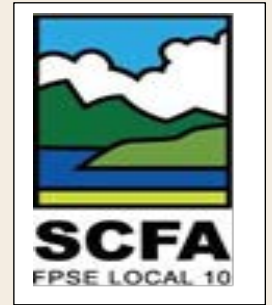


- Coldest Night of the Year: Thank You!
- Words From Your VP, Membership Engagement
- What's New from your Standing Committees? Academic Governance and Safety
- Selkirk Innovates Spotlight: Jayme Jones, Leeza Perehudoff, Lauren Rethoret
- Social and Civic Engagement: Trans Day of Remembrance Event
- The Final Word: Cartoons and Announcements



Your Monthly Newsletter from the SCFA

# ON STREAM

**COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR: NOT SO COLD  
BUT DEFINITELY HEARTWARMING!**



A big thanks to all the SCFA members who supported the annual Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to SCFA member Katie Comrie, we had teams in Trail (photo above), Nelson, and Castlegar (photo below). Combined donations from the three Selkirk College teams totalled over \$4,000. Thanks to all SCFA members who made donations and/or participated!



## WORDS FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT VP

Dear SCFA Members,

Can you believe it's almost March? As I write this, snow is falling outside my window, though just yesterday, the ground was barren and I took a walk by the MIR Centre in my spring coat.

This month on **Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup>**, we are having our **Spring General Meeting** from 4-6 PM at the Castlegar Campus. There will be an option to join by Zoom, but we encourage anyone who is able to attend in person. There will be member draws and food, just like in pre-Covid times. Some of you will remember rooms full of SCFA members and lively post-meeting conversations of the past. We would love to see that kind of energy return.

Are you interested in being on a standing committee? There may be spaces opening up, or you can express interest and run for the position. Feel free to signal your interest to a member of the executive anytime or at the spring meeting, though elections take place at the AGM in May.

Want to learn more about the FPSE standing committees? I can help connect you with a current or past representative, but you can also learn more on FPSE's website: <https://fpse.ca/committees>

Thank you for your commitment to the SCFA, and remember that we the executive are here to serve you and answer your questions.

In solidarity,

Leesa Dean

# Academic Governance Report, Linda Harwood

## **CUFA 2024 Conference:**

As the Chair of the FPSE Academic Governance Committee, I recently attended in-person the Confederation of University Faculty Association (CUFA)'s 2024 Conference, entitled "Can Governance Survive: The Future of the University" which was held in the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. The conference addressed critical issues surrounding university governance amid global, national, and pandemic-related challenges. Key themes included the role of faculty associations in improving structures, advocating for more transparency, and addressing the need for better orientation for all members of boards, senates or education councils, and faculty association members about their roles and responsibilities as well as how the overall system should work. Panels focused on examining current governance issues and defining the roles and responsibilities of boards, senates or education councils, senior administration, and faculty associations. Discussions included strategies to promote equity, to facilitate collaboration, and to maintain the bicameral system of collegial (not to be confused with "congenial") shared governance. Recommendations emphasized the need for more board and senate transparency, diversity in representation, accountability, integrity, faculty education and engagement, as well as the need to mitigate external influences, such as the growing threats to democracy (e.g., the rise of populism,) to sustain the bicameral academic governance system. I have also drafted and coordinated an AGC delegate report for FPSE's President's Council based on insights gained from attending the CUFA 2024 Academic Governance Conference held in Vancouver on Jan. 18-19, 2024, and would be pleased to share and/or discuss that with you.

## **FPSE Academic Governance Committee:**

I'm also happy to announce the success of our recent Academic Governance Committee two-day meeting, which took place in person in Vancouver on Jan. 19-20, 2024. We had productive discussions covering various academic governance topics. From these discussions, we've listed several key areas for further exploration and discussion, which we've termed our governance "hot button" issues. One notable development is our plan for the AGC to participate in the inaugural fall summit scheduled for October 4-5, 2024, alongside CARC, NRFC, PSPC, and BCC. The primary focus of this summit will be to coordinate our identified key bargaining issues. We will also be proposing two workshops for the AGM: a presentation on Academic Freedom by Michael Conlon, and a primer on Academic Governance by Graeme Bowbrick from Douglas College.

Lastly, if anyone has an interest in forming a local Academic Governance Committee, either formally or informally, please let me know.

# Health and Safety Report, Jason Da Costa

Hello from your friendly neighbourhood safety representative!

The main issue discussed at the last FPSE Workplace, Health, and Safety (WHSEC) meeting was the stabbing that took place at the University of Waterloo. Last June, two students and an instructor were stabbed in a gender studies class in what police have called "a hate-motivated incident related to gender expression and gender identity." The class was specifically targeted due to the subject matter taught. One of the responses by the university was to remove some information from the public domain.

I have suggested to our local Joint Health and Safety Committee (JOHS) that we make a similar move to limit what information is available to the general public. It is understandable that prospective students have access to times and campus locations for planning purposes, but the room numbers can wait until after they have signed up. The same goes for final exams: if accessing the specific location and time requires a student to log in, the risk is reduced.

**Note:** I do not believe there is a high likelihood of a similar incident at our campuses. However, if it was to happen, it could be life threatening. WorkSafe BC provides the following schematic to guide decision making:

|             |             | Impact |          |        |         |
|-------------|-------------|--------|----------|--------|---------|
|             |             | Minor  | Moderate | Major  | Extreme |
| Probability | Rare        | Low    | Low      | Medium | Medium  |
|             | Unlikely    | Low    | Medium   | Medium | Medium  |
|             | Moderate    | Medium | Medium   | Medium | High    |
|             | Likely      | Medium | Medium   | High   | High    |
|             | Very likely | Medium | High     | High   | High    |

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/create-manage/managing-risk/assessing-risks>

Our local JOHS meets every month, so if you have any concerns, email me if you would like me to bring them up.

