



Society for Students with a Disability

2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY SSD COORDINATORS

We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples on whose traditional unceded territory the Society of the Students with a Disability stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. We seek to continually decolonize all forms of organizing structures and center Indigenous peoples when considering what accessibility looks like.

Table of Contents

03	—	Who We Are
05	—	Support
06	—	Learning
07	—	Community
08	—	Posters
09	—	Budget
10	—	'23-'24 Forecast

Who We Are

The Society for Students with a Disability (SSD) is an advocacy group that promotes the full participation and inclusion of students who self-identify as having one or more disabilities at the University of Victoria (UVic). We aim to support students to reduce barriers in the social, emotional, and educational domains of student life.

The SSD is made up of our Council, Staff members,
Workstudy students, and volunteers.

In February of 2022, the SSD elected it's council for the year with the following folks and positions:

Chairpersons – Delicia & Julia
Treasurer – Hannah Brown
UVSS Representative – Ryan
Grad Student Representative – Zackary
General members at large – Natasha & Bella

On August 17th 2022 during our Special General Meeting, we elected some additional council:

Secretary – Emma
Student Liaison – Victoria
UVSS Rep – Parker
International Student Rep – Hannah Boncan
General Members at Large – Coco & Jacob

During our most recent Annual General Meeting on February 28th 2023, we elected the following currently held positions:

Chairperson – Julia
Treasurer – Hannah Brown
Student Liaison – Victoria
Grad student rep – Zackary
General Members at Large – Emma & Jacob

Meanwhile...

There were also some changes in our staff:

Office Coordinator - Adrean was hired and took over from emergency hire Audrey in May 2022

Research & Communications Coordinator - Bella, a previous council member, was hired and took over from an emergency hire, Ashley, in October 2022

Education & Administrative Coordinator - While this position was previously held by Faye, Brooklyn was hired and took over from an emergency hire, Hannah Brown, in December 2022



Workstudy & Volunteers

This year we were granted 405 workstudy hours over three (3) positions. In an approach to create more diversity and inclusivity, the SSD hired six (6) workstudy students where each position was assigned two (2) student coordinators:

Programs & Outreach - Tayana + Charles

Events - Sky + Jess

Media/Marketing - Julia + Vic

We also found ourselves with over 25 volunteers through various outreach events and word of mouth. They helped us grow our community and establish more of a campus presence.

Support

The SSD offers support for students in a variety of capacities. First and foremost, our physical space on campus has soft lighting, computers, free black & white printing, as well as a plethora of snacks such as granola bars, crackers, hummus, chips, applesauce, soup, and popcorn. This past year, we have increased the variety and volume of snacks available.

Food insecurity has become an increasing reality for many students. In response, the SSD established a Food Security Program with two options: a \$200/300 grocery reimbursement per semester, or a biweekly delivery of fresh produce via Good Food Box. During the 2022-2023 school year, the SSD contributed \$24,000 to our Food Security program.

Other areas of support that the SSD provided to students over the past year include bursaries for UVic's Learning Assistance Program (LAP), funding opportunities for students in need of physical objects to support their disability, and a selection of community care circles based on varying intersectional identities (i.e. Queer & Disabled Community Care Circle).



Space

Food Security

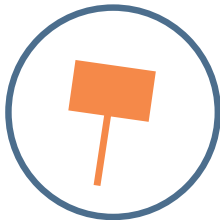
LAP Bursary

Funding

Community
Care Circles

Learning

Staff, council members, and SSD workstudy students took part in Anti-racist Bystander Intervention training put on by the ICA (The Greater Victoria Inter-Cultural Association). We decided this training was an important step toward an anti-racist advocacy group, since we are mainly white presenting folks. In addition to internal training, the SSD has offered external learning opportunities for our community and the general UVic campus. Check out some details below. Notably, the #Access4All campaign seeks to address the ongoing educational inequalities experienced by many students at the University of Victoria (UVic).



01. Campaigns

#Access4All

Strolls for Reproductive Justice

Invisible & Dynamic Disabilities campaigns



02. Workshops

Beading Workshop

How to Navigate Academic Accommodations

Care Workshop



03. Panels & Interviews

Reproductive Justice panel during SEXPO

Disability Symposium with NEADS (National Education Association of Disabled Students)

Sex & Disability panel during SEXPO

Community

This year we spent a lot of time collaborating with other advocacy groups and community partners. We committed ourselves to intersectionality and acknowledge that our disabled community exists with multiple marginalizations that are often represented in the other advocacy groups.

Strengthening our community relationships is an important part of advocacy work so we can cooperatively support students where they're at.

Collaborations

- Advocacy for Inclusive Recreation (AIR)
- Students of Colour Collective (SOCC)
- Gender Empowerment Centre (GEM)
- UVic Pride
- National Educational Association for Disabled Students (NEADS)
- Campus Community Garden (CCG)
- Student Wellness Centre (SWC)
- Office of Student Life (OSL)

Peer Support Groups

- Five (5) groups:
- Autism (ASD)
 - Learning Disabilities
 - Mental Health
 - Invisible Disabilities
 - Chronic Pain

Our Autism (ASD) Peer Support Group was the most popular of the five

We collaborated with the SWC to support our Mental Health Peer Support Group by having a Canadian Certified Counsellor, Dawn, join sessions

Events

- Campus Strolls
- Edible Flower Stroll
- Butchart Gardens field trip
- Clothing Swap
- Poster Sale
- Hybrid Baking Night
- State of the Schools Tour
- Games Night (online)
- Board Game Café
- Body Doubling/Group Study Sessions

Posters

SSD Secretary, Emma Levins, designed posters for campus distribution to spread awareness and dissolve common misconceptions about folks with invisible and dynamic disabilities.

