEETINGS

- Federation representatives met with members of legislature:
- Michele Babchuk (BC NDP, North Island)
- Harry Bains (Minister of Labour, BC NDP, Surrey-Newton)
- Bruce Banman (BC Liberal Party, Abbotsford South)
- Stephanie Cadieux (BC Liberal Party, Surrey South)
- Spencer Chandra-Herbert (BC NDP, Vancouver-West End)
- Dan Davies (Critic for Social Development and Poverty Reduction, BC Liberal Party, Peace River North)
- Bob D'Eith (Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film, BC NDP, Maple Ridge-Mission)
- David Eby, Q.C. (Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing, BC NDP, Vancouver-Point Grey)
- George Heyman (Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, BC NDP, Vancouver-Fairview)

- Ravi Kahlon (Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, BC NDP, Delta North)
- Anne Kang (Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, BC NDP, Burnaby-Deer Lake)
- Karin Kirkpatrick (Critic for Children, Family Development, and Childcare, BC Liberal Party, West Vancouver-Capilano)
- Bowinn Ma (Minister of State for Infrastructure, BC NDP, North Vancouver-Lonsdale)
- Renee Merrifield (BC Liberal Party, Kelowna-Mission)
- Coralee Oakes (Critic for Advanced Education and Skills Training, BC Liberal Party, Cariboo North)
- Kelli Paddon (BC NDP, Chilliwack-Kent)
- Doug Routley (BC NDP, Nanaimo-North Cowichan)
- Niki Sharma (Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits, BC NDP, Vancouver-Hastings)
- Tom Shypitka (Critic for Energy and Mines, BC Liberal Party, Kootenay East)
- Nicholas Simons (Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, BC NDP, Powell River-Sunshine Coast)
- Jinny Sims (BC NDP, Surrey-Panorama)
- Amandeep Singh (BC NDP, Richmond-Queensborough)
- Mike Starchuk (BC NDP, Surrey-Cloverdale)
- Ben Stewart (BC Liberal Party, Kelowna West)
- Adam Walker (Parliamentary Secretary for the New Economy, BC NDP, Parksville-Qualicum)
- Jennifer Whiteside (Minister of Education, BC NDP, New Westminster)
- Henry Yao (BC NDP, Richmond South Centre)

## MEETING: FSAA ADVOCACY WEEK

**Date:** March to May

**Subject:** Rural broadband network access, and Post-Secondary Student Support Program funding, Canada Student Grant program, Permanent Residency for International student graduates, expand paid student internships

## 2022 SPRING ADVOCACY MEETINGS

The Federation met with the following federal government representatives:

- Chrystina Dundas – Ministry of Labour, March 23
- Randeep Sarai – MP for Surrey Centre, March 23
- Katya Nova – Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry, March 24
- Douglas Wong – Ministry of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister, March 24



## 2022 SPRING ADVOCACY MEETINGS (CONTINUED)

- Damien Kurek – MP for Battle River –Crowfoot, March 25
- Kyle Nicholson – Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, March 25
- Warren Steinley – MP for Regina–Lewva, March 28
- Rachel Blaney – MP for North Island–Powell River, March 28
- Robert Kitchen – MP for Souris–Moose Mountain, March 29
- James Christie, Cameron Yung – Ministry of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth, Ministry for Women and Gender Equality, March 30
- Larry Brock – MP for Brantford–Brant, March 31
- Bev Busson – Independent Senators Group, March 31
- Hillary Morgan, Julia Duncan, and Kaitlyn Forbes – Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Ministry of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, March 31
- Brad Vis – MP for Mission–Matsqui–Fraser Canyon, April 1
- Shahad Khalladi – Office of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, April 5
- Richard Canning – MP for South Okanagan–West Kootenay, April 5
- Gerald Soroka – MP for Yellowhead, April 12
- Peter Boehm – Independent Senators Group, April 12
- Randall Garrison – MP for Esquimalt–Saanich–Sooke, April 12
- Ron McKinnon – MP for Coquitlam–Port Coquitlam, April 12
- Michael Coteau – MP for Don Valley East, April 13
- Jenny Kwan – MP for Vancouver–Mount Pleasant, April 19
- Tracy Gray – MP for Kelowna–Lake Country, April 20
- Paula Simons – Independent Senators Group, April 21
- Mike Lake – MP for Edmonton–Wetaskiwin, April 25
- Don Davies – MP for Vancouver Kingsway, May 24