



SCOPE WINNERS
GM and Celebration

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On Stream

September 2025

Selkirk College Faculty Association

UNREST IS IN THE AIR

by **Takaia Larsen**, SCFA President

Now that the 2025/26 academic year is well underway, I hope the enthusiasm of our new and returning students has reminded you of the important work we do each day and the real-world impact that post-secondary education has on learners at our institution and in our community. But as you all know, things are not all “bright and shiny”. We are still in tumultuous and uncertain times at our workplace and in the world, and we face that reality everyday together. I hope that despite those realities, your work continues to provide you with some inspiration, a daily smile or laugh, the comradery of cherished colleagues, and the strength that can accompany solidarity.

Along with social, political, and economic issues, labour unrest is steadily increasing across Canada. Most recently in BC, public sector workers have been increasing picket lines and job action almost daily throughout the month of September—they are no longer willing to sit idle while their labour is continually undervalued by the province. The commitment they are showing is important for us to recognize and support as we enter our own bargaining period. I encourage all SCFA members to pay a visit to a local picket line to show our support for the sacrifice those public

sector workers are making for all of us. Our solidarity makes a difference and is appreci-



Takaia Larsen with BCGEU member Kristan Lorio, BCGEU Staff Representative at the picket line in Nelson.

ated. I also have some FPSE strike placards that you can pick up if you are visiting a local picket line and want to label it with a catchy (or slightly sarcastic) slogan of support. My favourite ones from my visit to the BCGEU line in Nelson were: “We’re on strike—it’s a staff

infection!” and “2% is for milk!”

As the year goes on, I will continue to give voice to SCFA concerns at every opportunity and to support members however I can. As part of that work, I will continue to connect with SCFA members in order to better understand the issues that matter to you. My office is in SEN-204 and my email is PresidentSCFA@selkirk.ca. Please reach out anytime. I will also try to be at every SCFA event we plan throughout the year. I want to hear from you so that I can direct my work and energy toward collective action that will serve us well today and in the future.

In solidarity,

Takaia



SCFA President on a recent visit to the BCGEU picket line in Nelson, wearing her SCFA T-shirt.

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE SECTOR

COMPILED BY LEESA DEAN

CAUT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2025 FEDERAL BUDGET

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is the national voice of academic and professional staff. CAUT represents more than 75,000 teachers, librarians, researchers, general staff, and other professionals at 130 post-secondary institutions across the country. In August, CAUT submitted 4 recommendations to the government during the pre-budget consultations in advance of the 2025 Federal Budget. The recommendations include:

1. Acknowledging the essential role of public post-secondary education in creating individual, regional and national prosperity
2. Increase support for apprenticeships to \$8,000 and increase the maximum Canada Student Grant to \$7,000 to improve affordability.
3. Deliver an ambitious research agenda to make Canada a global science and innovation leader that supports and grows Canada's world-class research talent.
4. Invest in Indigenous education and honour inherent and Treaty rights by closing the educational attainment gap and Indigenizing education.

Read the full submission document [here](#).

BCGEU MEMBER DIES ON THE PICKET LINE IN SAANICH

A B.C. General Employees' (BCGEU) member has died following a medical emergency while on the picket line at 3350 Douglas St. on Tuesday, Sept. 16, Victoria News has confirmed.

In a statement, the union confirmed the death but did not release the individual's identity.

The union has not disclosed the nature of the medical emergency, and it remains unclear whether the incident was directly related to the conditions of the strike or pre-existing health concerns.

A spokesperson noted that the medical emergency happened on Sept. 16, that the member was stable when they were transported to hospital, and they died in hospital the following day.

Read the full article [here](#).

"CUTS SUCK" CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF AT VIU

Students from across B.C. are being encouraged to inundate elected officials' inboxes, decrying a decrease in investment in post-secondary education.

The B.C. Federation of Students and the Vancouver Island University Students' Union launched the "Cuts Suck. Fix Education," campaign on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at VIU's Nanaimo campus.

Tuition is rising and, as is the case at VIU, programs are being cut, with public funding dropping to 40 per cent of operating budgets, according to the students' unions. Meanwhile, tuition has increased by 155 per cent over the past 25 years. A return to government investment of at least 75 per cent of operating budgets is sought, and the organizations are asking students to e-mail elected officials to drive home the point.

Read the full article [here](#).



▲ SCFA members joined Selkirk College students and employees in the annual Pride Parade in Nelson.



September 30, 2025

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada

CHIEF STEWARD UPDATE: A NEED FOR STRONG FOUNDATIONS

BY SHANNON LANCTOT-SHAH

Welcome back everyone. I hope you had a wonderful summer and a chance to enjoy some rest and relaxation. There have been so many changes, I hope everyone is taking some time to reflect on the process and how we continue to move forward in a way that supports our students and each other as we continue to provide high quality and accessible education.

A key message across the country is to ensure that our collective agreements clearly support academic freedom. As educators, we have specialized knowledge and academic understanding that we need to be able to share in the ways we evaluate to be best for our classrooms. We also need a strong, well-funded public education system—pre-K to high school—that will support learners in their next steps. Well educated citizens support a healthy economy and the well-being of society. We also have an obligation to safeguard the communities that created and support Selkirk College.

I am so grateful for the number of members who have reached out to me and shared both their concerns and their support during this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to connect with me or your school steward—the list of stewards can be found [here](#). If you would like to learn more about the Steward Committee, please let me know as there is strength in numbers, and we are happy to welcome any SCFA member to the committee.

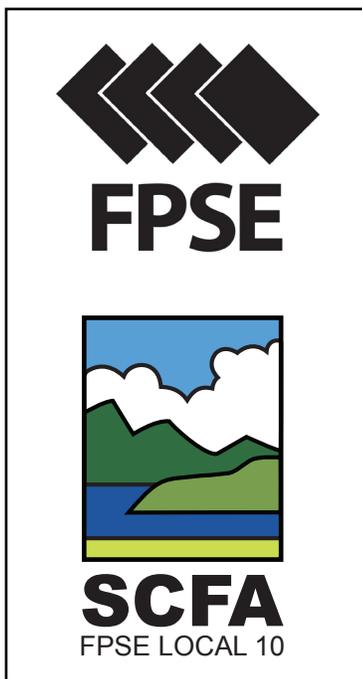
Here is a link to the [Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia \(CUFA BC\)](#) which is a central hub for raising and addressing issues impacting our faculty association members. Lots of good information.

Take care,

Shannon Shah
Chief Steward SCFA



VP NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE: BARGAINING STARTS OCT. 6



This year's bargaining team will begin negotiations on our collective agreement the week of October 6th. A bargaining package has been put together using the results of the bargaining survey completed by over 100 members last academic year. It was also influenced by issues that arose in contract administration, past bargaining goals, and provincial discussions with the Bargaining Coordination Committee. The key themes of the package focus on workload, wages, benefits, and job security.

The final package was reviewed at various stages of the process by our FPSE staff rep, Monica Staff, and the FPSE Faculty Bargaining Coordinator, Robin Wylie. This year's bargaining team consists of Takaia Larsen,

Pablo Pastor, Leesa Dean, Shannon Shah, and me. We are excited to get to the table and open discussions with the employer. The first week of negotiations will focus on non-monetary items.

Please remember to show support to other unions (e.g., BCGEU) engaged in job action in response to reaching an impasse in their negotiations over monetary items. Any strides they make will have a meaningful impact in negotiations for the rest of the public sector.

If you have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks, Jonathan

LEARNING FROM THE AUNTIES OF DRISC

Danica Weager here, one half of the representation from Selkirk for the Decolonization, Reconciliation, and Indigenization Standing Committee. It is an honour to be appointed to this role shared with my wonderful colleague, Melissa Dorey. This August I had the pleasure of attending my first DRISC meeting in person at the FPSE office on the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

In preparing for this meeting, I was able to chat with Elizabeth Ferguson to seek advice ahead of time. She shared beautiful words of encouragement and wisdom to help me get started with DRISC in a good way. She shared that this year is about being a good listener at the table, but to not be “too quiet.” I took this advice to heart and was welcomed with open arms by the DRISC committee. The impact our sister Elizabeth Fer-

guson has made and the positive ripple effect she has had on the post-secondary landscape was clear right away. It warmed my heart, and it made



Danica Weager, Sheree Ronaasen, and Sharon McIvor

me feel like I’ve known the committee members for years. It felt really good to honour Elizabeth in this way and her presence and good energy was definitely felt in the meeting.

We hope to do her proud!

It was a huge gift to sit at the table with the strong members of this committee. The collective knowledge of this group is remarkable and it feels exciting to be doing this good work. I look forward to sharing more about the anti-racism workshop that DRISC has been working on and updates to shared governance work.

