

Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost

Michael Williams Building
University of Victoria
T 250-721-7013 | F 250-721-7216
provasst@uvic.ca | uvic.ca/vpac

DATE: April 20, 2023

TO: Members of Senate

FROM: Helga Hallgrímsdóttir, Acting Deputy Provost

CC: Melissa Donaldson, Executive Director, Facilities Management

RE: Report on UVic Accessibility Committee and Academic Accessibility for Students

In 2022, the BC Government released the *Accessible British Columbia Act*, which requires all public bodies to ensure accessibility (AC).

Accessibility Committee

As per *Accessible BC Act*, at least half the institution's Accessibility Committee members must be people with disabilities or representatives of disability-serving organizations, and include at least one member who identifies as Indigenous. As with the Advisory Committee, the newly formed Accessibility Committee includes faculty, staff and student representatives. Efforts were made to ensure appropriate and inclusive representation from across campus, as accessibility is all of our responsibilities and ensuring alignment across functional areas is essential.

As the committee's scope covers all areas of campus, the committee is co-chaired by the Deputy Provost (in the Vice-President Academic and Provost portfolio) and the Executive Director, Facilities Management (in the Vice-President Finance and Operations portfolio) with representation from the following areas and groups:

As per *Accessible BC Act*, the plan will describe to the public UVic's efforts to identify barriers to accessibility and how we plan to reduce and remove those barriers. The plan will be posted online once approved by the President and ahead of the September 1, 2023 deadline set by the BC Government. The plan must be reviewed at least once every three years, and incorporate principles of:

- Inclusion
- Adaptability
- Diversity
- Collaboration
- Self-determination
- Universal design

The plan will also reflect UVic's values, principles and aspirations as outlined in our Strategic Plan, Equity Action Plan and Indigenous Plan. Other internal resources include Aspiration 2030, our Campus Plan, Policy AC1205, Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness (GV0200), and collective agreements with employee groups. External resources include the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Canadian Charter of Rights, the Accessible Canada Act, and the BC Human Rights Code.

The committee is developing a draft plan that will be available to our community as an accessible web (ns)6 (w)10 (i) 0 Tde05 Tc 75 T/AsoTj0.001 Tc -0.I (i) 0

impairment, with mental health being the most common (28%), followed by neurodivergence (13%), learning/memory (5%), chronic conditions (4%) and vision (2%). Fourteen per cent indicate it impacts them daily. [UVic's annual CUSC report](#) is available through Institutional Planning and Analysis.

This is higher than the national average of about one third of first-year students, with one in 10 students indicating that their disability or disabilities impact them daily. In the same survey conducted in 2001, about 5% of all first-year students surveyed reported having a disability, the most common being a learning disability.