Meanwhile, Communications Coordinator, Bella & Workstudy Vic designed anti-ableist posters for language, cute posters, and our iconic "Rest is Sexy" posters which stem from the turn of phrase being coined during SEXPO planning.



Did you know? 1 in 5 people have a disability, and most are invisible!

What is an invisible disability?

"A physical, mental or neurological condition that is not visible from the outside, yet can limit or challenge a persons movements, senses, or activities"

What are examples of an invisible disability?

Some examples are: Fibromyalgia, Chronic fatigue syndrome, ADHD, Multiple Sclerosis, Depression, etc!

Who can have an invisible disability?

Anyone can have an invisible disability! It is not possible to be too young to have an invisible disability!

Why is awareness important?

Invisible disabilities are often not taken seriously because they are not visible, so it is important to raise awareness about invisible disabilities!

You never know what someone is going through!

BE KIND :)



SSD Email: uvicssd@uvic.ca
Location: SUB B111
Website: uvicssd.ca

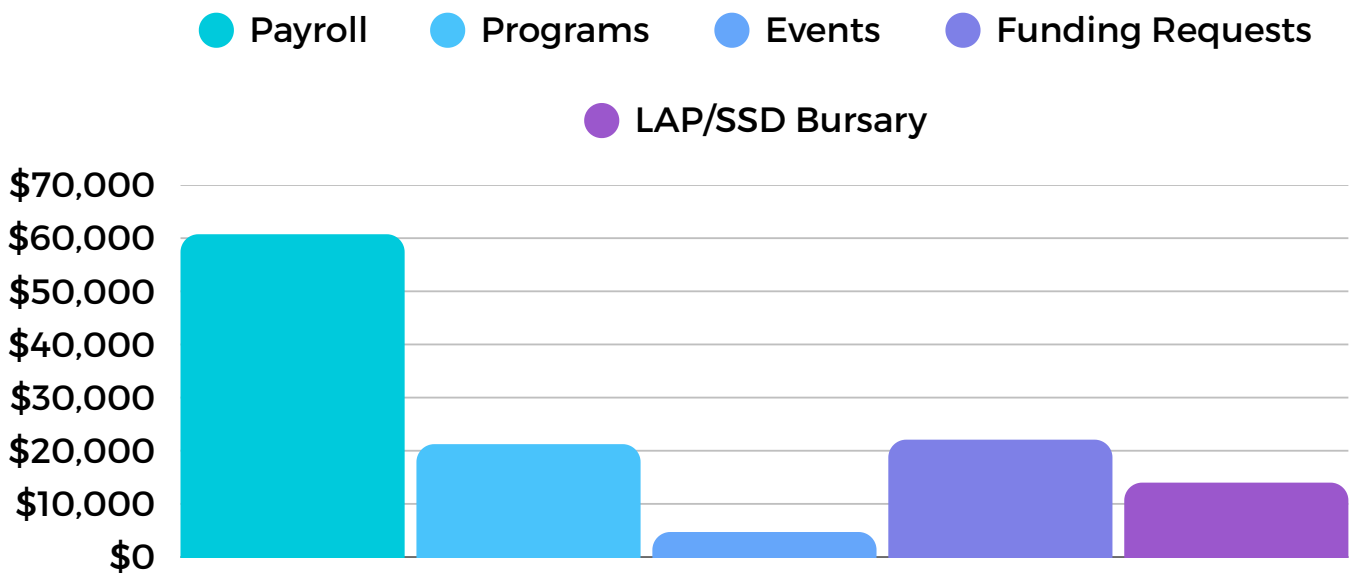
Resources:
invisible.org
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/181128/dq181128a-eng.htm>



Budget

The SSD has a considerable amount of student fees we work with (approximately \$3 per full time undergraduate student); From Programs, Events, Funding Requests, to Bursaries, the SSD spends its money with students in mind at every step. We generally overbudget for our expenses, which leaves us in good standing at the end of our fiscal year. Though we are operating at a deficit, this is supported by our trust fund and we are seeking new ways to create sustainable programming through grants and fundraising initiatives. We also donated some monies to the other advocacy groups for trans pride pins, de-stress events, and captioning funding support.

May 2022 - April 2023 Spending



**Society for
Students with a
Disability**

2023-2024 Forecasting

This year we are focusing on relationship building and sustainable financial practices. We continue to work on our campaigns, calling students into our space, and are looking to broaden our community through community-building events and programs.



01. #Access4All Campaign

This campaign seeks to address the ongoing inequalities to education as experienced by UVic students since the COVID-19 pandemic.



02. Community Building

We will continue to host and promote community building events such as: Butchart Gardens Trips, Board Game Cafe Outings, Beacon Hill Petting Zoo Adventures, and additional Programs to be announced.



03. Special General Meeting

We will hold another Special General Meeting to elect vacant council positions on July 18th 2023.

Connect with us

SUB B111
3800 Finnerty Rd
Victoria, BC
250-472-5397

www.uvicssd.ca
uvicssd@uvic.ca
[@uvicssd](https://www.instagram.com/uvicssd)

