

AUGUST 2024 ISSUE >>>

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Your Monthly Newsletter from the SCFA

ON STREAM

Welcome Todd Solarik Retirement Issues Officer



When the SCFA called for nominations for the open Retirement Issues Officer position, we received several statements of interest. We were pleased to see such an outpouring of willingness to support the union by filling this important role.

Todd Solarik is part of the Student Support team and is one of our esteemed counsellors. He has also visited many classrooms in his role as Learning Skills Coordinator!

We are still looking for someone to fill the Academic Governance Standing Committee position, so if you are looking for ways to support the union, this would be a great starting point! To learn more about that position, go to FPSE's site: <https://fpse.ca/committees/academic-governance-committee>

Welcome Back! Tips for a Strong Start to Your Academic Year

The first few weeks of the semester can be busy and at times overwhelming. Here are a few tips to help you start the academic year off right:

- **Review your contract.** Does everything look OK? Do you have any questions? If so, we encourage you to reach out to Shannon Shah, VP Contract Administration, at sshah@selkirk.ca
- **Remember that you have until December 31st to use your benefits, including your HCSA (\$300) and Lifestyle Spending Account (\$250).** The lifestyle spending account can be used for a variety of activities, including a gym membership, sports equipment, and recreational classes (ie-yoga, dance). If you have any questions about our benefits, you can always email benefits@selkirk.ca.
- If you are **new** to the college, we encourage you to **connect with the SCFA president, Takaia Larsen** in SEN 204, or you can drop in and get some **SCFA swag from Leesa Dean, Membership Engagement, in 0-023**. Don't be shy!

You can also kick off the year with colleagues by walking in solidarity this Sunday at the **Nelson Pride Parade** (sign up here: <https://selkirk.ca/events/nelson-pride-parade>). On Monday from 12-2 PM, the SCFA is also holding our inaugural Labour Day Barbecue at the Slocan Pools, which is centrally located between Nelson and Castlegar. Find more information about the Slocan Pools and driving directions here: <https://westkootenayhiking.ca/slocan-pools/>

WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT: WELCOME BACK!



I want to begin this message by recognizing that this summer has been heavy for many of us. Many of you have likely been impacted (or know someone who was) by wildfires, the loss of a loved one, and the general strife that life can bring. Further, the world around us continues to struggle with the impacts of climate change, ongoing violent tensions in many parts of the world, and increasing polarization between viewpoints. I hope that you have managed to find positive experiences and joyful moments amid the life struggles we are all navigating.

The beginning of September and 'back to school' marks the beginning of a new year for those of us who spend our lives working in education. It has always been my favorite time of year 😊 I look forward to meeting my new students and reconnecting with returning students most of all. I am also excited to see all of my colleagues and hear about their summer adventures. This year, I have the added bonus of watching my son attend Selkirk College in our Engineering Program. My son will be the 2nd of my children to attend Selkirk and I am hopeful that his experience here will be as life changing as mine was and as successful as his sister's was. As you read this, there are hundreds of incoming students anxiously preparing to study here with us and that is an inspiring thought. There is much to look forward to!

In order to kick off the new academic year with some celebration and connection, we are busy planning and preparing for the **1st SCFA Labour Day BBQ**. We hope this will become an annual event where members of the SCFA and their families can get together to connect and spend some time together. Labour Day in Canada can be traced back to 1872 when the Trade Unions Act legalized unions in Canada. This legislation and was driven by the "Nine-Hour Movement" spearheaded by the Toronto Printer's Union. Labour Day officially became a national holiday in 1894 and today is commonly celebrated across Canada with BBQs and get togethers with family and friends as summer comes to an end. This year, we hope you will join us for a few hours to gather with your SCFA colleagues and take a moment to reflect on the important work we do and the strength and support that union membership and the labour movement provides. If you want to read a bit more about the origins of Labour Day, here is a link to a short article. [The First Labour Day - Canada's History \(canadashistory.ca\)](https://canadashistory.ca)

I look forward to seeing many of you at the BBQ and in the coming weeks around our campuses in Castlegar, Nelson, and Trail. I hope your semester gets off to an inspiring start and without too many glitches!

