



2012-2013  
Annual Report



# Intro

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## About the Society

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) is a non-profit organization that represents every undergraduate student at SFU. All undergraduate students are automatically members of the society and pay an activity fee. The SFSS is mandated to coordinate and promote all activities for undergraduate students. In pursuing its mandate, the SFSS offers a variety of services such as the Women's Centre, Out On Campus, the Copy Centre, funding for clubs and departmental student unions, the Ombuds Office, Food Bank Pilot Program, events, Clubs Days, a bursary program, the Legal Aid Clinic, as well as providing employment for students.



# 2013-2014 Board of Directors



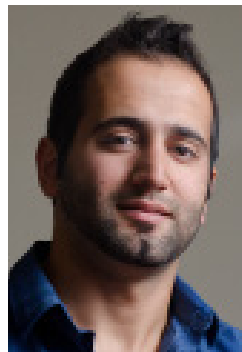
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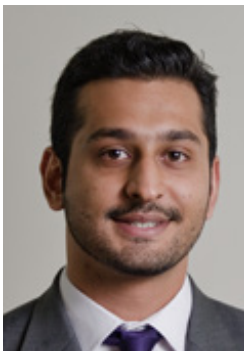
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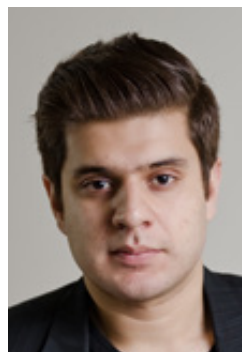
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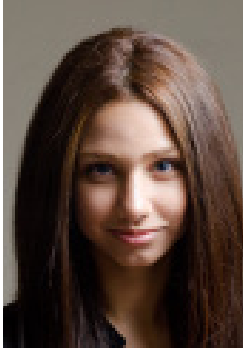


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# 2013-2014 Board of Directors



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# SFSS Projects

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## Collective Bargaining

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide all SFSS members and staff with an update on collective bargaining between the SFSS and CUPE 3338-3. On July 29th, 2013 the SFSS – as the employer – notified the Union, CUPE 3338-1 of their intention to begin bargaining a renewal of the 2007-2010 Collective Agreement after over 3 years of its expiry. The initial letter included suggested bargaining protocols. On October 2nd both parties met and signed off on the protocol agreement. No proposals were exchanged but the employer was requested to supply a variety of documents which have since been forwarded to the Union. If you are interested in knowing more, please follow the SFSS website ([www.sfss.ca](http://www.sfss.ca)) where regular bargaining bulletins will be posted.

## Hi FIVE

The Hi FIVE Movement is a campaign aimed towards creating conversations surrounding mental health issues. FIVE stands for Friendship, Invite conversation, Value everyone's gift and Eliminate stigma. This partnership between Health and Counseling Services and the SFSS Advocacy and Accessibility Fund Advisory Committees has produced, to date, a video that launches the traveling diary portion of the campaign, a growing social media presence through the hashtag #SFUOpensUp and a large team of committed volunteers who have been organized into various Hi FIVE committees. Coordinated by Dhylan Verzosa (SFSS) and Vivien Low (HCS), Hi FIVE's future goals include creating a proposal for an SFU policy on mental health, developing more social media campaigns, creating safe spaces on campus through outreaches and events, hosting a Stand Up for Mental Health Comedy Show at SFU, and conducting an arts-oriented mental health outreach in Convocation Mall.

## SFSS Food Bank Pilot Program

The SFSS Food Bank Pilot Program was developed by the SFSS Food Bank Working Group throughout the summer months, and was launched on October 1, 2013. 170 Food Certificates to Nesters, valued at \$25 per visit, will be distributed by the SFSS General Office to undergraduate students who have registered through the SFSS website ([sfss.ca/foodbank](http://sfss.ca/foodbank)). For the duration of the SFSS Food Bank Pilot Program, food distribution will still be maintained by SFU Student Services. The SFSS is committed to addressing student hunger by launching

this alternative program that addresses immediate need. If successful, we hope to expand this food certificate model by creating more opportunities for community-building and education.

## Events Committee

Since October 2012, SFSS Events Committee has increased its activities by hosting and supporting a wide variety of events. These events and activities include:

- Clubs nights at The Highland featuring international DJs/producers TyDi and Blau
- Pub nights for Halloween, Christmas PJ party, Summer Day and Night Patio party, Oktoberfest etc
- SFU's Got Talent
- Sponsoring TEDxSFU
- Supporting SFU's Terry Fox Run and 50th Anniversary Campaign Launch
- Supporting Week of Welcome and Clubs Days Week activities
- Bringing back the iconic Pancake Breakfast and Free BBQs.

## Granting Committee

The SFSS Granting Committee reviews grant requests over \$500 for registered clubs and requests over \$1000 for department student unions. Examples of events that the committee reviews include the Pakistani Student Association's Culture Night, Unicef SFU's Walk for Water, and numerous Frosh events.

There are currently 43 officially recognized faculty/departmental student unions that are declared active. The annual budget for DSU granting funding is \$55,000 for the 2013/2014 fiscal year. Out of this, \$26,072.02 total grant funding has been approved by the Student Union Organizer and the Granting Committee (as of October 8 2013), leaving \$28,927.98 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

For clubs, approximately \$10,000 out of the \$31,000 budget for the Fall 2013 semester has been approved by the General Office Coordinators and the Granting Committee.

Additionally, this year the Granting Committee collaborated with the marketing team for the SFSS Fall Kick-off Concert to create a strategy approving tickets in-kind as a proportion of a given grant. There were 2 options devised by the committee that were available, and this mutually benefited both parties by promoting



# SFSS Projects

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the concert while enabling the success of events organized by our membership. Several DSUs and one club took advantage of this opportunity; the marketing team kept in close contact with each group to ensure open channels of communication should there be any difficulties in selling tickets. No problems arose.

## New Hires

Several new employees were hired by the Student Society during the last year. In order to offset the financial deficit,

there was a change in management for the SFSS Food and Beverage Services which was further supported by a new admin assistant. A Campaigns, Research and Policy Coordinator was hired to work with the Board towards continually strengthening internal policies and procedures along with supporting large-scale campaigns of the Board. A new part-time student position of Communications Assistant – Social Media was created to better support, engage and communicate with the membership and their activities; so far the results have been very positive with an increase of over 40% in our audiences across various Social Media channels.

## Fall Kickoff Concert

On September 13th, 2013, the Simon Fraser Student Society successfully hosted its first Fall Kickoff Concert featuring the likes of international DJs/producers such as Mat Zo, Dzeko & Torres and Carl Louis and Martin Danielle. The concert was attended by over 1800 SFU students and friends.



# Treasurer's Report

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## Treasurer's Responsibilities

The Treasurer's responsibilities are to ensure that all Society funds are deposited in an appropriate account and to keep careful account and be responsible for all monies received and disbursed by or on behalf of the Society as per bylaw 4(5).

## Food and Beverage Services (FBS)

These are the SFSS's commercial activities that include The Ladle, Higher Grounds coffee shop, and the Highland Pub. In the 2012-2013 year, FBS lost a total of \$425,335. This cannot be attributed to any one commercial service alone. It is difficult to separate how much time is spent by management and other employees on each service.

A portion of this loss includes a payout that was made to the Ex-General manager; however, majority of the costs are attributed to direct expenses incurred by the FBS. FBS also provides more than 50 student jobs at higher wages than industry average, which is one of the services offered to our students.

For the current fiscal year, 2013 – 2014, FBS is budgeted to incur a deficit of \$150,000, which is significantly lower than the previous year's deficit. According to the year to date financials, FBS is doing much better as compared to the previous years. Current year's financials are significantly better due to better management skills of the new FBS General Manager.

## Unrestricted Equity

As of April 30, 2013, the operating fund has a balance of \$426,803 in the unrestricted fund balance (otherwise known as the members' equity in for-profit organizations). An increase of \$126,723 was made to the unrestricted fund balance in the fiscal year ended April 30, 2013. The year ended April 30, 2011 had nothing in the unrestricted fund balance therefore; this is a significant improvement from prior years. The auditors have recommended that an unrestricted fund balance be at a minimum, equal to the cost of three to six months of operating expenditures. The SFSS is working towards securing sufficient amount in the unrestricted fund to stay operational for a period of three to six months even if the most disastrous event takes place.

## Budget Review Process

A monthly budget reviewing system was introduced at the beginning of the current fiscal year. This system allows every department of the SFSS to submit monthly financial updates to the Treasurer. Having this internal control system in place ensures continued financial accountability of the entire SFSS departments.

