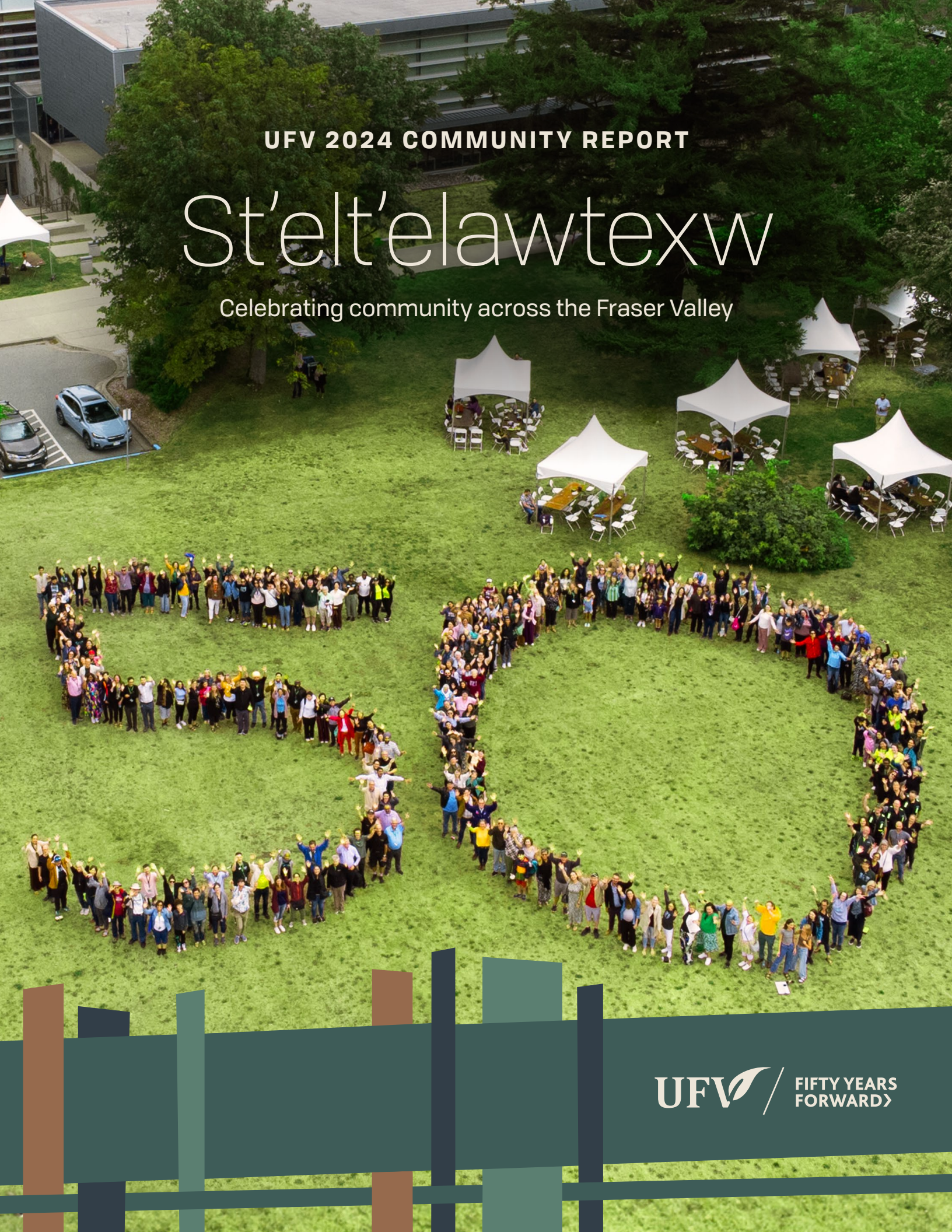


UFV 2024 COMMUNITY REPORT

# St'el'elawtexw

Celebrating community across the Fraser Valley



PAGE 6

## Engaging Learners

*Yoystexw Ye Totilthet*



PAGE 16

## Transforming Lives

*Ayeqet Kw'e Shxwaylexws*



PAGE 8

## UFV returns to Mission in a new era of education and reconciliation

PAGE 12

Changing environment, changed lives  
at UFV's newest research lab

PAGE 13

Bringing the records of Haida Gwaii's  
children home

PAGE 14-15

UFV and BMO announce partnership

Riding in style for Bike Day

Student projects kick off UFV's 50<sup>th</sup>

Welding students create eco-friendly furnace

Students tackle challenges with local  
governments

PAGE 18

## Accessibility Lab makes assistive tech available to UFV students

PAGE 22

New beginnings on traditional territory:  
Welcoming Chancellor Q'um Q'um Xiiem

PAGE 23

EFCIE innovation grants fuel innovative  
spirit

PAGE 24-25

Steel Titans: women shattering boundaries  
and defining excellence

New equipment allows even better training  
for UFV nursing students

Convocation celebrates largest-ever  
grad class

Business and industry partnerships power  
UFV mission

PAGE 26

## Building Community

*Thayt Kw'e St'elt'elawtexw*



PAGE 28

## A recipe for the future

PAGE 32

Betty Urquhart Award winner makes community service their business

PAGE 33

2024 UFV Distinguished Alumni Award recipients

PAGE 34-35

Jada McIntyre: Outstanding Student Leader Award recipient

Food bank crisis sparks community spirit

CanWest medal + Cabuco feted

International land-based teachings

UFV faculty bring Math Mania to schools all across the Fraser Valley

Haq and History 2.0 hits the road

International organization recognizes UFV School of Business

# Welcome to St'elt'elawtexw

Long before Canada was formed, the Stó:lō People (People of the River) lived and thrived on the land on which UFV is located.

UFV gratefully recognizes and honours the contributions that Indigenous people have made — and continue to make — to our community.

The Stó:lō People speak Halq'eméylem, the "Upriver dialect" of Halkomelem. The language is primarily spoken in the upper and central Fraser Valley, the Lower Fraser Canyon, and in communities near Harrison Lake. *St'elt'elawtexw* means "community" in Halq'eméylem.

At UFV, *St'elt'elawtexw* is woven into our fabric, and we are grateful for the connections we have with the individuals and organizations who contribute to our collective impact.



Learn how to say  
*St'elt'elawtexw* —  
visit [ufv.ca/community](https://ufv.ca/community)  
or scan the QR code.

PAGE 36

## Looking forward: UFV's next 50 years

## President's message



Dr. Joanne  
MacLean

PRESIDENT AND  
VICE-CHANCELLOR

*"We are proud of our efforts to build a strong and growing institution that is student ready..."*

As we reflect on our first 50 years, and the future of UFV, our mission of Engaging Learners, Transforming Lives, and Building Community has never been more important. It defines who we are and why we are here. We have developed this 2024 Community Report with a focus on our mission, and we embed these principles in everything we do.

We are proud of our efforts to build a strong and growing institution that is student ready, and this report showcases the ways we empower, educate, engage, and support students throughout their learning and work to remove barriers to their success. You will also find stories of transformation, where individuals and organizations are partnering to create the conditions necessary for a strong and vibrant community. And you will find out how we are advancing our understanding of the impact we make on our ecosystem.

We also reflect on our journey as an anchor institution in the Fraser Valley. We recently celebrated the opening of our new Mission Campus, profiled in this report, which reestablishes a strong presence in one of our founding communities.

It has been a momentous year, and for me personally, one that is bittersweet. As we move towards the next 50 years and continue to celebrate our story, I have entered my final year as President and Vice-Chancellor of UFV, a position which I have been honoured to hold. I have always believed that a university is its people, and because of the contributions of everyone across UFV, I am confident that the future of our university is bright. I look forward to witnessing the continued success and prosperity of this truly special institution.

*Joanne MacLean*

## Introduction



Susan  
Mide Kiss

VICE-PRESIDENT,  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

*“On our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we celebrate through reflection and by honouring the people and places who came before and made us who we are today.”*

September is one of my favourite months of the year at UFV.

The university buzzing with excitement: new and familiar faces, a rejuvenated campus, everything coming alive with activity. It’s also significant to me on a personal level; September 2024 marks my second anniversary at this incredible institution, and my return to the place where I was raised. It’s wonderful to be home, and to find my new home in and with UFV.

On our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we celebrate through reflection and by honouring the people and places who came before and made us who we are today. Our anniversary year will culminate in April 2025 with a cross-campus open house and inaugural alumni weekend. And while we celebrate the past, we also look forward to collaborating with you, our communities, to co-create our future.

I’m proud of our commitment to principled community engagement as we deepen relationships with our local partners and pan-Canadian and global networks. This time next year, we’ll also introduce our first Community Engagement Framework — a framework that will align with the foundational commitments we’ve made to our university and broader community as we focus on building community — 50 years forward.

Yalh yexw kw’es hoy — thank you for what you have done.