I learned about one of the early projects of DRISC: [Whose Land Is It Anyway? A Manual for Decolonization](#). Whose Land Is It Anyway? A Manual for Decolonization provides a variety of Indigenous perspectives on the history of colonialism, current Indigenous activism and resistance, and outlines the path forward to reconciliation.” Perhaps you will find this helpful in your work.

All my relations,

Danica

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: THIS YEAR'S SCOPE AWARD WINNERS

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, **Kailey Allan**, **Rebecca Deane**, **Pablo Pastor**, and **John Tucker** were awarded this year's honors.

There will be a **SCOPE celebration** following the Fall GM on Thursday, October 23rd at the Confluence Room in the Castlegar Visitor's Centre. The event will be catered by Chef's Choice and beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!



Kailey Allan

A core member of the Digital Fabrication program in Trail as well as an employee of the Selkirk Technology Access Centre, **Kailey** has worked relentlessly to help build the DFAB program from the ground up. She is much loved by students and faculty alike and goes above and beyond both in her teaching and by securing grants and funding for the program in ways that result in an innovative, exceptional student experience.



Rebecca Deane

As a long-time faculty member in the Early Childhood Education program, **Rebecca** (Becky) is well known for her intentional use of diverse teaching strategies and learning modalities. Whether through interactive discussions, project-based learning, multimedia resources, or one-on-one mentorship, she thoughtfully adapts her methods to maximize each student's potential. Her patience and dedication are evident in every interaction, and students consistently remark on how deeply they feel cared for and understood.



Pablo Pastor

Pablo has been an exceptional contributor to college life across an impressive array of schools and departments: International Education, UAS, Peace & Conflict Studies and RPM. He has been involved in numerous projects and task forces including Courageous Dialogues, academic integrity, and artificial intelligence. He shows passion and commitment in everything he does, whether it's innovative teaching, policy development, union work, or championing equity, diversity and inclusion. He plays valuable roles on the Mir Advisory Council and the SCFA executive.



John Tucker

Colleagues describe **John's** dedication to Selkirk College and his students as "truly exceptional." Faculty and students appreciate his kindness, empathy, professionalism, and his deep knowledge about music production, recording, and the industry as a whole. His innovative approach to program management has led to new courses being offered and the adoption of cutting-edge technologies, ensuring that the college remains at the forefront of music education.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS - EVENTS - MOVERS - SHAKERS

- » Save the date: the **SCFA's Fall General Meeting** will take place on **Thursday, October 23rd** at the Confluence Room at the Castlegar Visitor's Centre from 4-6 PM. It will be followed by the annual SCOPE Awards Ceremony, catered again this year by Chef's Choice. Join us in raising a glass to this year's winners, Kailey Allen, Becky Deane, Pablo Pastor and John Tucker.
- » The first **Lunch Club** event of the year will take place on Thursday, October 3rd, in SEN-220 (12-1 PM). Lunch Club offers the opportunity to connect with colleagues across disciplines. This month, we will also be compiling a list of questions from members that we will then take to the in-person Presidential Town Hall on October 10th in the Staff Lounge. If you cannot attend the Town Hall and would like to ask the President questions, you can email them to ldean@selkirk.ca.

- » Do you want an **SCFA T-shirt** but didn't order one in the spring? Good news: we have about ten extras in a variety of colors and sizes. Email Leesa Dean at ldean@selkirk.ca if you'd like to drop by and grab one.

Did you know that one of member Renee Harper's poems will be travelling all over the Lower Mainland on buses as part of the **Poetry in Transit** program? A collection of bus cards featuring the poetry selections are produced and placed on transit vehicles across the province for riders to discover on their daily commutes. Transit shelter ads are also placed around Vancouver during the launch month of September. Each bus card and transit shelter ad features the cover art of the book in which the selected poem was first published.



» **Zen Wang**, Digital Arts Instructor, built a sand sculpture this summer as part of a masterclass organized by the Castlegar Sculpture Walk.

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Shannon Shah
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Jonathan Vanderhoek
VP Negotiations

Leesa Dean
VP Member Engagement

Kim Verigin
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Pablo Pastor
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Jessica Adrian
Retirement Issues Officer

On Stream

is the official newsletter of the SCFA, keeping members informed and connected. Whether you're new or a longtime member, this is your space to stay engaged.

Published monthly, we welcome submissions from all members—share your stories, photos, ideas, and achievements.

Submit your ideas to:

Leesa Dean, Editor
ldean@selkirk.ca

