

SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE >>>

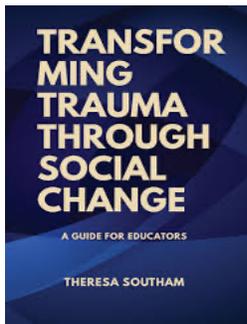
- Transforming Trauma Through Social Change: Theresa Southam
- Opportunities to Engage: Looking Back and Looking Forward
- Words from your President: In Solidarity
- Faculty Spotlight: Ian Dennis, Cyclist Extraordinaire
- News from your Committees: Pension + Health & Safety
- The Final Word: Cartoon and Upcoming Events



Your Monthly Newsletter from the SCFA

ON STREAM

CONGRATULATIONS,
THERESA SOUTHAM!



We would like to congratulate SCFA member **Theresa Southam** on her recent book publication, *Transforming Trauma Through Social Change: A Guide for Educators*. Theresa worked on this book while on an SCFA assisted leave.

The publisher's blurb states that the book is "a practical guide for educators and trainers to guide students in the understanding of trauma and working towards wellness through justice and examples of social change. In doing so, the author reveals the depths and complexity of oppression and inequity, and illustrates how communities make meaning from trauma."

Copies can be ordered online or through your local bookstore, and an event and author reading will be taking place at the college later in October.

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENAGAGE: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

The past four weeks have been busy for the SCFA. We kicked off the school year Labour Day Weekend with the first annual SCFA barbecue as well as the Nelson Pride Parade. We'd like to thank everyone who attended either of these activities as well as offer a reflection on the location we chose for the first annual barbecue.

In the process of planning the Labour Day barbecue, members of the executive became aware that the site, Slocan Pools, is of high ecological and cultural significance. At this current time, the Slocan Pool public advisory committee (composed of members of the public, First Nations representatives, and local scientists) provides advice on management of the land for its environmental, educational, cultural and recreational values, and their current focus is on the site's ecological sensitivity and approaching from a conservancy/sustainability model rather than encouraging recreational use. For more information on Columbia Power's conservation efforts, visit their website: <https://columbiapower.org/about/environmental-stewardship/corporate-sustainability-initiatives/>

For these reasons, **the SCFA will not be hosting future events at the Slocan Pools**. We wish to respect the work that is being done there and also respect the land itself. In the future, we will only hold off-site outdoor events in established parks with designated picnic areas and restrooms.

We are now looking forward to the upcoming Fall GM. You have by now likely read college president Maggie Matear's frank message about coming changes to the college based on decreased international enrolment. President Takaia Larsen will be addressing this and other topics at the **Fall GM on October 15th**. The meeting will be followed by the **SCOPE Ceremony** where we will celebrate this year's winners, Lisa Gates, Leanna Kozak, Stephen Harris and Michelle Pierce.

WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT: IN SOLIDARITY



While there are a number of things I was hoping to write about in this edition of *On Stream*, recent developments in our sector have narrowed down the topic for me. I am sure that most of you have been following the news regarding caps on international student enrolments which began last year and have heard about the most recent announcements about additional limits being applied. I am also certain that many of you have read the Selkirk College Communications message from President, Maggie Matear entitled “Adapting to a Changing Landscape” which spoke directly to this issue. While Maggie beat me to press with her message, I have been drafting this submission to *On Stream* for the past week or so and have been planning to share many of the same sentiments with you that she wrote in her letter. If you haven’t had a chance, I encourage you to take the time to read that letter for further perspective from the Management Team. You can read Maggie’s statement here: <https://my.selkirk.ca/staff/our/news/adapting-to-a-changing-landscape-.php>

Nothing is certain yet, but at this point, there has been an encouraging effort towards transparency and communication with all 3 union groups here on campus coming from the Management Team. As things progress, I will be sure to keep you up to date on these ongoing conversations about international student number projections, implications on enrolment, and potential plans around course and program offerings. Unfortunately, the big picture is that all signs are pointing to declining enrolment from international students for the foreseeable future.

I have already been hearing from you about your concerns and suggestions and I want to welcome everyone to continue to reach out to me, your stewards, or anyone on the SCFA Executive with your questions. This topic will also be on the agenda of our **upcoming Fall GM scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th at 4:30 in the Faculty Lounge** in Castlegar, which offers you an excellent opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the SCFA as well as the potential impacts of decreased International enrolment. I hope to see many of you there for the meeting and also for the SCOPE celebration afterward, at 6 PM. The event will be catered by Chef’s Choice and there will be non-alcoholic refreshments served. In light of these challenges in our sector, I know it will be a much-needed evening of inspiration and gratitude spent celebrating our SCOPE winners for this year.

So on that note, I’ll end with a big congratulations to Lisa Gates, Leanna Kozak, Stephen Harris, and Michelle Pierce who have been recognized for their exemplary teaching practices and contributions to the college. To learn more about their achievements, see the write-ups in the August edition of *On Stream*.

In solidarity,

Takaia Larsen
SCFA President

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: IAN DENNIS



Ian Dennis came to Selkirk College as a student in 2014, progressed to a research assistant in 2015 and began instructing courses in 2019 within the School of Environment and Geomatics. Currently, Ian instructs in the GIS Diploma and the Recreation, Fish, and Wildlife program, teaching computer programming, drones, GPS, and various GIS topics.

