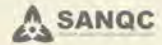


Different is Good

Venture into the Valley

AMICCUS-C Western Regional Conference
Chilliwack, BC November 4-6, 2024



Welcome to the AMICCUS-C Western Regional Conference in beautiful Chilliwack!

We're thrilled you've arrived and are excited to kick off a few impactful days of learning, connecting, and collaboration.

Here are some quick details to help you settle in:

1. **Whatsapp Community Chat:** Chat with other participants. Use the QR code below.
2. **QR codes:** on this sheet will give you quick access to resources we think you will find helpful.
3. **Opening Gathering:** Join us for a relaxed welcome gathering at 5:30 pm at the **Brick Layer Brewing (46126 #101 Yale Rd)**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow attendees.
4. **Conference Agenda:** Attached is the full agenda, including session descriptions, speaker details, and event timings.

We're here to make your experience as seamless and enjoyable as possible. If you need anything or have questions during the event, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

We hope you enjoy all that Chilliwack and this conference have to offer!

Best regards,

Olivia Lake de Meza
(604) 715 -8149
execdir@ufvsus.ca

Cherie Sawaryn
(780) 221-2437
cherie.sawaryn@norquest.ca



Western RPC Website



Whatsapp Chat



Tourism Chilliwack



Bricklayer Brewing

Sponsors



sean.monteiro

STUDENTCARE

gallivan
student health & wellness



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B O U N C E

Block Schedule

	Nov.4	Nov.5	Nov.6	Nov.7		
8:30 AM		Breakfast	Breakfast	Check-out & Departures		
9:30 AM		Conversation Rachael Segal Founder, Beyond a Ballot Commentator, CBC's Power and Politics <i>Rosedale Room</i>	Real Conversations about Occupational Risks of Working with Students Dr. Kyle Baillie UFV Associate VP, Students <i>Rosedale Room</i>			
10:30 AM		Break	Break			
11:00 AM		Session: Safe or Brave Spaces: What Should I Build? Tahnja Getson <i>Rosedale Room</i>	Round Table: Future-proofing Student Associations Chris Girodat <i>Sardis Room</i>		Session: The Belonging Experience Cherie Sawaryn <i>Rosedale Room</i>	Round Table: Hot Topics #1 Craig Turner <i>Sardis Room</i>
12:00 PM		Lunch	Lunch			
1:00 PM		Session: Hot & Cold Climate Cultures Amie Elponoria <i>Rosedale Room</i>	Round Table: Scary Things to Ask Tahnja Getson <i>Sardis Room</i>		Session: Digital Strategies to Engage Gen Z Suvi Sharma <i>Rosedale Room</i>	Round Table: Hot Topics #2 Jeannette Mandrusiak <i>Sardis Room</i>
2:00 PM		Break	Break			
2:30 PM	Welcome & Registration	Session: Inclusive Training Creation Annette Kelm <i>Rosedale Room</i>	Round Table: How Rituals Build Community Cindy Roose <i>Sardis Room</i>		Western Regional Meeting Leeanne Mills <i>Rosedale Room</i>	
3:30 PM		Break	Free Time			
3:45 PM		Session: How to build the happiest generation of students in the world Bounce <i>Rosedale Room</i>				
4:30 PM		Free Time				
6:00 PM	Welcome Night Bricklayer Brewing Sponsored by Gallivan	Dinner Sponsored by Studentcare	Dinner Sponsored by Studentcare			
8:00 PM		Hospitality Suite Sponsored by Studentcare	Hospitality Suite Western Regional Bingo			

Rosedale Room - All meals for the event will be served here. This setting offers an ideal opportunity to connect with others, engage in casual conversations, and refuel for the day's activities.

Fraser Room - your cozy Hospitality Room open all day! From 9am to 11pm, drop in anytime to enjoy complimentary coffee and snacks while relaxing or connecting with others. The space is open for casual conversation, recharging, and hanging out at your own pace. In the evening, things get a little livelier with games and a cash bar. Come by, unwind, and make yourself at home!

