



## **VIUFA 2023 AGM Report Status of Women Committee: Eliza Gardiner**

Thanks so much to our committee members: Joy Gugeler, Katharine Rollwagen, Naomi Bailey and Nancy Chutka. KJ Reed and Kathleen Bortolin also attended meetings and assisted at events. It has been a pleasure to work with these members, and the many faculty, staff and student volunteers who helped out with various initiatives.

Thanks to our VIUFA Exec, and to our staff, Neil McLeod and Laura Buechler, for all their expertise and support.

As Chair, I took part in our Exec meetings, participated in deliberations on our Union Activism Fund implementations and applications, assisted a colleague with her application to FPSE's International Solidarity Fund (Hope for Youth project), maintained our SWC Facebook page (which now rests under the main VIUFA account), and coordinated multiple campaigns and activities.

At the outset of the year, I envisioned undertaking more research activism in equity topics, for example doing data analysis to identify the status of gender inequity at VIU and in the broader BC sector. However, events coordination duties quickly superseded this goal; as the member and community outreach aspect of this position is key, events management tasks ended up being the focus of this position in 2022/23.

### **Key events:**

Nov 4-5

- FPSE WGE Committee meeting in Vancouver
- Action item: ordered trans flags for all WAGE committees at our FPSE locals
- VIUFA now has 4 trans flags, to be used at events and distributed to campuses

Nov 20

- Trans Day of Remembrance in partnership with PSA, VIUSU and Thrive

Nov 22

- Club Q Shooting Memorial, upper quad vigil after tragic event in Colorado Springs

Nov 25

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Canadian Federation of University Women organized Nanaimo 'Light Up the Bastion'

Dec 6

- hosted lunch-hour vigil in recognition of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, as part of our ongoing work to support 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence
  - o CBC interview; well-attended with upwards of 75 guests at Malaspina Theatre lobby
  - o featuring poems, prayers, and calls to actions from student readers Tobi Omotola (MS student from Nigeria), Bella Hoodle (CREW poet), Susan Garcia (Indigenous CREW student) and Tammi Carto (CREW student)
  
- hosted panel presentation, in commemoration of The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, focused on the theme of "Women in Non-Traditional Occupations"
  - o not so well attended...with only a half dozen attendees...this was in a bad weather week
  - o incredible guest speakers including:
    - Traditional Welcome by VIU Elder Auntie Stella
    - Musical Intro: by student Daniela Guevara singing "Cancion sin Miedo" about the disappeared due to domestic abuse in Mexico
    - Naomi Bailey – on women in politics
    - Marika Grabowski – on non-traditional workplace roles/stats/experiences in trades
    - KJ Reed – on experiences in scuba diving as a non-binary person
    - Anisha Das – VIU MBA student on women in business
    - Alana Mittertreiner and Emma McCullough – on women in mechanics
    - Talea Manson – on experience with spirituality and non-binary
    - VIUSU Cole Reinhold and VIUFA Joy Gugeler, moderators

Feb 14

- VIUSU Consent Fair featuring info booth and dramatic play reading of *Fear of Missing Out*

Mar 8

- International Women's Day
  - o Lunch-hour gathering featuring poetry, presentations, and calls to action by guest speakers, plus dramatic play reading of *Fear of Missing Out* by the Inclusive Theatre Collective
  - o Evening event at VIU Mariner's women's volleyball national championships tournament
    - Partnership with VIUSU, Thrive and THEA 108 class...we handed out 500 white carnations to the women and girls attending the opening game

Mar 31

- Trans Visibility Day, creative showcase event in partnership with Positive Space Alliance

Prospective May/June events: Red Dress Day, Pride Parade

### Highlights:

My focus this year was on partnerships within VIU, and it was such a pleasure to work with our VIU Student Union reps, VIU Thrive team, and Positive Space Alliance.


A major highlight was working with VIU's Sexualized Violence, Training, Education & Prevention (STEP) committee, which was extremely collegial and regarding and educational.


Reconnecting and re-establishing partnerships with off-campus groups and organizations could be the focus for next year. Groups like Nanaimo Family Life, CFUW, Haven Society and Pride Nanaimo are wonderful partners for the work that this committee does for its VIUFA members and profile at VIU. Outreach into the larger regional community is important to ongoing advocacy that connect with and enhances union membership and mandate.

National Day of  
Remembrance and Action on  
Violence Against Women

🌀 Lunch Hour Vigil 🌀

Join us for poems, prayers, and calls to action  
December 6, 12 - 1 pm  
Malaspina Theatre Lobby  
(Building 310)  
Hosted by the VIUFA  
Status of Women  
Committee





National Day of  
Remembrance and Action  
on Violence Against Women

🌀 Panel Presentation 🌀

Join us for a discussion about women in  
non-traditional occupations, and the challenges  
and misperceptions we've overcome.



December 6, 6:30 - 8 pm  
Malaspina Theatre Lobby  
(Building 310)  
Hosted by the VIUFA Status of Women Committee