*Susan Mide Kiss*



## SECTION I

# Engaging Learners *Yoystexw Ye Totilthet*

*At UFV, we encourage our students to develop meaningful relationships with community partners. That includes the CityStudio initiative, which sees groups of students take on real-world challenges presented by municipal partners in Abbotsford and Chilliwack. Each year, students address these challenges as part of their semester-long classroom assignments. UFV and municipal representatives then gather to review and celebrate the presentations at Hubhub events.*



Q'um Q'um Xiiem  
(Dr. Jo-ann Archibald)  
CHANCELLOR



*"UFV demonstrates the power of an education system open to all people and ways of learning"*

Inclusivity has been at the heart of UFV's approach since its founding in 1974 as Fraser Valley College.

As a witness to UFV's growth, I've seen the profound impact of this commitment. From Stó:lō Elders who laid the groundwork for the resurgence of Halq'eméylem, to students from diverse backgrounds flourishing, UFV demonstrates the power of an education system open to all people and ways of learning.

Our role as educators is to create an environment where students feel respected and valued, where we encourage students to do their best, and at times, question and address inequity and injustice. This responsibility is beautifully reflected in the Halq'eméylem word on UFV's coat of arms — Íyáqáwtwx, meaning "House of Transformation."

Although transformation can be uncomfortable, the idea of a house that shelters, supports, and facilitates this process conveys the quality of education that students experience at UFV. Íyáqáwtwx speaks to a holistic approach that transforms not just individuals, but the entire community.

I am honoured to be part of this journey of growth and transformation at UFV, where each learner brings unique gifts to be nurtured, and where each faculty, staff, and leadership member contributes to students' success.

*Dr. Jo-ann Archibald received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from UFV in 2022.*



*UFV's reimagined and extensively renovated Mission campus, located within the Heritage Park Centre, reopened in late summer 2024.*

*Opposite page: Students, staff and faculty joined university, government and community leaders in officially opening the Mission campus with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 6, 2024.*





/ COMMUNITY FEATURE /

## UFV returns to Mission in a new era of education and reconciliation

*Built with cultural Stó:lō materials, UFV's reimagined centre soars to new standards in teaching and learning through our School of Education*

In June, as the summer semester for the Teacher Education cohort ended, Dr. Sheryl MacMath was already thinking about the fall. With the extensive renovations of UFV's Mission campus nearing completion, the new Director of the School of Education was anticipating the move to a thoughtfully designed learning space.

It's a place, Sheryl says, that reflects the fundamental joy of learning that is a hallmark of UFV's education programs. "We play games. We have singing and dancing

and lots of excitement in our classrooms. Now we have an environment that supports us and works with the things we do."

With the Teacher Education and Early Childhood Education programs brought together under one roof through the newly formed School of Education, the Mission campus will be alive with the enthusiasm and energy of a new generation of educators.

Given Mission's complex and emotional history as the location of St. Mary's Residential School, the School of Education

*“Indigenous art is an act of transformation ... as we appreciate that act of transformation, we are also transformed ...”*

is an important step in the journey to truth and reconciliation.

“We can never undo the harm that was caused by the residential school system. Nor can we restore what was lost at St. Mary’s Residential School,” says UFV President Joanne MacLean. “But we can make sure the campus represents our sincere commitment to decolonization, Indigenization, and reconciliation.”



*Stó:lō artist Raphael Silver created two pillars for UFV’s newly renovated Mission campus (Abbotsford News file photo).*

When UFV announced the renovation in 2023, the university committed to co-creating the space with Indigenous partners. UFV consulted with Indigenous communities around Mission, and subsequently hired Indigenous artists to design the architecture.

Their work has been exceptional.

The finished structure has been built with materials that are culturally important to the Stó:lō people, including cedar, and a preserved moss wall, with rounded corners

representing the curve of a rock or tree. Carvings and symbols appear throughout, with Indigenous artwork displayed on the walls. Among those is a piece created by Una-Ann Moyer that hangs in the library on the main floor. It depicts a raven, beaver, bear, and Sasquatch paddling a canoe. The canoe rests on a sturgeon, representing continuity. Above the canoe is salmon, an important food source — and a sacred symbol — to the Stó:lō people.

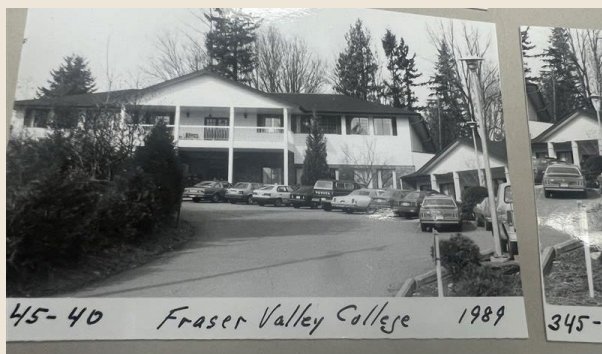
Two pillars, created by Raphael Silver, stand at the outside entrance.

Shirley Hardman, Associate Vice-President Xwexwilmexwawt, hopes that students, faculty, and visitors not only enjoy the artwork, but appreciate it for its healing properties.

“Indigenous art is so much more than something to look at,” Shirley says. “Indigenous art is an act of transformation — what was once a tree is now a carved piece of art, or the hair of a mountain goat is now a hand-woven blanket. As we appreciate that act of transformation, we are also transformed — in that way art is like medicine.”

The Mission campus is warm and welcoming, but it doesn’t ignore the devastating legacy of St. Mary’s Residential School. As Shirley says, “It’s important as we embark on a path to reconciliation and making things right, that we have a shared knowledge of the truth, and what brought us to where we are today.”

With that in mind, Dr. Keith Carlson, Director of UFV’s Peace and Reconciliation Centre, partnered with Stó:lō Elder and Knowledge Keeper Si:yemiya Sonny McHalsie to install a



In the 1980s and early 1990s, UFV's Mission Centre was located on Fletcher Avenue.

display of local Indigenous artifacts, generously shared from the Stó:lō Resource and Research Management Centre (SRRMC). The artifacts are accompanied by infographics that outline the impact of colonialism in the region, as well as Stó:lō traditional practices and cultural values.

"This is part of UFV's ongoing work to create a culturally safe learning environment that fosters a sense of belonging for Indigenous learners," Keith says. "At the same time, this project informs non-Indigenous students and faculty of the impacts of settler colonialism."

The UFV Mission Library will greet campus visitors as they enter the building. With bookable spaces and a learning commons for students and community members alike, the library will function

*"This is part of UFV's ongoing work to create a culturally safe learning environment that fosters a sense of belonging for Indigenous learners."*

as an important hub of connection between faculty, students, staff, and community. Classrooms supporting active and experiential learning occupy the second floor.

Among those celebrating the return of students to UFV's Mission campus is Mission Mayor Paul Horn. A UFV alum, Paul was part of the first cohort coming through the Teacher Education program, back when the program was housed in a trailer. He says the new campus is testimony to the power of small steps.

"Very few ingredients can positively shape a community like advanced education, and with this newly renovated campus, UFV is making a lasting investment in our community," Paul says. "We look forward to developing new teachers and community workers, and we are eager to keep growing, together."

Sheryl MacMath is grateful for the warm welcome from Mission and can feel how much the School of Education is wanted there. "This is a place where we can take a deep, relaxing breath and think to ourselves, 'We're finally home.'"



UFV's reimagined Mission campus includes spaces for students to gather and socialize.



## Changing environment, changed lives at UFV's newest research lab

*UFV's Dr. Lauren Erland studies plants and climate change in high-tech BERRI Lab*



As an eager undergraduate, Dr. Lauren Erland was hungry for meaningful research opportunities. She still remembers her first experience in a research lab and is grateful to the instructor who opened the door to scientific exploration that would forever shape her path.

Since then, Lauren has made it a priority to create similar opportunities for her students.

Lauren, the Canada Research Chair in Berry Horticulture at UFV, was thrilled when she secured funding for the new BERRI (Berry Environmental Resilience Research & Innovation) Lab at the UFV Chilliwack campus last year, especially for the students who would be assisting with her research.

"There is no research without students, and it's really cool watching their journey," Lauren says. "They might be overwhelmed or nervous on their first day in the lab, but they are passionate and enthusiastic and ready to learn. Watching students progress is a lot of fun, and providing these opportunities is so special."

Sebastian Molina Ticas is one of those students. In the BERRI Lab, with access to purpose-built space and cutting-edge equipment, he can tackle meaningful research with tangible impact. Inside the lab, plant tissue cultures can be grown and stored, and plants and berries can be examined down to the molecule.

"It's very exciting," he says with a grin.

Sebastian has been studying the effects of wildfire smoke on berry crops.

BC winemakers are losing entire vintages due to smoke taint. As climate change increases the frequency and severity of wildfires, Sebastian wonders if BC's berry industry will be affected, and ultimately, to what degree. He's energized doing research with real-world applications, like providing solutions for farmers grappling with the impact of climate change.

"It's very important to be part of a community, and part of being in a community is contributing to it," he says. "That gives meaning to the kind of work that we do here. Not only does this research interest me, but it contributes to food sustainability for the future."

It thrills Lauren to hear comments like that, and when she's not immersed in her own research, she is engaging with her students. It's not enough for them to know what they're doing; she wants them to know how their efforts are going to make waves.

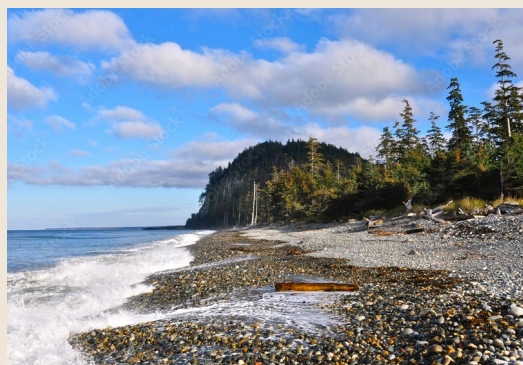
Sebastian says the UFV learning environment challenges him to think, to question, and to have answers to Lauren's queries.

"Some schools have big lecture halls and 200-plus students, and it's hard to connect with your professor in that kind of setting," he says. "At UFV, we have smaller class sizes and professors who take the time to mentor you, and that has been life-changing for me."

For more on the BERRI Lab, visit [berrilab.com](http://berrilab.com).

## Bringing the records of Haida Gwaii's children home

*UFV researchers are helping to find the records of children taken from Haida Gwaii to residential schools*



In March 2024, a hard drive representing the culmination of a year's worth of archival research returned to its rightful home.

For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Canada's Indian Residential School system uprooted hundreds of young children from their community on Haida Gwaii. The forced separation of families left deep scars on the island's cultural fabric.

"Haida children were sent to schools as far away as Edmonton," explains Carlanna Thompson, a member of the research team. "This community has faced many barriers in accessing records that rightfully belong to them."

Records, including photos and yearbooks, exist in archives housed in different locations and a variety of formats. For survivors and their families, accessing those records has been challenging. Many were not digitized and required travel to archival repositories. Others had restrictions on access or other colonial barriers that created roadblocks.

The Old Massett Village Council of Haida Gwaii knew of Dr. Sarah Beaulieu and her work at UFV, and they sought her out for a collaboration to repatriate records. As a faculty associate with UFV's Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI) hub, Sarah assembled a team that included Lia Bishop, a co-lead researcher; Frankie Fowle, a student designer; and Carlanna, a recent history graduate.

For a year, the team searched museums and archives from Victoria to Ottawa, both online

and in person, locating as many records as they could.

The team estimates they reviewed as many as 120,000 pages of records documenting Haida children.

Building community relationships and trust is paramount to this sensitive work. To do that, the team visited Haida Gwaii several times, participating in community gatherings. Over time, the team was able to interview several residential school survivors. These interviews filled in gaps left by missing records, preserving these important stories.

The team meticulously gathered and digitized records on hundreds of children. Following principles of Indigenous sovereignty, the Haida retain ownership of this database and its stories.

"The information is now theirs to keep and decide what to do with," concludes Carlanna.

Carlanna and Frankie both start graduate programs in September at the University of Victoria and Emily Carr University of Art + Design, respectively. Their experience with CHASI has given them the knowledge, tools, and experience to thrive.

Sarah was recently celebrated with a prestigious Governor General's Innovation Award along with a team of 14 other scholars and researchers. Her exceptional contributions were recognized through her involvement with the Canadian Archaeological Association's Working Group on Unmarked Graves.

## A | UFV and BMO announce partnership

In late June, UFV and BMO announced an exciting partnership, with BMO donating \$440,000 over five years to support the BMO Collaboratorium.

Launched as a pilot project in 2021, the BMO Collaboratorium is now a fully funded research organization, guided by Research Coordinator Leanne Jarrett.

Dr. Keith Carlson, Director of the Peace and Reconciliation Centre, created the Collaboratorium, which gives community organizations access to sophisticated research at an affordable rate. At a cost of \$12,000, community partners have access to a paid student intern over the course of 14 weeks. Interns design and execute research plans with measurable timelines and outcomes.

In addition to hiring a research coordinator, BMO funding will seed partnerships for community groups that may not have the budget for the full student internship.

## B | Riding in style for Bike Day

Joined by other cyclists, volunteers trained in dementia care gave Trishaw rides to seniors along the Vedder Rotary Trail for International Bike Day on June 3.

UFV's Centre for Education and Research on Aging (CERA) and Yarrow's Cycling Without Age chapter organized the event. They also promoted the Trishaw 50 Rides for 50 Years initiative. This program, running from April to August, aimed to help seniors with mobility issues enjoy nature and companionship.

"It's tough for older adults to access the outdoors and connect with younger people," says Dr. Shelley Canning, CERA's Director. "With most pilots being UFV students, the event fosters intergenerational interaction in a fun way."

## C | Student projects kick off UFV's 50<sup>th</sup>

Students from a variety of disciplines had the opportunity to bring UFV's history to life this year through *History in the Making*, a special project celebrating UFV's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The project was one of two work-integrated learning initiatives that received more than \$300,000 in funding from Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada.

The *History in the Making* project explored the history and legacy of UFV as a vibrant hub of civil society while cultivating a greater sense of belonging among students. Its multi-disciplinary framework examined the economic, social, and cultural impacts of UFV over time from a unique disciplinary perspective. Participating disciplines



included Political Science, Communications, Computer Information Systems, Agriculture, Arts, Sociology, Geography, Media Arts, and Visual Arts.

### D | Welding students create eco-friendly furnace

For a year-end project, UFV welding students built a furnace that turns reclaimed wood from the carpentry program into biochar — a carbon-rich substance great for agriculture and other applications.

The furnace, named Cracklin' Rosie, cooks wood without oxygen. Pieces are loaded into a tightly sealed inner chamber that resides within a larger chamber heated with a conventional fire. As the outer chamber heats up, a process called carbonization begins.

"First you get steam as the water comes out of the wood," explains Matt Olafson, an assistant professor of welding at UFV. "Then you get the natural gases like hydrogen and methane. We capture those and re-inject them into the process, and now our firebox is being fueled by the natural gases from the wood."

The process produces zero harmful emissions. Carbon is retained in the wood, which emerges in coal-black chunks. Each piece has more surface area than a football field because of carbon's crystalline nature.

"Put it in the dirt and the carbon is safe there for thousands of years, which is better than putting it into the atmosphere to cook ourselves."

### E | Students tackle challenges with local governments

UFV students are problem solvers, and their work helps local municipal governments tackle significant civic problems.

Semi-annual CityStudio Hubbub events showcase student projects, exploring critically important community issues like sustainability in recycling, traffic pathways and congestion, integration of culture in city life, and innovative ways to conserve water.

UFV students took part in three CityStudio Hubbubs over the last calendar year, two in Abbotsford and one in Chilliwack — with Mission being added soon. A December 6 gathering at Abbotsford City Hall saw students from several disciplines presenting sustainable strategies for Abbotsford to become an inclusive travel, recreation, and work destination.

Abbotsford and Chilliwack each hosted a Hubbub in April. The Chilliwack gathering included students from Geography, Communications, Nursing, Statistics, and English. Hubbubs are an exciting way to showcase skills from community-engaged projects, while expanding professional networks.





## SECTION II

# Transforming Lives *Ayeqet Kw'e Shxwaylexws*

*Each year, the UFV community celebrates the transformative power of education with convocation ceremonies. This rite of passage marks the accomplishment of each student and welcomes them into a new stage of their life as UFV alumni.*





John  
Pankratz ('80)

CHAIR, UFV BOARD  
OF GOVERNORS



*"... each of us, beyond  
our individual roles,  
collectively make UFV the  
transformational place it is. "*

As UFV's Board Chair and a volunteer leader, I have participated in many programs and events on campus. A highlight each year for me and, of course, for our students and newest alumni, is convocation.

Before each ceremony, I like to take some time to talk with graduates as they're lining up for the procession. Each conversation reminds me of the power of education to change lives — and not just the lives of these graduates. So many of them have taken the gift of education and gone on to transform the world around them.

It's an honour for me and my fellow governors to do work that helps shape the future of UFV. On many occasions, I have witnessed the enthusiasm and passion of those who are dedicated to the mission and vision of UFV, and I have seen how education can indeed change lives. I have also learned that each of us, beyond our individual roles, collectively make UFV the transformational place it is.

Thank you for everything you do to help create such a special community of learners, leaders, and seekers.

*John Pankratz completed his first year toward his BBA degree at what was then Fraser Valley College.*



Phillip Retief (BA '21) has lived experience in struggling with accessibility issues as a university student. Now he is working with UFV to help others.