In solidarity,

Takaia Larsen
SCFA President

THIS YEAR'S SCOPE WINNERS: LISA GATES, STEPHEN HARRIS, LEANNA KOZAK AND MICHELLE PIERCE

Every year, students and staff have the opportunity to nominate an outstanding SCFA member for the annual SCOPE Award. This year, we received many nominations and received hundreds of support letters from across schools. After evaluating all submissions, **Lisa Gates, Stephen Harris, Leanna Kozak and Michelle Pierce** were awarded this year's honors.

There will be a SCOPE celebration following the Fall GM in early October (date and location TBA soon).



Lisa Gates is a member of the Human Services team and teaches in the EACSW program. A consistent thread in her support letters was recognition of her passion, compassion, and dedication to accessibility in her course designs as well as her unique ability to bring creativity to classroom materials and the college through her work as a graphic recorder. Many expressed gratitude for the extensive work she has done as a disability advocate, including creating the Disability Café series. Students all expressed how her well-designed courses helped them learn across abilities and learning styles.



Leanna Kozak is an instructor in the Human Services program where she is recognized by students for her infinite patience and empathy. Leanna's compassion, her dedication to her students, and her commitment to collaborative practices stood out in the letters submitted. She has also demonstrated commitment to her teaching by completing the Provincial Instructors Diploma in addition to maintaining her registration as a professional social worker through the BC College of Social Workers and ongoing membership with the BC Association of Social Workers, all of which inform her work in the classroom.



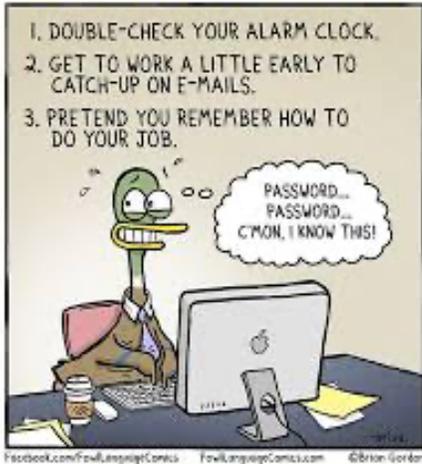
Stephen Harris is an instructor in the Business program. Supporters of his nomination discussed how Stephen goes above and beyond traditional teaching methods in many ways, most notably by incorporating digital technology, including the use of generative AI. Through interactive activities, hands-on exercises, and group discussions, he fosters a dynamic learning environment that encourages critical thinking and active participation. Students consistently praised Stephen for providing them with a comprehensive understanding of key business concepts and practices, citing his expertise, passion, and use of real-world examples as pivotal to their learning.



Michelle Pierce is an instructor in the Human Services program as an ECCE instructor. Through her work as a pedagogist working within the community, and her innovative contributions in the creation of an online mentorship course for BC Campus, Michelle has enriched our academic offerings and supported a diverse range of students. She is deeply involved in the local community and has collaborated on numerous projects with local childcare centres. Examples of her class work are often featured in the ECE program marketing and students frequently praise her classes as being engaging and ones they look forward to.

THE FINAL WORD: CARTOONS, SHANNON SHAH (VP CONTRACTS) AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIPS FOR RETURNING TO WORK AFTER VACATION



Do you feel like this duck? Make your back to school transition easier by:

- Using your Manulife benefits on self-care practitioners, like massages from RMTs
- Attending the first Lunch Club on Friday, September 27th from noon-1 PM
- Coming to relax, eat food and soak up the sun at the first annual SCFA Labour Day Picnic this Monday from 12-2 PM. Bring your family, too!

NOTE FROM SHANNON SHAH, VP CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION:

This summer, our long-standing VP contracts for SCFA Rebecca Jacobson retired and has left me some brilliant and stylish shoes to fill. I am excited to expand my knowledge of the VP role and help continue our dedication to teaching, learning, and our community at Selkirk. I am happy to help explore any questions or concerns. We will continue to build our resources with the current Stewards Committee and encourage everyone to connect at our various events as well as just drop by my office.

A peer referred to this time of year as the re-entry phase, and it gave me a great visual of the excitement and unknowns. Please feel completely safe to ask about anything; SCFA is a part of your support system at the college.

Take care, talk soon,

Shannon Lanctot-Shah
sshah@selkirk.ca or scfacasls@gmail.com

REMINDERS:

- On Stream is always on the lookout for **submissions** relevant to our work, professional development, interests and well-being. We also feature a member in each issue. Send your ideas and/or member news at the beginning of each month to idean@selkirk.ca, or let us know if we can feature you!

LOOK FOR MORE SCFA NEWS AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER!