

MEMO

FROM: Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and VP Academic

DATE: October 15, 2024

SUBJECT: Senate Provost's Report

Ey Swáyel

Over the past month, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has announced further changes to its International Education policy. It is believed that after a year of significant changes, these represent the final changes to this file in IRCC's goal to reduce the number of temporary foreign residents in Canada from 6.5% to 5% of the total population by 2026. The announced changes implemented over the past year have included¹:

- All Letters of Acceptance (LOA) to be verified through IRCC portal (effective Dec 7, 2023)
- International students applying for a study permit to Canada through the Student Direct Stream (SDS) are required to have a minimum Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) of \$20,635 CAD (effective Jan 1, 2024)
- All applications for a Study Permit to IRCC will require a Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) from the post-secondary institution to which they have been admitted (effective Jan 22, 2024).
- In 2024, the number of PALS were capped at 606,250 nationally with 83,000 available for distribution across BC's PSIs. UFV was allocated access to 2,588 PALS for the 2024 calendar year (effective Feb 29, 2024). The total number of national PALS for 2025 and 2026 has been reduced by 10%, and 12% of those national PALS are set aside for Masters and PhD applicants (effective Jan 23, 2025). Provinces and UFV have not been allocated their PALS for 2025 and 2026. BC will not be in a position to issue institutional PALS until after the Provincial Election and a new Minister of Post Secondary and Future Skills is named.
- Students who apply for a Study Permit from Nov 1, 2024, onwards and graduate with a certificate or a diploma from a Designated Learning Institution (DLI) will only be eligible to apply for a Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) if they graduate from one of 966 programs in a field of study linked to occupations in long-term shortage as determined by National data Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes. The eligible fields of study are in 5 broad areas: agriculture and agri-food; healthcare; science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); trades; or transport (effective Nov 1, 2024).

¹ Disclaimer: This summary of changes represent public announcements made by IRCC and are not intended as immigration advice. Detailed information is available at: [Study in Canada as an international student - Canada.ca](#)

- No changes to PGWP eligibility for students who graduate with a bachelor, masters, or PhD degree from a university. Students graduating with a bachelor's degree from a college will need to graduate from one of the identified CIP code programs to be eligible to apply for a PGWP.

Further to IRCC's announcements, the Province of British Columbia announced new regulations for all BC Post-Secondary Institutions who are Designated Learning Institutions:

- A new [EQA Code of Practice \(PDF\)](#) that will be integrated into coming changes to the [EQA Policy](#). EQA institutions will be assessed against the Code of Practice standards annually, starting in January 2025.
- Changes to the [EQA policy](#) that increase the operational expectations institutions must meet to be eligible to enrol international students (effective Jan 1, 2025).
- New [Enrolment Guidelines \(PDF\)](#) for public post-secondary institutions (effective June 24, 2024).
- New [guidelines \(PDF\)](#) for public post-secondary institutions for the development of international education strategic plans that identify the goals, objectives, priorities, and student supports of the institution's international education program (effective June, 2024).

David McGuire, AVP International, will be presenting at the October Senate meeting to lead a discussion around these changes and the potential impact for UFV.

To align my report with the Integrated Strategic Plan, I have reorganized the activities across the Academic Units under the Mission and Goals of Engaging Learners, Transforming Lives, and Building Communities. Thank you to all those who contributed to providing these updates from the Faculties and Academic Units.

Engaging Learners: Yoystexw ye totilthet

Provide inclusive learning environments for everyone.

- Leah Douglas travelled with UFV colleagues Cindy Schultz and Nicolle Bourget to present at the International Social Innovation Research Conference (ISIRC) in Bern, Switzerland, in early September. Their presentation, Researching Cohort Members' Experiences of a Changemaking Microcredential Using a Hybrid Impact Methodology, followed up on the learning and work done in the UFV venture toward the Ashoka Changemaker designation.
- Tannaz Zargarian gave a presentation titled 'Spatial Belonging: Experience of Muslim Women in Higher Education' at the 7th Metropolis Identities Summit (October 29th).
- Sandrine Trichard (CYFS) has been working with the Chilliwack Learning Society to collect new and gently used books for ECE practicum students – the students will read the books to a child or present the book at story time to the children and will give books to daycare centres or to a child and their family.

