

WAGE Committee Updates, 2025 March 19

Submitted by Melissa Stephens, WAGE Committee Chair

Recent Events:

International Women's Day:

"Seeding Revolution: Feminist Organizing Against Fascism"



"Seeding Revolution" panelists (L-R): Professors Finn Meyer Cook, Sarah Lovegrove, Imogene Lim, and Collette Jones

VIUFA's Women's and Gender Equity Committee hosted **"Seeding Revolution: Feminist Organizing Against Fascism,"** an International Women's Day event on March 7. The room was "standing room only", as it filled with faculty, students, staff, community leaders and organizers, politicians, citizens. We gathered to address attacks on **diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility** initiatives and programs in the United States, Canada, and beyond, and to consider its fascist features. Thank you to **Knowledge holder Aunty Stella Johnson** welcomed us to the land and event and provided prayer.

Faculty panelists Professors **Collette Jones** (Studies in Women and Gender), **Imogene Lim** (Anthropology and Global Studies, Emeritus), **Finn Meyer Cook** (Social Studies), and **Sarah Lovegrove** (Nursing) addressed three key questions:

- **how does feminism inform teaching, research, and activism?**
- **What are the concerning trends in attacks on DEIA?**
- **What tactics/strategies can defend and protect DEIA-centered research, teaching, activism, and community-building?**

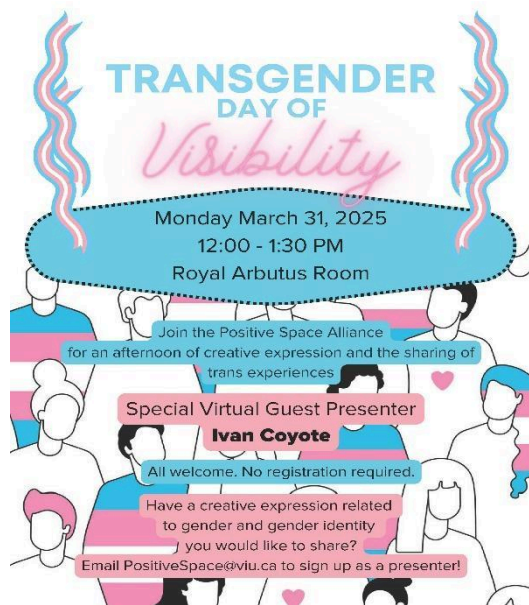
Panelists spoke from expertise and lived experience. Professor **Sonnet L'Abbe** (Creative Writing and Journalism and English) provided memorable music. This gathering was more meaningful with representation from [Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society](#), [Literacy Central Vancouver Island](#), [VIU Harm Reduction Alliance](#), [Thrive - VIU Health and Wellness](#), VIU Positive Space Alliance, and VIU Muslim Women's Club. Bannock was prepared by **Caroline Webster**. We shared wildflower seeds from **Westcoast Seeds** to encourage everyone to seed their own revolutionary love, and to encourage pollinators as we move into the Spring. We purchased carnations from **Ladybug floral**, a Nanaimo florist owned by women and run by family.

May we continue to grow loving communities, where we center diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and where we demand that fascism has no place now or in our future.

For images of the event, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/VIUStatusOfWomen/>

Upcoming Events:

Monday, March 31: Transgender Day of Visibility
Royal Arbutus Room (Nanaimo Campus), 12 pm-1:30 pm



Positive Space Alliance is hosting an event for **Transgender Day of Visibility**. Virtual attendance will be possible. The event will feature Canadian writer and performer **Ivan Coyote**, who will be joining the event virtually. Members of the VIU community can

register in advance by emailing PositiveSpace@viu.ca to take part in a creative open mic portion of the event.

Thursday, March 28: Sign-making for Take Back the Night

Building 355 Room 211 (VIU Nanaimo), 11 am-1pm

VIUFA's Women's and Gender Equity Committee and **VIU Thrive, Health & Wellness** are teaming up to host a sign-making session in anticipation of **Haven Society's** march to recognize **Take Back the Night**, a longstanding international movement calling for an end to sexualized and domestic violence. Organizers will supply markers, poster boards, some resources, beverages, and candies. Stay tuned for the poster.

Wednesday, April 2: Take Back the Night March



Meet at Beban Park to march, 5 pm-7pm

Haven Society is hosting a march in support of **Take Back the Night**, a longstanding movement to end sexualized and domestic violence. This march will begin at Beban Park and finish at Haven Society Community Services building. The event will include guest speaker **Tracy Myers**. **For more information, visit: havensociety.com/TBTN**