Originally from the UK, after obtaining a degree in chemistry, Ian started his career at the Medical Research Laboratories of Cambridge University. He was involved in the research of new drugs targeting cancer and heart disease. After 10 years working in the labs, Ian completed a post graduate diploma in Computer science and moved to New Brunswick where he worked for Environment Canada, modelling the chemistry of freshwater streams where acidification had caused the loss of the salmon. The highlight of this work was exploring remote corners of the Atlantic provinces to collect water samples

Ian came to Selkirk to gain formal qualifications in GIS, a tool he had learned whilst working for the Environment Canada. Ian was drawn to Selkirk because of the mountains but was highly impressed by the warm atmosphere of the college and the strength and depth of the GIS program.

As part of the GIS Diploma, Ian completed a co-op placement with the Selkirk College Research Division, where he built software for the Ministry of Forests and forestry companies to ensure compliance with provincial regulations on harvesting, particularly in relation to the maintenance of old-growth forests and the protection of wildlife habitats. This work continues to this day.

As a research assistant, Ian was given a primitive drone and tasked with figuring out how to automate the flight patterns and image capture in order to create maps from the photos. This challenge marked the beginning of the Selkirk drone program. Today drones flying is now taught in three second-year courses, the Advanced Diploma in GIS, and as a micro-credential as well as being used extensively in research.

The mountains that initially attracted Ian to Selkirk were closely tied to his long-time love of cycling. He began racing during his college days and has raced in many countries doing many different types of event. He favours a hill climb and has competed in races up Mt Washington, Mt Revelstoke and just recently Mt Baker

In 2022, Ian became eligible for the BC 55+ Games, that year held in Victoria, where he competed on a particularly hilly course and came away with two gold medals and a silver. He returned to the games in Salmon Arm this fall, netting a bronze medal. Ian continues to cycle to work until the snow falls. He makes the most of Canadian winters by Nordic skiing, competing in the local races. When not outside playing on one of his many bikes or skis, Ian can be found at home in Rossland cooking up a healthy vegetarian meal with his family.

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEES: RETIREMENT ISSUES + HEALTH & SAFETY

RETIREMENT ISSUES: TODD SOLARIK

I am excited to introduce myself as your new Retirement Issues Officer. In this role, I will be focusing on addressing both the challenges and opportunities surrounding retirement planning, policy, and support. My aim is to provide clear guidance on retirement processes and advocate for FPSE-level policies that promote financial security at every stage of the retirement journey.

As I enter my 17th year at Selkirk College, I am also keen to learn as much as possible about the retirement process, as I am planning to retire within the next five years. I have much to learn, and I am grateful to have Shannon Shah as a valuable resource and sounding board.

I look forward to collaborating with all of you to enhance our collective efforts in supporting retirement readiness. In my current role, I serve as a counsellor at the Silver King campus from Monday to Thursday, and on Fridays, I am available in the library on the Castlegar campus.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or ideas on how we can improve our retirement.

Todd Solarik, Retirement Issues Officer

HEALTH & SAFETY: JASON DA COSTA

I wanted to share some information about the two topics that have come up.

Firstly, I have heard a few concerns about radon, so I have requested that for Radon Awareness Month (November), Health and Safety share information regarding radon and the current tests being done. Radon tests are recommended regularly to ensure levels have not changed over time. Tests were conducted at several locations on all campuses. If you are concerned about your specific area/office do reach out to Health and Safety via email at healthandsafety@selkirk.ca. If you do, please CC me so I can keep a record of how long they take to respond and how many of our members are concerned.

For now, I can share that any area that had higher than 200 Bq/m³ levels were addressed and now test at below that threshold. The current understanding of radon suggests that short term exposure poses no significant risk. It is the long-term, year after year exposure that is associated with increased probabilities of cancer. The recommended guidelines are if levels are between 200 Bq/m³ - 600 Bq/m³ than remediation should be completed within 2 years; if above 600 Bq/m³, remediation should be completed within 1 year. Note these guidelines were initially based on the idea that you are spending most of your time in the space, 365 days a year. The college will continue to test both long term and short term and has been working with a certified radon mitigation specialist to ensure we continue to work in a safe space.

Secondly, the college currently does not employ first aid responders for our students. However, the first aid responders employed to meet work safe BC regulations (for our safety) have provided aid to students when needed. The possibility of covering our students is being investigated by the Health and Safety officers. They will hopefully have a solution when meet next month.

That is all for now; if you have any safety concerns do reach out to me.

Jason Da Costa, Health & Safety Representative.

THE FINAL WORD: CARTOONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



"What? You were expecting good news?
Expectations are so passé."

- If Maggie Matear's recent communication left you feeling uneasy, remember that:
 - If you have signed a contract for the year, you are entitled to your allotted workload for the year even if the classes you were scheduled to teach are cancelled.
 - SCFA meetings are a good place to ask questions, but you can ask a member of the executive or a steward questions at any time.
 - For specific contract questions, Shannon Shah, VP Contracts, can help: sshah@selkirk.ca

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, October 15th for the Fall AGM and the 2024 SCOPE Awards Ceremony.
- We are in the process of planning a **special Lunch Club** for October which will feature Theresa Southam reading from her recently published book. Stay tuned for more details!
- 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 ldean@selkirk.ca, or let us know if we can feature you!

LOOK FOR MORE SCFA NEWS AT THE END OF OCTOBER!