Tuesday Morning Sessions

9:30 AM -
10:30 AM
Rosedale

**Beyond a Ballot: A Conversation
with Rachael Segal**

Join Cherie Sawaryn as she engages in a conversation with Rachael Segal, founder of Beyond a Ballot and commentator on CBC's Power and Politics, as they explore how communities can engage in shaping their futures beyond voting. This session will offer fresh insights and practical ideas for impactful civic involvement within the post-secondary sphere and beyond.

About Rachael: Rachael is a Lawyer with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Osgoode Hall Law School. Rachael spent many years working in policy roles in Federal political offices. She has worked in provincial politics in both Ontario and British Columbia and on campaigns at all levels of government across Canada. She has extensive broadcast experience, having worked as a full time on-air for a Canadian television news network and as a weekly radio contributor with Newstalk 1010 in Toronto and CBC in Vancouver. She is now with CBC's Power and Politics every week.

About Cherie: Cherie (she/her) is an accomplished leader known for her passion and dedication to supporting students and fostering community connections. With extensive experience in coaching and leadership development, Cherie brings a wealth of knowledge and a hands-on approach to every project she undertakes. She has a knack for creating welcoming, inclusive spaces Cherie's innovative mindset and strategic thinking have led to impactful initiatives that enrich the student experience. Her commitment to making a positive difference, combined with her genuine care for others, has earned her respect and admiration across her professional community.

11:00 AM -
Noon
Rosedale

Session:
Safe or Brave
Spaces: What
Should I Build?
Speaker:
Tahnia Getson

Audiences:
EDs, Advocacy
Employees
Style:
Interactive Talk

There should be spaces for students to go where they are able to show up as their authentic selves where they can breath easily without fear of judgement, ostracization or needing to mask aspects of their identity. However, there should also be spaces for students to be able to ask questions, create movements and start the ground work for their advocacy work - how do we create these spaces for students in ways that are respectful and kind?

About Tahnia: Tahnia [they/them] is a multidisciplinary artist, advocate and activist who found love in exploring voices in visual and performance arts. They graduated from the University of Lethbridge with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in theatre in 2020 and they graduated from Grande Prairie Regional College with their Visual Arts diploma in 2014 and have found love in acrylics, charcoal and digital mediums. Currently, Tahnia is a graduate student at Athabasca University taking a Master of Arts, in Interdisciplinary Studies, focusing on Equity and Community Engagement.

Tahnia has been working in nonprofits, advocacy and social change for the better part of ten years. In recent years, they worked with an initiative dedicated to identifying and breaking down systemic barriers. Tahnia is an energetic part of NWPSA and brings extended knowledge on systemic barriers, effective advocacy, nonprofit structure and an excessive amount of knowledge on dinosaurs.

They are an active part of their community and constantly seek out new education about the society we live in They are eager to learn as much as they can. They believe strongly that the arts can act as a conduit for social and systemic change, by engaging in conversation in an accessible format. The inaccessibility of information, research and academics is a large barrier that they are working to overcome.

2023 - Youth Week - Key Note Speaker

2022 - National Panel Speaker - Co-Creating Guidelines with Youth

2021 - Canadian Mental Health Alliance - How to Engage Youth?

2021 - Tamarack Institute - National Panel - EDI With Community Engagement

2020 - CBYF Panel - Community Engagement

11:00 AM -
Noon
Sardis

Round Table:
Future-proofing
Student
Associations
Host:
Chris Girodat

Audiences:
EDs, programs &
services, finance
Style:
Fishbowl

This session will explore strategies for enhancing organizational flexibility, ensuring financial sustainability, and planning for growth amid intersecting crises—climate change, mental health, affordability, food insecurity, and student immigration reform. Join us as we discuss ways to build resilience and adaptability for an uncertain future.

About Chris: Chris (he/him) has been the executive director of the Capilano Students' Union for 11 years and also provides governance and meeting support services for non-profit organizations in higher education, social services, and agriculture. As a leader in an organization that has seen huge shifts in student experiences, needs, and hopes, he's learned to pivot quickly to ensure students stay in the driver's seat.

Tuesday Afternoon Sessions

1:00 PM
2:00 PM
Rosedale

Session:
Hot & Cold
Climate Cultures
Speaker:
Amie Elponoria

Audiences:
Those working
face to face with
students
Style:
Interactive Talk

International students have become an integral part of student life on Canadian campuses across the country. While traveling to Canada is relatively easy, understanding cultural differences and why they exist is more difficult. This talk explores the general differences between Hot and Cold Climate cultures and challenges us to look at things from a different perspective.

About Amie: Amie Elponoria grew up in Southern California and moved to Alberta, Canada at 16. One of her first comments upon moving to Vermilion was "This place is too white!" Both Vermilion and Amie have changed since then. Amie has a degree in Business Management and has used Organizational Behavior, Human Resources and Strategic Planning often in her career. Her work life has included pet sitter, server, Residential Support worker, FASD Trainer, missionary, Executive Director of the Albanian Encouragement Project, Founder/Executive Director of Eagle's Wings, and General Manager of the Students' Association of Portage College. Amie has lived in 5 different countries and has learned that she has a lot more to learn about cultures and how they interact with each other.

Past Speaking Experiences:
AEP Conferences in Albania

1:00 PM
2:00 PM
Sardis

Roundtable:
The Scary Things
to Ask Roundtable
Speaker:
Tahnia Getson

Audiences:
EDs
(and those
interested)
Style:
Guided discussion

There are a lot of things that it seems like everyone else just knows, or that you don't want to ask for fear of judgement - this would be the place to ask it. Following the themes of creating brave spaces and safe spaces, here would be the space to ask and get answers or advice to the challenges you are facing.

About Tahnia: Please refer to 'Safe or Brave Spaces: What Should I Build?' Session description for Tahnia's full bio.

2:30 PM
3:30 PM
Rosedale

Session:
Inclusive Training
Creation
Annette Kelm

Audiences:
Anyone who
creates trainings
Style:
Talk/Workshop

Learn how SAMU has transformed their volunteer and staff training into inclusive and innovative ways of learning. In this session you will learn how to create trainings that are inclusive of not only different types of learning abilities but that are also more accessible.

About Annette: Annette started with the Students' Association of MacEwan University as a volunteer and now works full-time as the Student Services Manager. They have now been in this role since September 2020. Annette previously worked as a graphic designer and holds an applied degree in visual communications giving them a different perspective on student services.

2:30 PM
3:30 PM
Sardis

Roundtable:
2 Weddings and a
Funeral: How
rituals build
community
Cindy Roose

Audiences:
Anyone who leads
or works with
teams, so anyone
Style:
Guided Sharing

Having attended 2 weddings over the summer and a funeral recently, I was reminded how rituals exist to bridge endings, transitions, and beginnings. Rituals are highly symbolic and provide meaning. They help to build community, improve engagement, and can assist us to navigate through change.

About Cindy: With nearly 28 years of experience working with student associations, Cindy brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to their field. In 2023, they earned a Master's in Leadership from Royal Roads University and are currently pursuing an HR Certificate, showing their commitment to continuous learning. Over the years, they have also gained valuable insights from colleagues at AMICCUS-C, learning best practices, common pitfalls, and lessons from both good and challenging times. They truly believe that it takes a village to accomplish the meaningful work they and their colleagues are committed to.

Tuesday Afternoon Sessions

3:45 PM
4:30 PM
Rosedale

Session:
Building a happy generation of students
Speaker:
Sean Monteiro

Audiences:
Those working face to face with students
Style:
Keynote/Talk

Students in this generation are facing significant social challenges due to the lack of infrastructure built around their happiness and engagement on campus. Take a walk with Sean, CEO of Bounce, in thinking through what that means for Canada and what you can do to help build the happiest generation of students in the world.

About Sean: Growing up across three vastly different countries in Saudi Arabia, India, and Canada, Sean learned the value of communities early on. Focusing on helping society live happier and healthier lives, he's built and scaled companies in the prosthetic and autonomous car verticals that span across seven countries and three continents. Aiming to help society more meaningfully connect, he founded Bounce: An all-in-one community building and events platform used by hundreds of thousands of students across North America. Looking to support student unions with a purpose built platform to increase student-to-student engagement, Bounce's aim is to help universities build the happiest generation of students in the world.