## Build SFU Department

The Build SFU project is actively underway and has been assigned staff and financial resources to support the project's development. Four continuing staff members currently work in the department. In addition, Project Workers are hired to assist with outreach activities when required. The department is well within its operating budget for its first full fiscal year.

## Build SFU Project Costs

Perkins+Will have been retained to act as Prime Consultant and provide architectural services for the project. This year, \$362,500 has been allocated for their services related to site selection and space programming. In the coming year, funds will be allocated to allow the firm to proceed with the design development phase. Funds will also be allocated for engineers and other consultants to conduct their work over the coming year. Financing continues to be sought for the project in order for construction to begin in 2015 without delay.

## Build SFU Levy

The Build SFU levy will begin to be collected from undergraduate students in the spring semester of 2014. The levy will begin at \$10 per semester for full-time students. The SFSS is working with SFU Financial Aid and Awards to create a bursary which will allow students in financial need to apply for assistance in paying the levy.



# Treasurer's Report

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## Grants

For the fiscal year ended April 30, 2013 Departmental Student Unions were granted a total of \$118,473 as compared to \$57,423 in grants for the year ended April 30, 2012. Likewise, clubs were granted of a total of \$162,834 for the year ended April 30, 2013 as compared to \$106,393 for the year ended April 30, 2012. For the year, 2013-2014, the budgeted grants for Departmental Student Unions were increased to \$129,000 and the budgeted grants for clubs are \$152,000.

## Bursaries

SFSS awarded \$20,000 in bursaries for the year ended April 30, 2013, to the SFU undergraduate students.

## Space Expansion Fund (SEF)

AP-39-3: The Space Expansion Fund may only be spent on the renovation, operating expenditures, repair, maintenance and creation of student space on campus under the jurisdiction of the Simon Fraser Student Society. The SEF may not be used to pay for operational costs of running the services of the student society. As of April 30, 2013 the fund balance is \$3,582,864.

## Financial Administrative Services Committee (FASC)

### SFSS Fall Kickoff Concert

The fall kickoff concert was a successful event on the financial fore front. The total budget approved by the FASC and the Board was \$63,000. The total expenditures are expected to remain within \$60,000, with majority of the expenditures covered through ticket sales and sponsorships.

### Documentation

FASC has ensured that proper documentation procedure be followed when motions such as: budget increase, budget decrease or budget reallocations, are on the table. Additional documents, explaining the rationale of the motion are forwarded to the committee members at least 3 days prior to the meeting, in order to ensure that all the committee

## Looking Forward

The SFSS Board of Directors is currently looking to increase funding and revenues in future years:

- 3 new food court vendors will be added. This will increase the operating revenue by \$58,000 (approximately) annually in rental income for the society.
- Improve FBS operations and financials. Board of Directors is trying every effort to minimize the losses incurred by the FBS. The year ended April 30, 2014 is budgeted to have a deficit of \$150,000 as compared to the actual deficit of \$425,335 for the year ended April 30, 2013.

# Advocacy Report

The SFSS Advocacy Committee is a mechanism to advance the interests of SFU's undergraduate students. The committee meets every Monday at 11:30 am in MBC 2290 for the Fall Term. All students are invited to attend as guests, and any students who have ideas for advocacy campaigns should contact the committee chair at [ero@sfss.ca](mailto:ero@sfss.ca).

Here is a sample of what the committee has done over the last year.



**Simon Fraser Student Society**



## Financial Literacy Campaign

During the 2013/2014 year, students are able to attend free workshops about how to manage their finances from certified financial planners from the Financial Literacy Council. The FLC is a non-profit organization that aims to equip the average Canadian with skills to navigate a profit-driven financial industry. Attendance at these workshops allows students to have up to two free one on one consultations with a financial planner from the FLC. Sessions began in the summer, and will continue throughout the year. There will also be a free tax workshop held in the Spring Term. Sessions are upcoming on October 24 and 29. See [www.sfss.ca/advocacy](http://www.sfss.ca/advocacy) for more information and registration.

## Student Governance 101

There are many opportunities for students to become leaders and SFSS Advocacy Committee wants to let people know. These workshops aim to educate students about how to get involved in the SFSS, SFU Senate, and the SFU Board of Governors. The first workshop was held in September, and there is another upcoming on November 8. This initiative will continue into the Spring Term, preparing students for the SFSS, Senate, and Board of Governors elections. See <http://www.sfss.ca/events/sfss-general-event/student-governance-101> for registration.

## Government Relations

The SFSS Advocacy Committee has been actively representing the interests of SFU undergraduate students to the provincial government. A representative of the SFSS presented to the All Party Standing Committee on Government Finance, which makes recommendations on government spending. Issues presented on included expansion of the BC Open Textbook Program, improved transit funding, deferred maintenance, and the Build SFU project. Delegates of the committee attended the Summer Institute for Future Legislators program, where they learned about what the workings of government looked from the inside and networked with important figures in Canadian politics. In conjunction with other British Columbian student associations, delegates from the SFSS Advocacy Committee spent three days in Victoria in July 2013 meeting with various political leaders to discuss transit improvement, needs based up front grants, student loan reform, deferred maintenance, and funding cuts to post-secondary institutions.

# Advocacy Report

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## Women In Canadian Politics

SFSS Advocacy will be hosting an event aimed at increasing the number of women in Canadian politics at all levels through education about the unique challenges they will face. This event will be held in partnership with the Graduate Student Society, the SFU Women's Centre, and the Political Science Student Union. The event will take place on November 6th from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the SFSS Conference Rooms. Advocacy plans to expand this series in the Spring Term to address the barriers to entry into government other groups face.

## SFU Transit Improvement Campaign

SFU needs better transit to all of our campuses, and SFSS Advocacy has actively working at this by meeting with government officials as well as Translink in conjunction with the Graduate Student Society and Sustainable SFU. A larger campaign that will actively engage the larger student body is currently being developed and will be introduced soon. These efforts will build on the open dialogue on the Burnaby Mountain Gondola project established by the SFSS Advocacy "I Like It on Top" campaign.

## Deferred Maintenance

SFSS Advocacy has joined the Graduate Student Society in their campaign to urge the provincial government to address deferred maintenance issues at SFU. This campaign garnered a great deal of media attention. More information and links to media coverage are available at <http://sfss.ca/campaigns/deferred-maintenance>.

## Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The SFSS Advocacy Committee supports the Truth and Reconciliation commission. More information is available at <http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=3>.

## Collaborations

SFSS Advocacy is currently a partner in several ongoing initiatives. This includes being a partner in the Hi5 Mental Health Movement. The SFSS is also

a contributing member of Get on Board, a Lower Mainland pro-transit coalition and was a participant in Canstruction, an initiative in support of the Greater Vancouver Food Banks. SFSS Advocacy was also a partner in Out on Campus' participation in the Vancouver Pride Parade and is a sponsor of Out on Campus' Positive Space Network initiative.

## Course Ware Affordability

There are many ways students can save money on course ware such as text books and access codes. SFSS Advocacy Committee is currently devising a campaign to promote these savings. The SFSS also has a delegate that sits on the SFU Task Force for Textbook Affordability, and has encouraged the provincial government to expand the BC Open Textbook program.

## Election Awareness Event

SFSS Advocacy hosted an event on May 9, 2013 to encourage students to vote in the 2013 British Columbia Provincial Election. Over 400 bags of popcorn with voter information attached were handed out, and even more students stopped by the booth in Convocation Mall to get information.

# CPR Report

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The **Constitution and Policy Review Committee** is responsible for the policies, bylaws and constitution of the SFSS. The committee has met several times in the last year and has updated several policies. Examples include Standing Order 11 and AP 22 which changed the criteria to use money from the Accessibility Fund, and SO-18 which changed the composition of the Build SFU Student Advisory Committee.

The Constitution and Policy Review Committee is currently examining policies relating to anti-discrimination, anti-harrasment, and the situation of SFU campuses on traditional Coast Salish Territories.

# Build SFU Report

## What is Build SFU?

The Build SFU project is an initiative by the Simon Fraser Student Society dedicated to building a new student union building and stadium for SFU's Burnaby campus. In cooperation with Simon Fraser University, this \$65M project aims to redefine and enrich the student experience at SFU.

## Architect Selection and Think Tank Grand Opening

The Build SFU office was reopened in January 2013 to function as the project headquarters. Meanwhile, 16 architectural firms had submitted proposals to work on the project. The Building Committee narrowed the list to three firms and each gave a presentation to students. In February 2013, student feedback was collected which led to Perkins+Will being selected as architect for the project.