- Dr. Michelle Superle, Faculty Associate of the FAI, hosted and facilitated the AgriCULTURE! Symposium. This project is in collaboration with the Tourism Abbotsford Taste of Abby Festival.
- Over the summer, the FAI team developed a geovisualization tool to support training and skills building opportunities for students interested in urban agriculture. The tool will be refined and developed over the coming year and piloted within classes at UFV. Additional funds have been secured through the Royal Bank of Canada and the BC Center for Agritech Innovation to further develop micro-credential materials that explore vertical agriculture, urban agriculture, agri-data science, and agri-food planning.
- Trades successfully launched 11 Foundation and 3 Apprenticeship classes in September, all programs are fully enrolled with ongoing waitlist applications.
- In August 2024, UFV student Nicky Whitehouse gave a presentation at the 25th World Congress of Philosophy in Rome along with co-authors UFV Philosophy faculty member Anastasia Anderson and Abbotsford School District teachers (and UFV alumni) Elizabeth Wilson and Karla Toro-Chacon (in absentia). The co-authors' research was inspired by their work in philosophy for children through the UFV Philosophy department and UFV Centre for Philosophy for Children and their experiences with the Thinking Playground summer camps. The 25th World Congress of Philosophy had approximately 5,000 attendees from all over the world and showcased presentations on a wide range of philosophical topics.
- English Associate Professor Dr. Alex Wetmore received the Mary Louise Nickerson Travel Award from the Osler Library for the History of Medicine at McGill University, funding a research trip to examine archival works related to medicine, technology and literature, in July 2024.
- A partnership with Best for Babies was established to offer postpartum physical activity workshops that will be led by kinesiology students.
- A partnership with the medical imaging manager at Chilliwack General Hospital was created in which the unit provides the UFV Nursing Faculty printed and anonymous images, such as x-rays and CT scans to enhance student understanding of the patient experience from the inside out.
- On September 18, 2024, the Library partnered with International and the College of Arts to host its 3rd Annual "Welcome Back" event, themed Celebrating Gifts of Japan. University Librarian, Camille Callison, expressing gratitude and recognition presented 27 Japan-related books along with a symbolic plaque from the "Read Japan Project," a generous initiative by the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research and Nippon Foundation and a donation facilitated by the Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver. This event highlighted the library's role as a center of cultural exchange as the event brought together students, faculty, and distinguished guests including the Deputy Consul General, Satmoi Okagaki, to celebrate Japan's cultural contributions and the collaborative relationships between UFV and various Japanese institutions.
- The Library has launched a display to collect non-perishable food for the Student Food Bank.

- New \$35,000 grant contract approved from Perkins and Will Canada Architects for a project entitled “Resource Circularity: Waste-to-Resource Closed-Loop Ecosystems”. Alex Glaros is the PI and Stefania Pizzirani is Co-PI.

Transforming Lives: Ayeqet kw’e shxwaylexws

Provide opportunities for people to discover, develop, and share their gifts while also recognizing and celebrating the gifts of others.

- Rita Dhungel with Maya Tamang, a trafficking survivor from Nepal, presented Journey from Oppression to Liberation: Power of Trafficking Survivors at the International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Virtual Conference, held between September 18th-20th, 2024.
- Kirsten Hargreaves, along with a CYFS student, is involved with a community project in Mission called the WRAP Project (Working towards Restorative Actions and Principles). The WRAP Project is focused on reducing gang recruitment of youth, increasing positive adult relationships with youth, enhancing restorative practice trainings and opportunities for the School District and youth serving community, and engaging youth voice in this work.
- The School of Education has collaborated with UFV International to launch a one-year ECE certificate for international students for Fall 2025. This will be the first of its kind for UFV and it aims to address the industry’s need for more early childhood educators in BC and the Fraser Valley.
- As part of a grant from the Ministry of Education and Childcare, two secondary teacher candidates and one elementary teacher candidate will be completing their certifying practicum in Haida Gwaii. This is the first time that UFV has been involved in a project whereby candidates complete their 10-week practicum outside of the Fraser Valley.
- The Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI) is partnering with the global architecture firm Perkins & Will to research opportunities for building-integrated agriculture. Over the next year, researchers at the FAI will co-develop recommendations for urban policymakers to better support building-integrated agriculture projects, undertake environmental performance analyses of Perkins & Will's existing indoor farms, and identify opportunities for the development of more circular building waste-to-resource streams. This project is run in collaboration between Perkins & Will, the Food and Agriculture Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley, the University of British Columbia, the University of Oregon, the City of Vancouver, and numerous agri-food businesses across the city of Vancouver.
- Fall SASET culinary program began on October 1, welcoming Indigenous students to learn key Culinary Arts employment skills.
- The ATS Dean presented information about trades education at the Kwikwexwehlp Healing Village's Welcome Ceremony.
- The Coast Capital gift of \$125,000 towards the Inclusion and Equity Strategy for Trades and Technology was announced at the UFV Celebration of Community.
- UFV Changemaking debuts at Community Showcase - On Thursday, September 26, UFV debuted its changemaking efforts at the celebration of St’elt’elawtexw, the university’s annual community report. The Community Health and Social Innovation Hub supported these efforts, with students speaking with community members about what changemaking meant to them. These responses were brought together in a beautiful graphic recording capturing the evening’s discussions artistically.