Opposite page: Employees in UFV's Teaching and Learning Centre are dedicated to helping UFV faculty improve their teaching through education and support in areas such as curriculum development, Indigenization, internationalization, and accessibility.



/ COMMUNITY FEATURE /

## Accessibility Lab makes assistive tech available to UFV students

*Inclusion and accessible content ensures all learners know they matter*

A great idea can start with a simple sticky note. A year and a half ago, UFV peer tutor Phillip Retief jotted down the words “accessibility lab” during a brainstorming activity at a staff training session.

In his work as a tutor, Phillip saw students struggle and recognized a need for tools and devices that reduce barriers to learning.

“I had a student come in a couple semesters ago who was visually impaired,” he recalls. “He was coming in specifically

because he needed help with accessing materials. He had e-mails that he had to read for an assignment, and he just couldn’t see them. It wasn’t given to him auditorily, it was given to him visually... he was really stressed out. Then a lightbulb went off and I was like, there must be a better way to help other students like this.”

Some assistive devices are so expensive that the people who need them most often can’t afford them. Reflecting on that,

*"It produces a positive experience, not just for students, but also for faculty."*

*Dr. Awneet Sivia, Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning, is committed to improving accessibility for all students.*

Phillip was inspired to create the Accessibility Lab. Operating out of the Academic Success Centre, it offers an array of adaptive technologies and support to students and faculty. Anyone can use the tech, free of charge. This includes standard features that come with Microsoft Word, plus programs like Dragon Speak or Kurzweil 3000 that the community might not otherwise have access to.

"I think that most people see the word 'accessibility' and do not make a connection to themselves," says Sandra Smith, ASC program coordinator. "For example, any student could use a screen reader to listen to the final draft of their essay; listening will reveal issues with phrasing and pacing that one more reading won't catch. Taking a multi-modal approach to one's learning benefits absolutely everyone."

Phillip and his co-facilitator, Moninder Grewal, spend lots of time in the Accessibility Lab. They help people

find and learn to use technologies that fit their needs. Whether it's tools to help with reading, writing, dictation, or transcription, the lab is an open space for everyone to experiment.

"I've really tried to maintain a student mindset when I'm doing this," says Phillip.

Dr. Awneet Sivia took the same approach. Thinking about how students with diverse abilities feel when trying to learn in an environment that doesn't meet their needs, she pondered solutions. Would adding more visuals to a lecture or providing structured content in presentations help?

As Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning, Awneet had the ability and drive to make a positive change. Alongside her team, she developed faculty-inclusive teaching resources, including best practices and how-to ideas for teaching those with diverse abilities.

The resulting resources aren't just helping learners with diverse abilities, they're helping all learners.



"They promote inclusion among all students," Awneet says. "When we create accessible content, learning approaches, and classrooms, we are saying to them, 'We see you, and you matter.'"

Awneet wanted to help create the same opportunities for UFV's Indigenous students. Indigenizing curriculum and courses is a major focus at UFV, with ongoing efforts to create content that's connected to Stó:lō culture, history, and language. To make this happen, Awneet's team connected with Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and scholars in key disciplines and drew heavily on First Peoples Principles of Learning, which were created by the First Nations Education Steering Committee.

The TLC resources also include guidance on how to build culturally and linguistically inclusive courses. As Awneet notes, with the rapid growth of international students, UFV is now "teaching the world."

"That means recognizing that there are different cultural ways of being, and different cultural nuances to the ways students communicate with each other and their professors," Awneet says. "For many of our students, it may be their first experience with English, and the Canadian education system. Translation in the classroom might be needed, and faculty need to be clear with their expectations.

"With the many languages spoken, culturally responsive content must be factored into the way we teach."

Though it may add more work to their already-busy jobs, Awneet says UFV faculty are embracing inclusive

teaching resources, understanding that the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks.

"It is a lot of work, and we're honest about that in the Teaching and Learning Centre," she says. "But we explain to our faculty that if you set this up at the beginning of the semester, your long-term gain will be fewer students struggling, fewer issues with content retention, and generally happier students who feel they are getting what they need from you."

"It produces a positive experience, not just for students, but also for faculty."

On all UFV campuses, accessibility work continues with the Accessible UFV initiative.

The BC government enacted the Accessible British Columbia Act in June 2021, providing a framework to find, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility.

Guided by the Act, UFV has formed an Accessibility Committee that provides advice and recommendations to help UFV become a more accessible and inclusive community.

The committee is chaired by Dr. Kyle Baillie, Associate Vice-President, Students, and Luisa Giles, Vice-Chair and Assistant Professor of Kinesiology.

An accessibility plan is being developed to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to individuals connected to or interacting with UFV. An online form, which can be found at [ufv.ca/accessible-ufv](https://ufv.ca/accessible-ufv), allows individuals to share their experiences, concerns, or questions about accessibility at UFV.

*"When we create accessible content, learning approaches, and classrooms, we are saying to them, 'We see you, and you matter.'"*

## New beginnings on traditional territory: welcoming Chancellor Q'um Q'um Xiim

*UFV's fourth Chancellor brings profound potential for transformative change*

Nestled in the heart of the Fraser Valley lies the territory of the Soowahlie Nation. The Chilliwack campus is in the same area where Q'um Q'um Xiim, also known as Dr. Jo-ann Archibald, grew up. And this May, it was also the location of her installation as UFV's fourth Chancellor.

The ceremony — which drew from Stó:lō and academic traditions — reflected the unique ties between Q'um Q'um Xiim, UFV and the community. Held in the UFV Gathering Place, the celebration was co-led by University Secretary Al Wiseman, representing academic customs, and Elder T'xwelátse Herb Joe, who led the the Stó:lō ceremony.

After a procession of faculty and university leaders took their places, Q'um Q'um Xiim — whose traditional name means “Strong Clear Water” — was accompanied into the ceremony by eight Stó:lō drummers. They led her in a circle around the Gathering Place before bringing her to the centre floor to stand on a layer of new blankets laid out to create sacred ground.

Greeting guests on behalf of Soowahlie First Nation, council member Tanya Commodore expressed her feelings of pride, acknowledging the new Chancellor. “We hold our hands high in gratitude for all your accomplishments, and look forward to all your endeavors at UFV.”

President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Joanne MacLean, along with Associate Vice-President,



Xwexwilmexwawt, Dr. Shirley Hardman, helped robe the Chancellor in her regalia, which included a red cedar hat made by Gracie Kelly of Soowahlie First Nation and a stole by master weaver Frieda George of Squiala First Nation.

As they placed the Chancellor's medallion around her neck, a group of children called the Sasquatch Dancers performed traditional dances, accompanied by a drummer who shared a paddle song, a victory song, and an eagle song.

Following the academic tradition of the oath of office, Q'um Q'um Xiim led an activity called “Hands Back, Hands Forward” and shared memories from her own academic journey as an accomplished educator, researcher, and author — expressing the importance of making youth feel valued and cared for.

In accordance with Stó:lō tradition, T'xwelátse called witnesses to speak to the gathering about what they had experienced and the message they would bring home to their communities.

Bringing the ceremony to a close, T'xwelátse observed “the university community is eager to apply the experience, skills, and understanding of this Chancellor and to bring her profound knowledge of Indigenous people and ways of knowing to UFV's governing systems. The potential for transformative impact is profound.”

## EFCIE innovation grants fuel innovative spirit

*\$42,000, distributed through 11 grants, supports and sometimes salvages inspiring student ideas*

How would the world have looked if Henry Ford hadn't built the first automobile? If the printing press was never invented, or the internet didn't exist? What if these ideas had been abandoned before reaching their full potential? Dr. Jon Thomas had this in mind in 2018 when he considered the research being done by UFV students. The Director of the Esposito Family Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (EFCIE) saw them doing wonderful work on capstone projects that held so much potential. But when students graduated or moved on to their next course, those ideas were often abandoned. Research that could have meaningful impact for the community was forgotten — maybe forever.

Instead of losing out on those projects, Jon and the EFCIE team wanted to find a way to have them funded and supported so the work could continue. Thanks to the \$1.125 million endowment established in 2018 by Paul Esposito and his sons Frank and Paul Jr., EFCIE Innovation Grants were created to fund student and faculty teams solving local and global challenges.

More than \$42,000 was distributed through 11 grants this past May, including \$4,000 to Joel Algera and assistant professor Dr. Omer Waqar from the School of Computing. Together, they've been designing an artificial intelligence-



powered communication network specifically for the challenging terrain in British Columbia.

Wildfires are a significant problem that may worsen with climate change, and their research could have real-world benefits for the brave firefighters who are on the frontlines battling wildfires each year.

Their research may save lives, and it wouldn't be moving ahead without the EFCIE Innovation Grant.

The Esposito family's gift, made to spark the entrepreneurial spirit in UFV students for generations to come, is the largest donation in UFV's 50-year history.

"Few things in this life, other than the birth of my two sons, bring me as much joy as being able to give something back to my community," said Paul Esposito. "You must give unconditionally and expect nothing in return. It's the heart that counts."