## Current Project Phase: Site Selection and Space Programming

Over the summer of 2013, the SFSS Board of Directors approved the investigation of three potential sites for the student union building. The architects spent the summer months investigating the sites and determining

how a new building could be integrated with the campus.

In September 2013, Build SFU launched its biggest outreach and consultation push to promote undergraduate student participation in the project. The Build SFU Street Team conducted a variety of outreach activities throughout all three campuses to engage and inform students about the project. Students were given opportunities to provide feedback by completing the Build SFU survey, attending focus groups with the architects, and participating in Community Update events. Using the information that students provided, a site will be chosen and a space program will be approved.

## The Build SFU Student Advisory Committee

In July 2013, the SFSS formed the Build SFU Student Advisory Committee (SAC). The committee provides feedback and recommendations on Build SFU plans for student consultation, communications and outreach. In the time since the inception of the SAC, the committee has reviewed the recent marketing campaign and helped develop the Build SFU survey which was sent out to the entire undergraduate student body. The SAC will continue to brainstorm future public relations campaigns to keep presenting Build SFU in a positive light in the face of upcoming levies.





# Build SFU Report



## Upcoming Project Phases: Architectural Design Development, Construction, Move-in and Grand Opening

From spring 2014 to 2015, the architects will use the information collected from students in the site selection and programming phase to design the best student union building for SFU. In architectural language, the phase includes schematic design and the creation of working drawings. The architects will present draft documents throughout this phase to receive feedback and ensure that they are on the right track.

Construction will begin in 2015. Depending on the site that is selected, the length of construction could vary from approximately 20 to 24 months.

Project completion is estimated for fall 2017. Furniture will be installed, occupants will be moved in, and we will celebrate with a grand opening!

# Women's Centre Report

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The Women's Centre continues working to build leadership, trust, commitment and hope in students from all walks of life for the purpose of building a just and equality-seeking community on Burnaby Mountain and beyond. In our 2011/2012 report we continued to answer the question *"How can we continue to work in partnership with the undergraduate and graduate bodies and those allied in service to Community support and leadership across the SFU Campuses?"* The following report is just a small snapshot of our activities due to AGM report space constraints. The Women's Centre wishes to thank the Board and various Departments and workers of the SFSS as well as the Graduate Student Society for funding and supporting our work. We also acknowledge the partnerships we have with various members of the Administration, SFPIRG, FNSA, and CJSF and off campus community partnerships and alliances across Canada. We continue to expand our work with volunteers of all genders and partner to hold different events in our all genders Office and Library where much of our work gets done. Working with the GSS, Residence, Orientation and our Rotunda neighbours was a particular highlight as the Centre Collective directed a more event-based presence for the Centre as well as in-house support of our Centre users.

## September 2012

Clubs Days outreach and connection with students but also the Centre was part of a BC pro-choice response to a proposed motion 312 that was subsequently defeated in Parliament. This continued the work that had been done off the hill in May 2012 successfully protesting anti-choice co-optation of the strategy of the pro-choice Abortion Caravan which many SFU Alumni were part of in May 1970.

## October 2012

Women's History Month: Open House as well as Celebrated Oct 9th, 1969 which was the 44th Anniversary of The Peak putting the first known ad in Canada for helping women needing choice in the event of unplanned pregnancy. We had a huge display that was also part of our Open House. We led right into a cooking class with one of our grad student allies Colin Francis as well a Gender and Gaming event downtown at Harbour Centre with professors, students and folks in the industry on labour issues and gender support with a solid turnout. We also did a Halloween dinner/social event for Student Parents that was extremely successful. We were completely honored by the turn out and the trust- we had about 17 parental units and 25 kids. Thanks to the Graduate Student Society, and our Rotunda neighbours: the First Nations Student Association and Mona Lisa Delva from the African Caribbean Students Association

## November 2012

We started knitting in Surrey, the term revival of the all genders Sexual Assault Support Centre Working group. The First Nations Students' Association partnered with us again to do "Red Reasoning at the Kitchen Table: Indigenous Women's Resilience at Harbour Centre timely with the Murdered and Missing Women's Inquiry.

