

VIUFA Local 8 Status of Women Report - Joy Gugeler April 11, 2019

I have continued the work of Melissa Stephens, your elected SWC rep, as of January this year when she went on maternity leave, so she deserves full credit for more than half of what follows by way of reporting on events up to and including the Women's March.

In November I began work with her and reps from the following women's groups across the city: VIUSU, CUPE Local 1858, the Faculty of International Education, and Sexual Conduct Education and Response Steering Committee (SCERSC), Haven Society, Nanaimo Women's Centre, Nanaimo Family Life Association, Nanaimo Pride Society, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island, Canadian Federation of University Women, and the Zonta Club who constitute the Nanaimo Women's Action Committee.

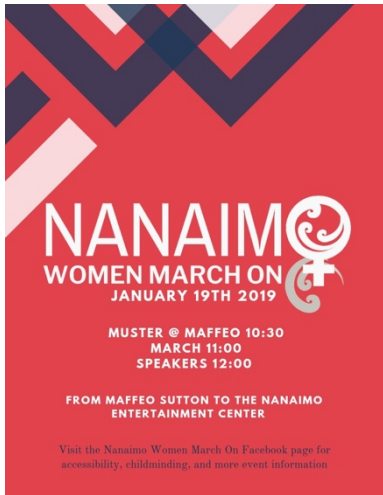


16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Nov 25-Dec 10, 2018

- 16 campus buildings and public spaces related to this topic were marked on a campus map and a poster to invite people to visit displays and become acquainted with their services.
- A curated film series featured *The Hunting Ground*, *Tough Guise 2: Violence, Manhood, and American Culture*, *Missrepresentation*, *Frida*; and *Highway of Tears*.
- **Why I Didn't Report Panel Nov 27 5:30-7:30**
Panelists included Jamie Lee Hamilton, activist for sex workers and Indigenous communities, and reps from West Coast LEAF and Haven Society.

- **Rise Up! An Evening of Art, Activism & Education Dec 3rd 7-9pm**
inspiring female literary performers read fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's works to celebrate women's voices saying "No!" to misogyny, "Yes!" to reporting in the #metoo movement, and "Let's make change" for all those who can't wait any longer.
- **December 6 Vigil 1pm Jardin de Quatorze** honoured the 14 women killed on this day at Ecole Polytechnique in 1989 by Marc Lepine and all others who have experienced violence.
- **Stitch and Bitch Dec 6 2:00- 5:00pm** featured an embroidery circle after the vigil.
- **The Clothesline Project** was hung in front of the main cafeteria as part of the **Nanaimo Airs Its Dirty Laundry** campaign protesting violence against women. Clothing sported slogans demanding action against physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and violence.

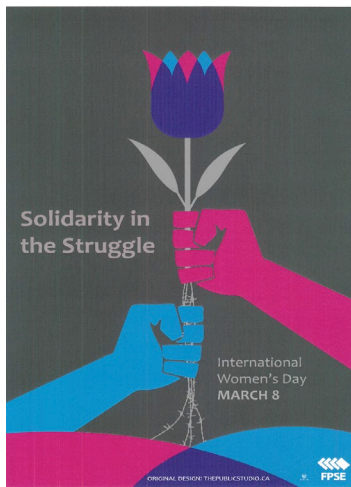
- **Red Dress Campaign** hung red dresses in trees across the campus to remind viewers of the women killed on the Highway of Tears and others who have died.



Nanaimo Women March On Jan 19, 2019 Nanaimo's 3rd annual women's rights demonstration marched in solidarity with others across the globe for transformative social change in non-violent resistance to gender-based violence, racism, homophobia, ageism, poverty, environmental degradation, and a multitude of other issues at the intersection of women's lives. Women marched from Maffeo Sutton park to the Nanaimo Entertainment Centre.

Speakers were from Lifeline, VIU Disability Rights, Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society, Women's Centre, Haven, and Generation Q featuring Eva Manley, Tracy Myers, Tami Nutting, Joan Ryan, sb smith, Lesley Anne Clarke, Justice Chalifoux, Sonnet L'Abbe, Kyrsten April, Sue Averill, Rim Shin, and Lauren Semple.

International Women's Day March 8, 2019



This year, VIU's SWC decided to mark the theme **#BalanceforBetter** by supporting our Duncan campus with promotion of 6 weeks of readings, films, and music including:

Take to the streets: for a rally March 9th as part of the Cowichan Valley IWD festival that ran until March 30th.
www.CowichanValleyIWD.com

Take to giving: The SWC donated to Nanaimo Women's Centre www.nanaimowomen.com to help women experiencing or fleeing gender-based violence, and to international women new to our city by giving to the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society <https://www.cvims.org/>

Take in a play: *Love Loss & What I Wore* March 6-9 at *Harbour City Theatre* 7:30 a show about mothers, sisters, struggle and laughter that is sad, funny, and thought-provoking. Tickets support the Women's Centre <http://www.hcta.ca>

Take in a lecture: Zonta hosted a Yellow Rose Luncheon at the Coast Bastian Friday March 8 featuring "Waisted Efforts," a lecture that drew parallels between women's emancipation from restricting clothing in the 20th century and their social and political gains during the period.
<https://squareup.com/store/zonta-club-of-nanaimo>

Looking Ahead: As the VIUFA SWC rep I will attend the FPSE AGM in Kelowna in mid-May if reelected and I continue to be grateful to my union brothers and sisters for their stalwart and inspiring feminism, collaborative spirit, energy, and dedication. Bottomless thanks to VIUFA's Executive for their guidance and sage advice and to all of you for your stalwart support.