EFCIE Innovation Grants are supported by Dr. Alisa Webb, VP Students; Susan Mide Kiss, VP Community Engagement; Dr. Michael Hitch, Dean of Science; and Dr. Teresa Kisilevich, Dean of Applied and Technical Studies.

The contributions of Dr. Michael Maschek, Dr. Emilio Landolfi, and Dr. Lucy Lee (in earlier years), to the grant adjudication process are deeply and sincerely appreciated and will have the profound ability to forever change lives.

## A | Steel Titans: women shattering boundaries and defining excellence

In Canada, a new hero is emerging alongside the legendary Man of Steel — the Women of Steel. The Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB) Welding Foundation is leading a movement to empower women in welding, addressing skilled trade shortages through education. Funded partly by Canada's Women Employment Readiness Pilot Program, The Women of Steel™: Forging Forward at UFV is a pioneering 17-week program. Launched in June, it quickly filled with participants eager to learn welding skills at UFV's Trades and Technology Centre in Chilliwack. They gain CWB welding qualifications, preparing them for apprenticeships and careers in welding. This initiative not only fosters skill development but also enhances confidence and personal growth. UFV's commitment ensures a supportive environment where workers can thrive in welding and related trades, promoting empowerment and opportunity across Canada.

## B | New equipment allows even better training for UFV nursing students

In a bustling corner of UFV's Chilliwack campus, where the walls echo with the hum of innovation, nurses of the future are being forged with unprecedented precision. It's

2024, and a wave of transformation has swept through the learning labs of the Faculty of Health Sciences, courtesy of an important infusion from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, ongoing support from dedicated donors, and a generous contribution from the Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Woodward's Foundation.

Here, students confront a myriad of scenarios, from routine check-ups to critical emergencies, all within a meticulously controlled environment. This is their sanctuary for learning and growth, a place where mistakes are not feared but embraced as opportunities for mastery.

Cindy Schultz, the Associate Dean of Health Sciences, speaks passionately about their mission. "Our goal is to immerse students in the challenges they'll face in clinical settings," she explains. "By making errors here, on these high-fidelity mannequins, they gain invaluable insights into real-world complexities."

Among the lab's marvels is an automated medication dispensing system, mirroring those found in hospital corridors. "Students practise administering medications in a true-to-life setting, fostering a new standard of patient safety," Lee-Anne Stephen, the experiential learning coordinator, says.

In these labs, the future of healthcare takes shape, where learning transcends textbooks

A





and lectures, and every pulse of technology propels students closer to their calling.

## C | Convocation celebrates largest-ever grad class

UFV's Abbotsford campus overflowed with pride as it celebrated its largest-ever graduating class across six heartfelt ceremonies in June.

More than 2,800 students achieved this milestone, with 1,399 joyfully crossing the stage at Convocation, cheered on by nearly 5,000 of their closest supporters.

Among the highlights were the recipients of prestigious awards: Marlae Vermeer, whose accomplishments in the MA Social Work program earned her the Governor General's Gold Medal; Amrit Singh, awarded the Governor General's Silver Medal for his outstanding achievements in BA Science; and Pandora Siganakis, recognized with the Governor General's Bronze Medal for her exceptional GPA in the Library and Information Technology diploma.

Frankie Fowle, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts, was celebrated with the Lieutenant Governor's Medal, given to a student in a certificate, diploma, or degree program who made outstanding contributions in support of inclusion, democracy, or reconciliation, on or off campus.

UFV also bestowed honorary degrees upon four remarkable individuals (pictured below, left to right): T'it'elem Spáth Eddie Gardner, Marion Keys, Michelle Frances Good, and Nick Taylor, each recognized for their profound impact on Indigenous rights, social justice, reconciliation, and/or community spirit.

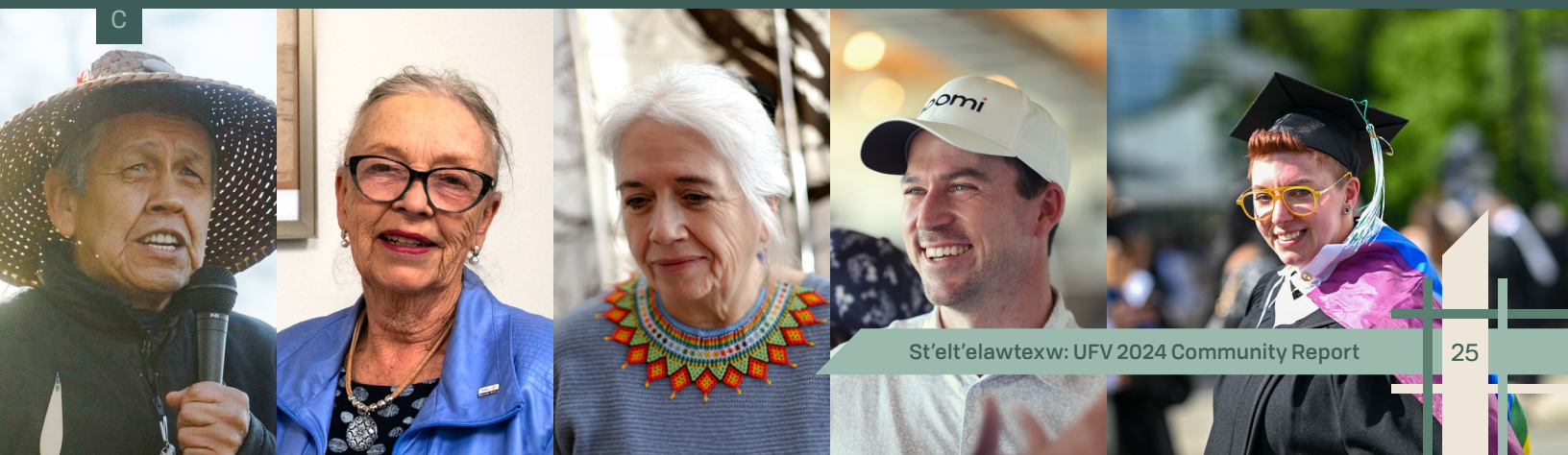
## D | Business and industry partnerships power UFV mission

For 50 years, UFV has relied on business and industry partnerships to support its mission.

UFV is working with FortisBC as an early adopter in its Gas Absorption Heat Pump (GAHP) program to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. FortisBC's \$570,000 investment will support the implementation of GAHP technology, with demonstration and training systems that track real-time energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Students in UFV's Construction Electrician certificate program benefited earlier this year when BC Hydro donated 20 smart Itron energy meters. BC Hydro delivered the units ready for hands-on learning, providing a meter for each student workstation in TTC's shop.

These partnerships demonstrate UFV's commitment to providing students with cutting-edge resources and practical experience while fostering innovation and sustainability.





### SECTION III

## Building Community *Thayt Kw'e St'elt'elawtexw*

*There are many opportunities to celebrate connection to our communities during our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We kicked off the celebrations a bit early in February when the Cascades women's basketball team hosted the Canada West Championship. The gym was full with an enthusiastic and raucous home crowd to cheer the Cascades on to their bronze medal.*





*"The stories in this report are a celebration of the enduring spirit of community that defines our university."*

I believe UFV's greatest strength is its community. When COVID-19 restrictions took us off campus in 2020, I was only in my second semester of university. I quickly learned the vital role that community plays in both our lives and our education.

During those challenging times, we worked hard to find new and innovative ways to stay connected. These experiences reminded us that community is not just about being on campus, but about the effort we put into cultivating relationships and celebrating one another's successes.

The Student Union Society is dedicated to supporting our campus community, providing opportunities for students to connect, and bridging the gap between students and administration. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside UFV to foster a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive campus for our students. Together, we strive to create a campus where every student feels connected, valued, and able to thrive.

As we celebrate UFV's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, I am very optimistic that our campus community will continue to develop and flourish. The stories in this report are a celebration of the enduring spirit of community that defines our university, and I hope that they inspire you to continue to build upon it.

*Jayden Hovey is a student in UFV's Bachelor of Arts program, studying political science.*

*Dr. Lenore Newman loves shopping at local markets like Lepp Farm Market in Abbotsford, while also keeping a keen eye on the global issues of food security and environmental challenges.*



## A recipe for the future

*Inspired by Earth's interconnected food supply, Dr. Lenore Newman says integrating different fields of study could be the secret sauce that ensures our survival*

Dr. Lenore Newman views food security as an existential crisis for humanity, and she believes climate change is pushing the world in a dangerous direction.

"As long as we can keep the world's food systems working, no matter what else happens, we will be okay," she says. "But if we lose the food, chaos erupts in a way that we probably don't come back from. And right now, the global situation is very dire."

The Director of UFV's Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI), Lenore grew up in a fishing family on BC's Sunshine Coast. She spent most of her childhood on the water, developing a deep connection to the world around her. From the birds that soared in the sky to the fish that danced underneath the ocean waves, she found it amazing how connected everything was, how one ocean-going creature might depend on another for survival.