## January 2013

We worked with SFPIRG to jointly host an Anti-Oppression workshop for volunteer training. Our work-study also started a radio show called Intravenus at CJSF on Wednesday evenings. Tabling and connecting with students directly was a priority.

## March 2013

IWD had community partnerships- Pancake Breakfast in support of the Social Housing Now coalition (Burnaby) as well as in Surrey. To support our working group we also had the Sexual Assault Support Services at the AMS to discuss their work at UBC working with all genders. We had a spectacular event again with Student parents jointly with the GSS and this had a discussion component that was recorded by Graphic Facilitation of Sam Bradd. There was also an event highlighting the many changes in Canadian policy by the current Federal Administration by helping mount the Harper Monologues. We also had a Women and Law event at Harbour Centre welcoming women and their families to discuss that career choice. We had Janice Walton from Blakes, Cassels and Graydon, Barbara Buckman independent solicitor and SFU alumni Karen Ameyaw from Twining, Short and Haakonson. We also supported the gardening community (Bby) with Sustainable SFU for a packed evening event with the SFU community featuring Cease Wyss – an indigenous plant diva. The Centre Collective also attended the Annual West Coast Leaf Equality Breakfast and joined that legal organization's membership in recognition of the large number of students we serve who are aimed for Law School.

## April 2013

The Women's Centre was out in full force on April 9 + 10th supporting students counter the GAP display of horrific images. Through two days of petitioning and creating safe space for students, the centre was able to gauge respond to the images through many letters sent into the SFU Administration as well as the SFSS. It was clear that even for students who do not believe in abortion as an option



# Women's Centre Report



for themselves - those images did not represent them. They joined in giving the student body a bank of 1,100 signatures in just a few hours of petitioning on both days. Of great concern was the timing of the anti-choice event at a stressful time and the effect on the children of the SFU Childcare Centre that is an integral part of our SFU community. This information was communicated to the SFSS Board and the SFU Administration. We also helped sponsor the Idle No More Event on campus lead by the First Nations Student Association. The Coordinator represented the Centre in one of the Women Transforming Cities' Cafes in East Vancouver discussing the issue of paid and unpaid work for women within the context of policies and communities. We hosted a community dinner for a visiting University of Toronto graduate student activist at Tamam and wrapped the year with a Book Buy and resource purchase for the Women's Centre.

## Summer 2013

The Centre did two major workshops for volunteer development aimed for deepening analysis on how decision-making and trans-inclusion. We also had 3 student representatives present at the Summer Institute for Future Legislators at the University of British Columbia. We also hired and welcomed Natasha Kay-Sanders to fill the Resource Assistant position which had been vacant for 2 years. The Sexual Assault Support Centre working group developed a solid Strategic Plan for the dream of an all genders space in 2015.

## September 2013

A massive successful Orientation with the wonderful support of the Orientation team of Brian Fox, Lea Silver and Stacey O'Brien made for a solid return rate of new students. It's been observed that it has been an extremely large number

of high school student enrollments this year. The Women's Centre volunteers were also present for the Annual March for Women's Housing in the DTES, as well as the Truth and Reconciliation process. The Centre did a number of volunteer orientations for new volunteers to get started with community work that we do. We also delivered a workshop to the Gardening community on Winter Gardening. We also delivered our bounty of summer vegetables grown by our lead volunteer Debbie Le to the Downtown East Side Women's Centre community kitchen that serves over 200 women a day.

## Oct 2013

The Women's Centre was an endorser and supporter of an anti-Oppression workshop, a community building workshop and disability justice talk with Mia Mingus organized by our Rotunda neighbour: the Simon Fraser Public Interest Group. This provided volunteer training opportunities for our new volunteer group, which continues to include our supporters of all genders.

The Centre continues to grow with student usage and requests from off the hill for support. SFU Women's Centre work-study students, Collective members, general volunteers and centre users have been represented regularly at Forum, Advocacy, (all genders) Sexual Assault Support Centre Working Group and on the working group for the Food Bank which sadly as of Oct 2013 has been dismantled and replaced with a certificate program. The staff would not be able to do all the work without the amazing help of so many volunteers of all genders. The university at large is lucky to have such dedicated students as part of our community! We continue to work towards upholding the 5 point principles of our Pro-Choice, Anti-Racist, Sex-Positive, Pro-Feminist and Trans- and intersex inclusive mandate which is a work in progress. Our Facebook and website is always available for updates!