Jason Da Costa, SCFA Safety Rep.

# Selkirk Innovates Spotlight:

Jayme Jones, Leeza Perehudoff, Lauren Rethoret



## Selkirk Innovates:

Lauren Rhethoret (left), Jayme Jones and Leeza Perehudoff (from left to right) are involved in numerous regional and provincial research projects. Learn more below!



It is one of the busiest times of year for Selkirk Innovates, and that is no exception for [social innovation research](#) team members. Jayme Jones, faculty researcher, and Leeza Perehudoff, research assistant, are currently working together on three projects:

- The [State of the Basin](#) research initiative monitors and reports on indicators of economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being in the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region. Data from this initiative are used to help support evidence-based decision-making across the region. The State of the Basin is also a great tool for students looking for data for relevant class projects! The team is currently analyzing the 2023 Subjective Well-being survey data.
- [Courageous Dialogues: Moving Beyond Polarization](#) is a three-year (2021-24) applied research project funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). This project aims to identify tools, strategies, and other resources for helping our communities overcome polarization. Together with colleagues from the Mir Centre for Peace, Capilano University, and Vancouver Community College, Jayme and Leeza are wrapping up the final year of research. Curious about some of our findings? Check out our resource guide [here](#).
- [Bridging Rural Homelessness & Well-being: A Sustainable and Collaboration Regional Response](#) is a three-year (2022-25) applied research project also funded by SSHRC. The project's overall goal is to improve the well-being of rural residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness living in and around Trail, Castlegar, and Nelson. This project involves 27 diverse community partners. One of the project's objectives is to build capacity through college resources. If you have students looking to apply their learning in a real-world context addressing homelessness, such as a class project, please contact [Jayme](#). We love to link student projects into this work. The team is planning for the 2024 West Kootenay Homelessness Response Summit to be held the week of April 29. More details and registration will be available soon. Interested college employees and students are encouraged to attend.

**Lauren Rethoret** has been with Selkirk College for 11 years now, always in a position with the Applied Research and Innovation department. Her work used to fall under the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, but a few years ago the various research units merged under the banner of Selkirk Innovates. Her role as a Faculty Researcher is to design and implement projects that address real-world problems in our region. Her portfolio mostly focuses on the human or social dimensions of environmental issues (climate change, land use, resource management, etc.), which often involves questions that relate to policy and planning. Every project done at Selkirk Innovates is conducted in partnership with one or more community partners and they usually hire student interns to help with the research. Some of the projects Lauren is currently working on include [Columbia Basin Climate Source](#) (a regionally relevant climate information site that we developed with Columbia Basin Trust, currently undergoing a refresh) and a partnership with the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee that analyzes the socioeconomic impacts associated with some of the major dams in our region.

# Trans Day of Visibility: March 31st



Trans Day of Visibility is coming up on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and **SCFA member Katie Comrie** (Healthy Campus) and Chantal Lortie, Chair of the EDI Advisory committee have planned a showing of the Netflix documentary *Disclosure* on **Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>** from 4-6 pm in the Staff Lounge. In this documentary, leading trans creatives and thinkers share heartfelt perspectives and analysis about Hollywood's impact on the trans community. If you are interested in promoting allyship and the disruption of mis and mal-information campaigns against our trans youth and community, please consider using some of the resources that come with this documentary to discuss and educate in your classrooms. Trans flags will be provided for display at all campuses the week leading up to March 31<sup>st</sup>: the flags on campus initiative was initiated a few years ago by Leanne Reitan who serves on the Women and Gender Equity standing committee.

"I am excited to collaborate with the Healthy Campus Coordinator, Katie Comrie, to make this screening happen," states Chantal Lortie, Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee.

"Trans Day of Visibility is an opportunity to honour and celebrate Two-spirited, Transgender and Non-binary students, staff and community members around us. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to advocating for trans rights through more visible and actionable allyship. We want to make sure that students and staff know that access to this event does require registration to attend, security will be present on campus, and counselling services will be present during the showing if anyone requires support".

Please reach out to the event coordinators via email if you have any questions or want further information:

Chantal Lortie- [clortie@selkirk.ca](mailto:clortie@selkirk.ca) and/or Katie Comrie - [kcomrie@selkirk.ca](mailto:kcomrie@selkirk.ca).

# THE FINAL WORD: CARTOONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Consider this your official invitation to attend our two upcoming SCFA meetings:

- Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 PM:  
Spring General Meeting
- Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4-6 PM:  
Annual General Meeting

We are always interested in meeting new members and gaining wider perspectives on workplace realities across campuses and disciplines. **We encourage in-person attendance** (come for the food and good company) but will have a hybrid option.

- Reminder: your VP for Membership Engagement (Leesa Dean) has drop in hours every Tuesday from 10-11 AM. Come say hi, ask questions, and get an SCFA toque. We have pens, too!
- If you would like a toque delivered to a different campus, ask Leesa Dean ([ldean@selkirk.ca](mailto:ldean@selkirk.ca)) to have one sent via interoffice mail.
- On Stream is always on the lookout for **submissions** relevant to our work, professional development, interests and well-being. Send your ideas at the beginning of each month to [ldean@selkirk.ca](mailto:ldean@selkirk.ca).

**LOOK FOR MORE SCFA NEWS IN MARCH'S ON STREAM!**