She brings her childhood experience to her understanding of the core concept of One Health — that humans, animals, and the environment must thrive together as one connected system.

Proof of concept came in 1995. Wanting to get away from fish for a while, Lenore packed her bags and journeyed to Moscow and Beijing, travelling inland through Siberia and Mongolia.

This was soon after the Soviet Union fell, and she saw firsthand the environmental devastation that occurred during 70 years of communist rule. As she peered out the dusty

windows of the Trans-Siberian Express train, seeing acre after acre of badly neglected, mostly abandoned farmland, she felt a wave of sadness.

She also felt extremely fired up. And when she returned to Canada, she was determined to do something about it.

As a freshly appointed Canada Research Chair and, eventually, Director of the newly formed FAI, she had the ability to make a difference, and in these roles, she has fulfilled her pledge to be a change maker many times over. Lenore has worked tirelessly with all levels of government promoting policies that enhance food security and aid the environment.

Transforming urban land into farmland is part of that vision. With the support of an investment through RBC Foundation over two years, FAI's Urban Agriculture Educational Program exposes students to the practice and opportunities of urban agriculture. Dr. Alesandros Glaros enthusiastically leads the FAI's vertical agriculture team. Vertical farming uses stacked shelves and hydroponic/aquaponic growing to nurture various plants in a small indoor space. It is far more land-efficient than a conventional farm. Alesandros calls it "super water efficient," with no pesticides required.

If adopted on a large scale, vertical farming would allow B.C. to grow more of its own fruits and vegetables, and Lenore says that's beneficial for all of us.

*“Nothing beats bringing an idea to fruition.”*

“We (FAI) did work for B.C. Coastal Health highlighting that in the winter, people are passing on healthy food in the grocery store because the produce coming from California just isn’t good enough,” she says with a frown. “They’re looking at lettuce in January and it’s expensive and poor quality and because of that they’re not eating it.

“That’s a problem because Canadians eat about twice as much protein as we need, and we eat too many carbs because they’re cheap and abundant. But we only eat about a third of the fruit and veggies we should.”

Dr. Stefania Pizzirani, Associate Director of the FAI, is working on a \$2.5 million project funded by Genome Canada, studying the social and cultural impacts and opportunities associated with agri-genomic food technologies including cellular agriculture — the science of producing animal products (meat, dairy) directly from cells, not live animals.

The FAI is also addressing another key aspect of food system success

by developing training programs for entrepreneurs to help them align with venture capitalists, attain funding, and get their agricultural technology to market. Lenore has launched many startups in her career and says it’s a challenge “working without a net.”

“There’s a hundred things you’ve got to do with a startup, from getting your people and tech ready, to building out your runway while securing funding,” she explains.

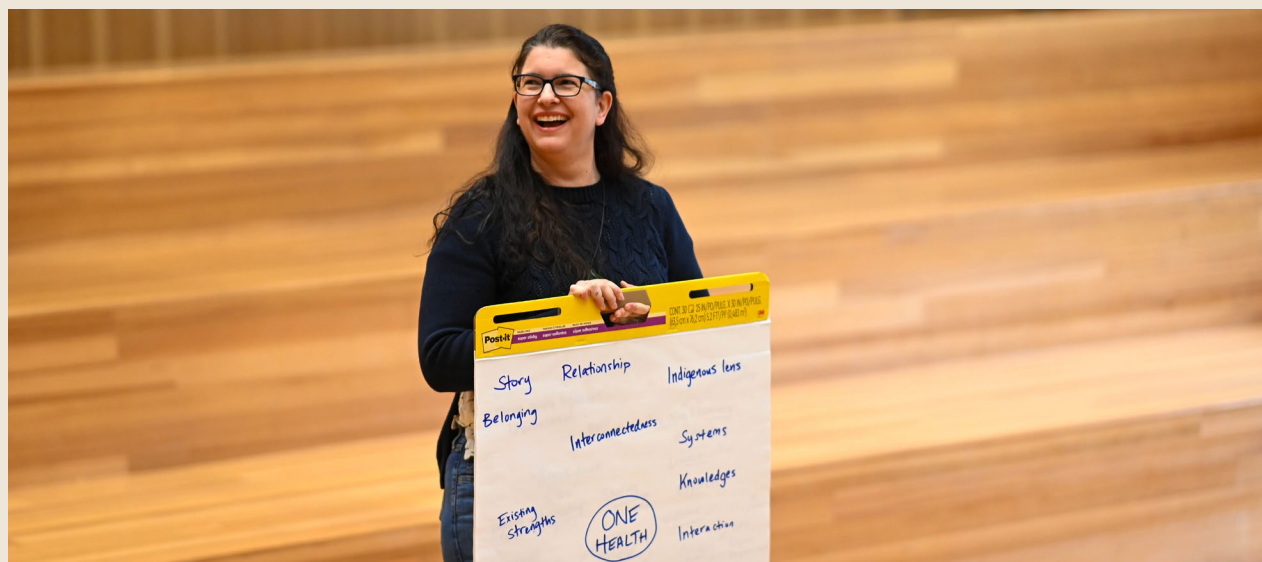
“At any time, you can run into policy or legal challenges, or something that doesn’t work. Thirty percent fail in the first two years and 50 percent fail in the first five years. Only one in 10 make it all the way.”

But when it does work out, she says there’s no bigger thrill.

“Nothing beats bringing an idea to fruition,” she says with a smile.

Lenore’s passion shines through as she discusses entrepreneurship and how it relates to the FAI’s many projects. She nearly pounds the table when she talks about food security

*Dr. Stefania Pizzirani explores the One Health approach at UFV’s Gathering Place.*





and environmental solutions being grounded in science (including social science) and not in popularity.

“The challenge with some of the things I propose is that one sector of government loves it while another sector hates it,” she says. “But the science tells us what to do, and we have to follow the science if we’re going to feed everyone.”

Lenore tirelessly encourages governments to reduce red tape and get out of the way of innovators who possess the will and drive to make a difference. She is a member of the brain trust for XPRIZE, an organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering humanity to achieve breakthroughs that accelerate an equitable, abundant future for all.

Underpinning everything Lenore does is the idea of One Health. Right now, the environment is suffering in a way that is unprecedented in recorded history. Humans and animals are suffering alongside it.

At UFV, she is spearheading a transdisciplinary approach that brings seemingly unrelated areas of study together — agriculture, medicine, kinesiology, food security, veterinary studies, environmental studies,



and ecosystem science to address complex issues that impact humans, animals, and the environment.

Indigenous communities are playing an important role. At a recent meeting in the Gathering Place, Indigenous Leaders, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers shared their perspectives. They talked about the idea of connection – being grounded in their history and the land through the ancestors. In the world view of first peoples, one participant said, “the air, water, animals, and everything else can exist without us, but we cannot exist without them. We could disappear and everything else would flourish. It’s about time the world woke up to that.”

Working together, Lenore hopes local Indigenous communities, UFV’s talented researchers, and other partners can create solutions they wouldn’t come up with working alone.

“UFV has a track record of working across disciplines to serve our community with applied research and teaching,” Lenore says. “No one can solve the problems we face on their own, but together, our UFV team has unlimited potential to make the world a better place.”

*Dr. Lenore Newman at the launch for Lost Feast, one of her books.*

*Students make bannock at an on-campus event.*

*“...the science tells us what to do, and we have to follow the science if we’re going to feed everyone.”*

## Betty Urquhart Award winner makes community service their business

*Free Store Chilliwack feeds and builds community*



Fifty years ago, Betty Urquhart was one of the five founding staff members of Fraser Valley College, remembered as a visionary institutional leader who deeply valued and promoted the foundational importance of community engagement.

Each year, UFV honours individuals or groups with the Betty Urquhart Award for Community Service, which recognizes those who have made a significant impact on the Fraser Valley community. This is UFV's longest-running, community-focused award, with recipients selected by a special Board of Governors committee.

In 2024, the award goes to Free Store Chilliwack. Founder and director Raylene Mumford launched Free Store Chilliwack after a personal experience revealed widespread food insecurity in her community. A few years ago, Raylene and friend Stuart Mussell (now Free Store Chilliwack's Indigenous Relations manager) used social media to offer surplus produce to those in need.

What began as a small initiative quickly grew through word-of-mouth, expanding from three participants to over 300 within a year. This rapid growth prompted plans to formalize and expand this vital community service.

By gathering partners from agriculture, business, and community organizations, their movement continued to expand. Volunteers consistently join the collective to aid people in their community.

"None of this would be possible without all the food, donors, or the sharing of space and most importantly this wouldn't be possible without our Free Store Chilliwack family," says Raylene.

Today, just four years later, the Free Store Chilliwack serves 3,600 families, feeding nearly 400 every week through the coordination of volunteers who prepare up to 60 hampers.

