

Office of the Vice President External Affairs
Written Update - October 25th, 2023

1. ABCS Provincial Lobby Week

- Met with 35+ MLAs including Minister Robinson (Post-Secondary Education), Minister Conroy (Finance), Minister Mercier (State for Workforce Development), Minister Bains (Labour), Minister Brar (State for Trade), Spencer Chandra (Deputy Speaker), among other MLAs.
- The AVPs had a productive and a collaborative advocacy weekend with ABCS members as well UVSS and SFSS teams.
- Attended workshops on lobbying and EDI-training useful for future lobbying trips.
- Vocalized student priorities such as food security, financial affordability, graduate and international student support, student housing, and sexualized and gender-based violence prevention.

2. Transportation Advocacy

- Productive meeting with Jessica and Robert from Translink to voice student concerns with overcrowding, return of Bus 480, inconsistent bus schedules and discussed collaborative campaigns in coming weeks to push for greater government support for public transportation.
- Promoted Translink's Burrard Peninsula Area Transport Plan survey, closes on the 27th, on AMS Instagram to input greater student concerns with the transportation routes to and from UBC.
- Working with Marcomm to discuss creating an ongoing database for anecdotal data on student experience and concerns with public transportation.

3. Partner Relationship Building

- Meeting with Robin Ciceri (UBC Vice-President External) and Adriaan de Jager (Associate Vice-President, Government Relations and Community Engagement) to discuss advocacy points that the University and the AMS can work together on such as need for increased operating grant
- The Transportation Coordination Committee meeting discussed certain transportation concerns members of the campus have and shared those concerns.
- Currently setting up meetings with Mayor Ken Sim's office and Electoral District A Director Jen McCutcheon to re-establish relationships on municipal and local levels.

4. Federal Advocacy

- AMS executives met with the Deputy Leader of the Federal Green Party, Jonathan Pedneault, to discuss ways in which the federal government and the Federal Greens could support students on issues ranging from the housing crisis to food security, Skytrain-to-UBC project to international student support.

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5. UNA Meeting

- Attended the UNA Board meeting 17th October 2023
- Discussion items included Translink presentation on the Burrard Peninsula Area Transport Plan, University's presentation on Campus Vision 2050, UNA AGM report, among other UNA-specific concerns.