Building Community: Thayt kw'e st'elt'elawtexw

Collaborate and partner in pursuits that enrich the lives of all people on our campuses, in our local communities, and beyond.

- On September 18, Brianna Strumm (SWHS) and Amea Wilbur (ADED) held a community-based event at Open Space showcasing the photos from their research project Images of Newcoming, while also celebrating the launch of Amea's new book, Geographies of the Heart. The event was sponsored by the United Way of British Columbia's "Hi Neighbour" program.
<https://www.abbynews.com/community/book-about-newcomers-launches-in-abbotsford-7547001>
- Karen Derksen (SWHS) and Sandrine Trichard (CYFS) attended the Chilliwack Secondary Human Services Career Enhancement Program's (HSCeP) Kick-Off event to welcome new Grade 10 students into the program and welcome back Grade 11 and 12 students on September 19th. HSCeP uses a multi-level mentoring model where mentors (often UFV students) help guide high school students through a curriculum enriched by professional-led sessions.
- CERA Day - CERA once again hosted a FREE one-day event, this time at the Chilliwack campus. CERA Day 2024 highlighted UFV's 50th anniversary along with Chilliwack Elder College's 25th anniversary. Refreshment and lunch generously provided by the Chilliwack Elder College. 107 older adults registered for the day.
- MEHFIL, a South Asian Folk Music event with poetry, singing, and music was hosted by the South Asian Studies Institute (SASI), the first event of this kind at UFV! SASI has been recording, translating, and transcribing cultural treasures of South Asian Music and Poetry over the last half year. These recordings will be published as a collection in our South Asian Canadian Digital Archive, and four of the artists performed at the event.
- UFV partnered with Riverside College for the Construction Electrician program launched in September.
- For Fall 2024, UFV received 5,960 domestic and 1,300 international applications leading to 2,196 new domestic students and 393 new international students.
- The Future Students Office began the 2025 recruitment season with a flurry of community-based events and activities. Recruiters and other staff have already visited several Langley and Surrey schools and talked with more than 200 students interested in UFV. We have also participated in 4 large education fairs and engaged with more than 2,000 students at these popular events. Additionally, there have been more than 400 contacts with prospective students though on campus visits, tours and phone calls.
- Political Science Associate Professor Edward Akuffo accepted an invitation to appear as an expert witness in front of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade for its study on Canada's engagement and interests in Africa on October 2, 2024.

- Dr. Beaulieu presented Reconciliation in Action Award. On September 24, Dr. Sarah Beaulieu, a UFV SCMS assistant professor and CHASI Faculty Associate, was honoured with the Reconciliation in Action award at the DIVERSEcity Awards of Impact in Surrey. Her ongoing work supporting Indigenous communities in their search for unmarked graves has led to international attention on the history of Canada's Indian Residential School system.
- English Associate Professor Dr. Prabhjot Parmar is organizing an event at which the Poet Tariq Malik visits UFV to read from his latest poetry collection, Blood of Stone, on October 24, 11:30-12:50 in room A312.
- Fraser Valley Writers' Festival is taking place November 1-2 in Evered Hall. We will welcome Angela Sterritt and Billy-Ray Belcourt as keynote speakers, with panel discussions and workshops led by important Canadian authors offered to students and the public free of charge.
- Luisa Giles presented research on wildfire, physical activity, and mental well-being to the Lower Fraser Valley Air Quality and Health Coordination Meeting and the Air Quality Health Steering committee. The meeting was hosted by Metro Vancouver and included people from Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health, the Fraser Valley Regional District, and the BC Centre for Disease Control.
- University Librarian, Camille Callison, was presented with the 2024 Ron MacDonald Outstanding Service Award at a reception in Ottawa on October 3, 2024. The Ron MacDonald Outstanding Service Award recognizes an individual from a Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) member institution who has demonstrated vision, dedication, and outstanding service in building bridges and collaboration to advance knowledge infrastructure in Canada.
- As part of the UFV 50 Celebrations Agriculture Dept and UFV Alumni are pleased to host the first ever UFV Agriculture Alumni Pop-Up Farmers' Market. The market will feature products grown by alumni of the program from the late 1980's to 2024.

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