- This session is presented by Bounce - a sponsor of the AMICCUS-C Regional Conference

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Wednesday Morning Sessions

9:30 AM -
10:30 AM
Rosedale

Real Conversations about Occupational Risks of Working with Students
Dr. Kyle Baillie
UFV Associate VP, Students

As professionals who support student success we tend to focus on the positives of our work, but our work has inherent risks that most are unaware of. Working in close proximity to students bears the risk of being exposed to various types of trauma that can lead to serious impacts on ourselves and our teams. This interactive session will open a discussion on our work, awareness of Secondary Trauma as a workplace injury, strategies for prevention and monitoring, and what we can do to create resilience in our organizations.

About Dr. Kyle Baillie: He is the Associate Vice President, Students at the University of the Fraser Valley. He has been post-secondary student affairs professional for more than 20 years working in a variety of roles, but always in a student supporting role. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration both from Centenary (SEN-TEN-ARY) University in New Jersey, and a Doctorate in Education and Policy from the University of Kansas. He's a partner to Ali and dog-dad to Fergus the French Bulldog. He skis, mountain bikes, and plays the bagpipes in his spare time.

Wednesday Morning Sessions

<p>11:00 AM - Noon Rosedale</p>	<p>Session: The Belonging Experience Speaker: Cherie Sawaryn</p>	<p>Audiences: Those that facilitate team building Style: Interactive</p>	<p>The Belonging Experience is an immersive session designed to cultivate a sense of connection, inclusion, and community. This experience offers tools and insights into building authentic relationships, understanding diverse perspectives, and creating environments that encourage trust and openness. Join us to deepen your understanding of belonging.</p>
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About Cherie: Please refer to 'Beyond a Ballot: A Conversation with Rachael Segal' session description for Cherie's full bio.

<p>11:00 AM - Noon Sardis</p>	<p>Round Table: Hot Topics #1 Host: Craig Turner</p>	<p>Audiences: All Style: Guided Discussion</p>	<p>Hot Topics in Post-Secondary is a dynamic session curated from attendee insights and interests, focusing on the most relevant issues currently impacting colleges and universities. This interactive discussion will cover a range of pressing topics, including evolving student needs. Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences, exchange ideas, and collaborate on innovative solutions to address these challenges.</p>
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About Craig: To his dear old friends—he can't wait to see them again, as they know how much he loves their reunions! For his hopefully soon-to-be new friends, his name is Craig (he/him), and he serves as the Director of Operations & Social Enterprise at the U of A Students' Union in Edmonton. Craig enjoys spending time outdoors hiking in nature and has a keen interest in history

<p>1:00 PM 2:00 PM Rosedale</p>	<p>Session: Digital Strategies to Engage Gen Z Speaker: Suvi Sharma</p>	<p>Audiences: Anyone who engages gen z Style: Talk</p>	<p>Gen Z is transforming institutional engagement, expecting seamless, personalized, and authentic interactions. This session will explore strategies for crafting impactful digital communications that resonate with Gen Z, focusing on social media, campus signage, and accessible mediums. Participants will learn to leverage platforms like Instagram and effective signage to build trust and foster community. Attendees will leave with actionable insights to adapt their communication strategies, ensuring their messages connect both online and on campus.</p>
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About Suvi: Suvi Sharma is a remarkable marketing consultant and business owner who stands among Edify's 2022 prestigious Top 40 Under 40 candidates. Suvi is not only an accomplished consultant but also boasts a diverse portfolio having been featured in Vogue Magazine numerous times. Notably, Suvi has received accolades such as the 500px Intersectional Diversity Award, the ARJAA Restorative Justice & Advocacy Award, and a public speaking award at the age of 12 years old. Suvi has extensive experience in reaching a Gen Z and Millennial audience, as she's also built her own community online that reaches over 8.7 million people digitally on a monthly basis.