"Seeing community members feeling more confident and able to get meat, fruit, veggies, and bread, it is way more than just food," Raylene continues. "It always has been. It becomes sort of a backbone, a success where they can carry on and feel like this was just a short stop on a bit of a bumpy road and then they are on their way."

The Free Store Chilliwack also runs social programming to connect and empower the communities they serve.

This includes the 123 Read to Me event, where children receive free books as a celebration of literacy, and the hosting of an ongoing gardening program that teaches community members how to grow, can, and repurpose food.

The Free Store Chilliwack's compassion, enthusiasm, and dedication are the qualities that exemplify the community service activity that Betty Urquhart so passionately supported.

"We're humbled," says Raylene, "and so thankful to be awarded such a prestigious community award. It helps remind us that the work we are doing matters, and that is such an incredible thing."



## 2024 UFV Distinguished Alumni Award recipients

*The UFV Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) is conferred on a graduate who has achieved outstanding distinction in career, education, or community service. The Young DAA goes to a UFV graduate, 35 years of age or younger, who meets the same criteria.*



### Adam Currie: 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award

Adam Currie exemplifies how genuine care can lead to better communities. Graduating in 2012 with a Bachelor of Business Administration and a certificate in Professional Communications, Adam's rise has been marked by community building and transforming lives.

Adam's journey began at UFV, co-founding the Human Resources Student Association. His professional path includes roles at Cummins, Korn Ferry, and Kal Tire. As a Regional Vice President at Optimum Talent and founder of VX Search Group Inc., Adam's entrepreneurial spirit shone, achieving success before merging with TMG Search Canada.

Now, as Director of Executive & Senior Leadership Acquisition at Fraser Health Authority, Adam leads senior leadership and physician recruitment. He also advocates for Indigenous employment initiatives, LGBTQ2+ causes, and serves on boards like the Shuswap Community Foundation. Adam's accomplishments demonstrate vision, resilience, and a commitment to community.



To learn more about Adam and his work, visit [ufv.ca/DAA2024](https://ufv.ca/DAA2024) or scan the QR code.



### Keenan Beavis: 2024 Young Distinguished Alumni Award

Keenan Beavis, founder of Longhouse Media, is a dynamic force in the business and marketing world. Graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration, majoring in finance and minoring in economics, Keenan founded his company in 2017, achieving 380% growth during the pandemic. To date, more than 500 businesses have chosen Longhouse as their marketing partner, earning an estimated \$335 million in revenue across 84 industries.

"Business and community leaders get stuck wearing a lot of hats. Longhouse exists to simplify to-do lists; allowing them to focus on areas that make the most impact."

Keenan was named in BC Business magazine's 30 Under 30, and won the Young Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the BC Achievement Foundation. His impact in the marketing industry, coupled with his commitment to empowering Indigenous youth through mentorship, scholarships, and entrepreneurship training, has made a lasting difference in both business and community.



To learn more about Keenan and his work, visit [ufv.ca/YDAA2024](https://ufv.ca/YDAA2024) or scan the QR code.

### A | Jada McIntyre: Outstanding Student Leader Award recipient

Jada McIntyre, who graduated in June 2024 with a Bachelor of Social Work, has been honoured with the Outstanding Student Leader Award for her dedication and leadership at UFV. Since October 2021, Jada has committed to creating inclusive environments, starting as a volunteer and then as a student assistant.

Her proactive approach led to the development of a peer case management program, where she supervised peers and helped shape a procedural document now used across North American universities. Jada's volunteer work includes leading sexualized violence prevention workshops and initiating a successful food drive for the UFV-Student Union Society Food Bank.

### B | Food bank crisis sparks community spirit

Late last August a sudden and surprising surge in demand for student food hampers emerged. As the person responsible for oversight of the UFV-Student Union Society Food Bank, UFV's Director of Counselling and Student Wellness, Robbyn Bennett, was used to seeing a rate of around 70 requests per month. Staff at the UFV-Student Union Society Food Bank were now reporting those kinds of numbers each week.

Senior Giving Officer Devon Bailey worked with Robbyn to focus UFV's annual fall Giving Day on the food bank crisis, finding a donor who would match cash donations up to \$10,000, and building a campaign to rally the community.

By the end of Giving Day on November 28, UFV faculty, staff, and volunteers had raised more than \$36,000 and collected hundreds of non-perishable items. Would you like to help a student facing food insecurity? Visit [connect.ufv.ca/give-to-ufv](https://connect.ufv.ca/give-to-ufv) to find out how.

### C | CanWest medal + Cabuco feted

In February, UFV hosted its largest sporting event ever — the Canada West Women's Basketball Championship. UFV's Cascades and 11 elite foes tipped off at the UFV Athletic Centre on the Abbotsford campus, where the Cascades beat UVic for bronze — its first Canada West medal in program history. They went on to compete at U SPORTS nationals in March, where a UFV player received a significant honour.

At the U SPORTS awards banquet, Cascades guard Nikki Cabuco was named the 2023–24 recipient of the prestigious Sylvia Sweeney Award, presented annually to a student-athlete who best exhibits outstanding achievement in basketball, academics, and community involvement. A four-time U SPORTS Academic

A



34

Building Community /// Thayt Kw'...



C



All-Canadian, Cabuco's community work includes time as a youth substance abuse counsellor, serving as a board member with the Matsqui-Abbotsford Impact Society, and volunteering at the BC Children's Hospital to work with autism assessment and acute inpatient rehab programs. Cabuco was also this year's recipient of the Canada West Student-Athlete Community Service Award in women's basketball.

### D | International land-based teachings

A collaboration between UFV's Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) and International department sent 22 Indigenous UFV students on inspiring study abroad trips to Arizona and Hawaii. In partnership with multiple local schools, they visited either North Arizona University or University of Hawaii to learn from Indigenous cultures in another part of the world.

"For a lot of the students, it was the first time that they ever had this type of experience. They were able to connect the land-based teachings we have here to the land-based teachings of the visiting university," says Betty Peters, one of the organizers and Director of the ISC.

### E | UFV faculty bring Math Mania to schools all across the Fraser Valley

Dr. Vanessa Radzimski, Dr. Cindy Loten and Dr. Ruwan Karunanayaka organize Math Mania

three times a year. They visit elementary and middle school students in Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, and Langley. With the help of UFV student volunteers, this event gives parents and kids the opportunity to engage with math in exciting new ways.

### F | Haq and History 2.0 hits the road

The South Asian Studies Institute (SASI) is tremendously proud of Haq and History 2.0 — a travelling art exhibit that has been making its way around the province.

The exhibit, which debuted at the Royal B.C. Museum (RBCM) in 2020, offers visitors the chance to reflect upon stories from and about South Asian Canadian immigrants, including details about work, home life, and cultural traditions. Haq and History is showing in the Nikkei National Museum in Burnaby from October 19, 2024, to January 25, 2025.

### G | International organization recognizes UFV School of Business

UFV's School of Business has achieved international recognition for its excellence, receiving a prestigious five-year accreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD). Among 139 global business schools, only 73 hold this distinction, with UFV being one of just four in Canada and the sole representative in B.C.

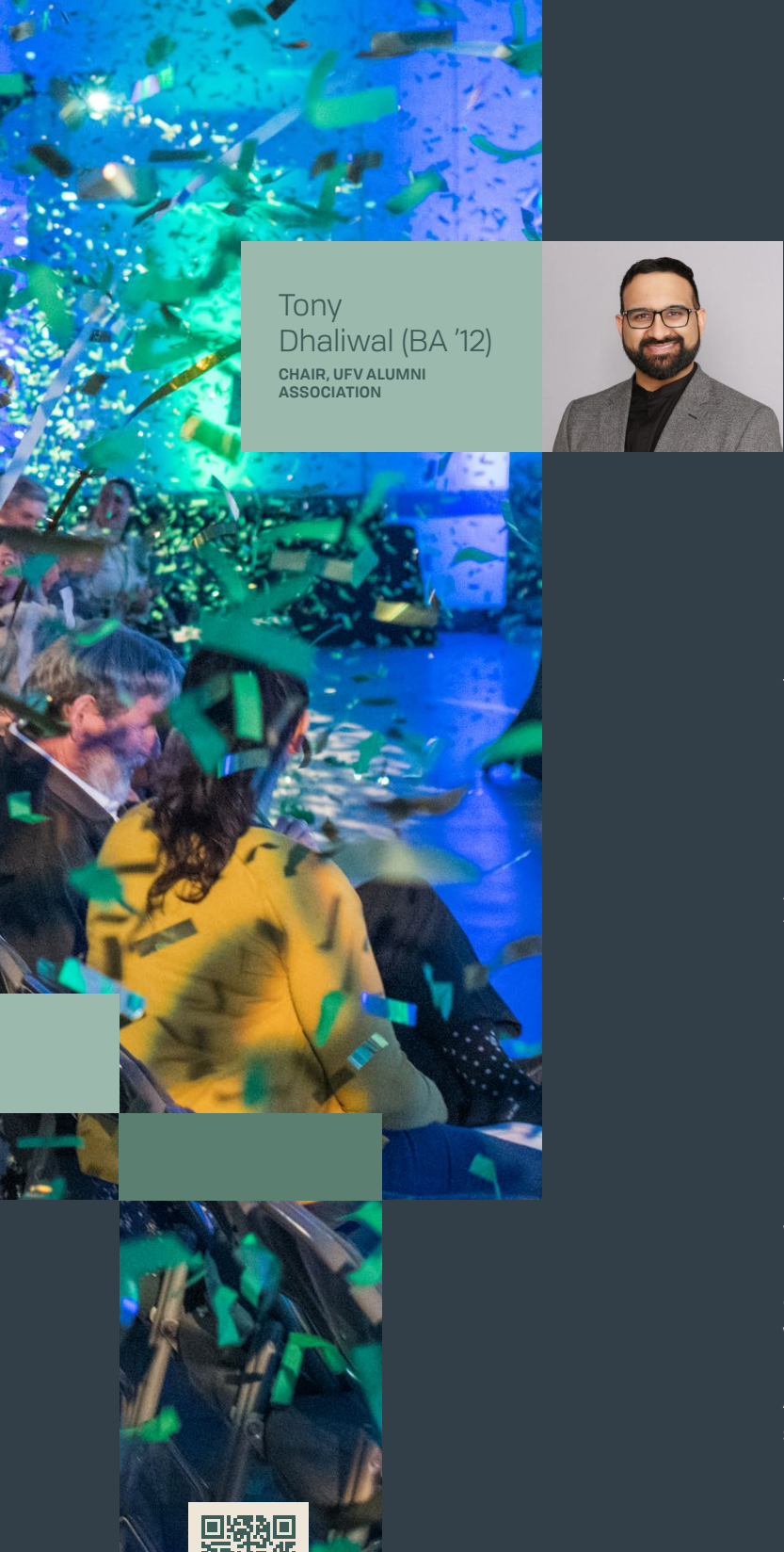




## SECTION IV

# Looking forward: the year ahead in community

*We are celebrating all year long at UFV, as we mark 50 years since the start of Fraser Valley College. We added third- and fourth-year courses in 1991, and developed bachelor's and master's degree programs. In 2008, we became the University of the Fraser Valley. Join us April 4–5, 2025, as we invite the community to our alumni weekend and cross-campus open house.*



Tony  
Dhaliwal (BA '12)

CHAIR, UFV ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION



*"UFV gave me a feeling of purpose and belonging — a comfortable place to do the sometimes-uncomfortable work of becoming the person I am now."*

The University of the Fraser Valley is important to me. As a student, UFV gave me a feeling of purpose and belonging — a comfortable place to do the sometimes-uncomfortable work of becoming the person I am now. As Chair of the UFV Alumni Association, I've heard versions of that story from many others, whether they are graduates of Fraser Valley College, the University College of the Fraser Valley, or UFV. In fact, we are sharing one of these stories each week in 2024–25 as part of our 50 Remarkable Alumni series.

In the coming year, we will continue to celebrate our university's history and the remarkable community it has created. As we close out the 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2025, we are inviting our 50,000+ alumni and faculty past and present to join us for UFV's first alumni weekend April 4–5.

Looking even further ahead, the UFV Alumni Association has established a legacy scholarship as part of UFV's 50 Forward Fund. It's exciting to imagine the potential that could be realized in another 50 years and with the next group of 50,000 alumni.

*Tony Dhaliwal received his Bachelor of Arts degree from UFV in 2012.*



Scan the code or visit [alumni.ufv.ca](https://alumni.ufv.ca) to learn more about the opportunities and benefits of membership in the UFV Alumni Association.

# UFV's next 50 years

*In Íyáqáwtxw, our strategic plan, the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) has committed to a set of strategic imperatives that include sharing and celebrating the achievements of the UFV community and alumni with others; promoting a vibrant and diverse culture on all its campuses; and providing opportunities for the world to interact positively with the Fraser Valley and for the Fraser Valley to interact positively with the world. Here's a look at some of the coming year's priorities that will help set us up for the next 50 years.*

As we begin the 2024–25 academic year, UFV is at an exciting crossroads. Our 50-year journey has been one of growth and transformation. We have a deep connection with the communities we serve. Now, as we look to the future, there's a strong sense of purpose and anticipation for the path ahead.

## Student Ready

Our students are the lifeblood of UFV. As we look ahead, we are reimagining how to best serve them. Our Strategic Enrolment Management Plan focuses on creating a nurturing environment where every learner can thrive. We envision a UFV with abundant opportunities. Timetables will adapt to diverse lives. Using the new institutional learning outcomes, we'll be reshaping curricula to ensure our academic programs ignite passion and purpose. By collaborating with local school districts and aligning our programs with the evolving needs of our region, we're empowering students to shape the future of the Fraser Valley and beyond.

## Indigenization and Reconciliation

Our commitment to Indigenization and Reconciliation is at the heart of UFV's vision. With the guidance of the office of Xwexwilmexwawt, we're starting a journey

that will transform us. We will follow the Lálém ye mestiyexw (House of the Peoples) Plan, which promises to weave Indigenous voices, wisdom, and views into the university's fabric. In the coming year, the creation of an Advisory Council of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Leaders, will enrich us with centuries of tradition and knowledge.

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Our pursuit of equity, diversity, and inclusion is an ongoing journey of growth and learning. The EDI Action Plan serves as a compass, guiding us towards a more inclusive campus. A review of EDI-related policies and the creation of an EDI and Anti-Discrimination Advisory Committee in the coming year will help build bridges of understanding and empathy. And the implementation of UFV's Accessibility Framework will dismantle the barriers to full participation.

## Internationalization

The world is our classroom, and our approach to internationalization reflects this belief. Providing safe and engaging for-credit international opportunities for current UFV students is a priority. We will also continue to navigate the shifting world of international education, reaffirming our commitment

to being a welcoming home for learners from around the globe. Every international student who chooses UFV enriches our community. That's why we will promote UFV as a destination of choice and ensure the support international students need to succeed.

### Campus Renewal

Learning spaces matter. Our campus renewal projects in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission, and Hope are creating environments that invite creativity, connection, and innovation. In the coming year, development of the Chilliwack campus at Canada Education Park master plan will be a focus, as will plans for revitalizing the Aerospace Centre at YXX. We will also be wrapping up the dining hall and student residence projects.

### The Year Ahead and Beyond

As we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are grateful to the community that has nurtured us. This milestone year is a chance to deepen our roots and extend our reach. Through our new Community Engagement Framework, our shared vision, and collective effort, the road ahead promises to be extraordinarily rewarding. We hope you will join us in co-creating the next chapter of UFV's story.

### Announcing new initiatives with community partners

We are pleased to announce new collaborations that will move UFV's mission forward as we begin our next 50 years.

Prospera Credit Union and the Prospera Foundation have deepened their commitment to student wellness at UFV with an investment of half a million dollars over three years. The funding will increase student access to mental health supports by expanding peer support programs. Over the last two years, Prospera's gift of \$200,000 ensured that more than 500 additional students benefited from wellness programming in 2022–24.

Auguston Town Development Inc. (ATDI) continues to be a strong partner of UFV's Food and Agriculture Institute. ATDI pledged \$80,000 this year to support vertical agriculture research, the Farmer's Den pitch competition, and the Grounded Innovation Conference. In addition to last year's gift in support of FAI, ATDI will continue to fund existing scholarships made to the current undergraduate programs plus a new contribution to fund scholarships for Indigenous students.

Coast Capital, a UFV partner since 1995, has made a new contribution of \$125,000 to UFV's Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies. The investment will support a holistic inclusion and equity strategy to address the barriers to success for non-traditional students in trades and technology. Coast Capital has contributed more than \$780,000 to support UFV students over the last two decades.

Prospera, Auguston, and Coast Capital are all recipients of the UFV Ripple Makers Lifetime Paddle, which recognizes cumulative giving of \$100,000 or more. Coast Capital has also received a Loyalty Paddle for 15 years or more of giving.

Return undeliverable  
Canadian addresses to:  
UFV Community Engagement  
33844 King Road  
Abbotsford, BC V2S 7M8

50

/ LOOKING FORWARD /

## UFV 50 Alumni Weekend: April 4–5, 2025

*UFV is capping off a year of celebration  
by calling all alumni and friends home.*

All graduates, former and retired faculty and staff, and supporters of FVC, UCFV, and UFV are invited to reconnect during a reunion weekend that also features a community open house across all UFV campuses on Saturday, April 5.

Follow [ufv.ca/50](https://ufv.ca/50) for details and mark your calendars.



    @goUFV  
[ufv.ca/community](https://ufv.ca/community)

UNIVERSITY  
OF THE FRASER VALLEY