<p>1:00 PM 2:00 PM Sardis</p>	<p>Roundtable: Hot Topics #2 Host: Jeannette Mandrusiak</p>	<p>Audiences: All Style: Guided Discussion</p>	<p>Hot Topics in Post-Secondary is a dynamic session curated from attendee insights and interests, focusing on the most relevant issues currently impacting colleges and universities. This interactive discussion will cover a range of pressing topics, including evolving student needs. Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences, exchange ideas, and collaborate on innovative solutions to address these challenges.</p>
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About Jeannette: She is the President of AMICCUS-C and a prominent leader at the University of Calgary Students' Union. Known for her collaborative approach and ability to build meaningful relationships, she actively fosters connections colleagues and community partners.

<p>2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Rosedale</p>	<p>Western Regional Meeting Leanne Mills Western Regional Director</p>	<p>Join us for an important meeting where the AMICCUS-C Regional Director will share updates on our ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing member services and fostering collaboration across institutions. This meeting will also cover upcoming events, including regional meetings and conferences. Your input is invaluable, and we encourage all members to provide feedback and suggestions to help us align our efforts with the community's needs.</p>
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Hot Topics - Organization

Student Engagement and Awareness: Many organizations are struggling with low student engagement, both in general participation and in leadership opportunities (like elections). There's also concern about students' awareness of the organization's value and services.

Financial Challenges and Budget Constraints: Rising costs and the affordability crisis are major concerns, affecting students' ability to participate and increasing demand for services like food banks. Budget limitations and the need for revenue diversification also stand out.

Organizational and Policy Challenges: Issues with name changes, bylaw amendments, policy updates, and board conduct are creating operational difficulties. Structural inequalities and accessibility issues are also noted, along with the need for transparent processes.

Teamwork and Internal Collaboration: High turnover, historical information loss, and communication challenges (especially in multi-departmental collaboration) are impacting workflow and efficiency.

Adapting to Change: Organizations are dealing with leadership and management transitions, as well as evolving student demographics (e.g., international students) and service needs (e.g., shuttle access, student aid delays).

Member and Board Engagement: Engaging members and keeping board members motivated and active is a priority, especially during times of transition or restructuring.

Hot Topics - Student Experience

Affordability: This theme encompasses tuition fees, housing costs, and the overall cost of living, indicating that financial strain is a significant concern for students.

Food Insecurity: Many students struggle to access affordable and nutritious food, highlighting a critical aspect of their overall well-being and academic success.

Mental Health: Increasing mental health challenges among students are emphasized, suggesting a need for better support systems and resources.

Housing Challenges: The difficulty in finding affordable and adequate housing contributes to financial stress and impacts students' ability to succeed academically.

Government Support: Concerns about the adequacy and timeliness of government funding and student aid processes indicate a gap in support for students.

Campus Environment: Perceptions of the campus becoming more business-oriented than educational reflect students' feelings of disconnection and a need for a more supportive community.

International Student Concerns: Unique challenges faced by international students, including immigration issues and job security, highlight the need for tailored support and resources.

Access to Information: Difficulty in finding information and accessing support services can lead to confusion and frustration among students.

Hot Topics - Personal Experience

University Relations and Governance: Strained relationships with the university, especially following significant events like the student encampment, and challenges in managing governance structures and relations with student leaders.

Staff Management and Development: Issues related to managing direct reports, improving training and onboarding processes, and ensuring effective management of staff and student staff.

Resource Limitations: Constraints due to limited staff and budget resources, leading to challenges in meeting student needs and managing an increasing workload.

Project Management and Restructuring: Difficulties in managing multiple new projects, restructuring responsibilities, and ensuring closure on business items, contributing to feelings of being overwhelmed.

Policy Development and Implementation: The lack of robust policies and procedures and the need for actioning recommendations from audits highlight a need for better organizational frameworks.

Time Management and Burnout: Challenges related to time management, balancing responsibilities, and minimizing burnout among staff and student leaders.

Cultural Awareness and Engagement: The need to learn about and navigate different cultures and ethnicities, encouraging student engagement, and improving advocacy efforts.

Communication and Collaboration: Issues with maintaining effective communication and collaboration among student executives and council members, leading to a fractured working dynamic.

Adaptation and Learning: Challenges faced by new managers in adapting to their roles and learning the necessary skills, including utilizing technology like AI.

Thank-you Sponsors



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