

FRASER BUILDING EXPANSION



Phase 1: Campus Engagement Summary Report November 2019



**University
of Victoria**

Campus Planning
& Sustainability

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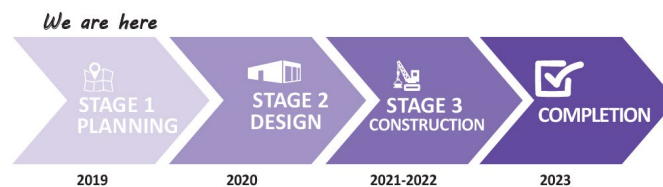
INTRODUCTION

About the Project

UVic has begun planning for an expansion to the Fraser Building to house a new national centre for Indigenous law. The centre will provide much-needed academic and support space for the Canadian Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders program (JD/JID) and Indigenous Legal Research Unit (ILRU).

The JD/JID program responds to a critical need for engagement with Indigenous law and governance. Students in the program will develop the skills needed to practice within Canadian Common Law, within Indigenous Legal Orders, and at the interface between them. The program will build capacity to help Indigenous people create and build genuine partnerships for the benefit of all Canadians. The Fraser Building Expansion will enhance the experience and success of JD and JD/JID students, and will serve as a national centre for dialogue, research, and knowledge transfer.

About the Process



The project is in the early planning stage and the engagement process will follow the university's Community Engagement Framework as well as the Campus Plan, both developed through extensive engagement with students, faculty, staff and neighbouring residents.

WHAT WE DID

On Campus Engagement

To engage with campus stakeholders from multiple faculties and departments as well as students enrolled in the JD and JD/JID program, two campus open houses were held:

- McPherson Library Foyer, Wednesday October 23, 2019
- Fraser Building Student Lounge, Thursday October 24, 2019

The open houses provided campus stakeholders an opportunity to learn more about the project and process, share their concerns and feedback, and speak to project staff and representatives from the JD/JID program. The open houses included informational boards and a series of interactive boards to solicit feedback on site location and siting principles, and opportunities for natural ecosystem restoration on campus.

Promotion

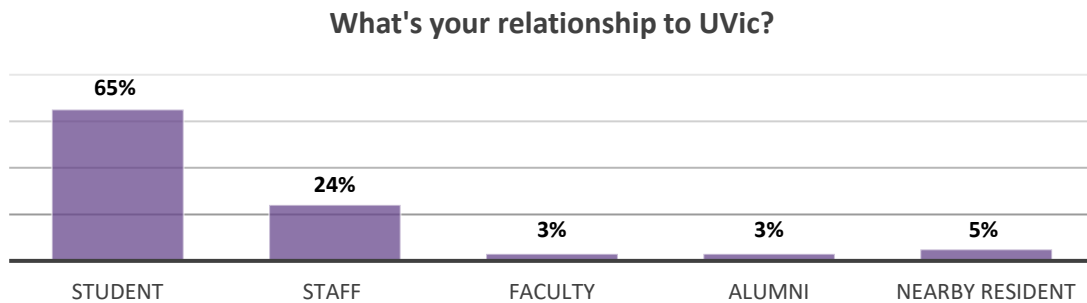
On campus promotions included:

- 250 posters sent to each department and posted on community boards across campus,
- UVic's digital signage,
- Social media posts on the university's and Campus Planning and Sustainability Facebook, twitter and Instagram channels, and on the Geography, Environmental Studies and Law departments' twitter channels,
- UVic's events webpage and UVic Facebook event,
- Notice in the Campus Checklist, a newsletter to all staff and faculty,

- Direct email outreach to identified stakeholders including student clubs, departments, and faculties.

WHO PARTICIPATED

Over 165 students, staff, faculty and nearby residents participated in the open houses. Attendees were asked what their relationship was to UVic; although not everyone answered, the majority of those who participated were current students. The open house hosted in the Fraser Building student lounge engaged with students primarily from the JD and JD/JID programs while the McPherson Library foyer open house attracted a wider range of students, staff and faculty.



WHAT WE HEARD

Site Location and Siting Principles

Since an expansion to the Fraser Building was not contemplated in the Campus Plan, as the JD/JID program was not yet developed, open house attendees were asked to provide feedback on the site location and siting principles. There was general support for the expansion site location, with the written comments focusing on the connection to Fraser Building and the inclusion of outdoor classroom spaces in the design.

In addition, throughout the community consultations with Chiefs, community members and Elders from Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ Nations, as well as the Elders' Voices group at UVic, there was support for the general site location.

Sustainability

Although the sustainability board was an informational board, we received general interest and support for the 3:1 tree replacement strategy and proposed sustainability features of the building. There was one recommendation to plant juvenile trees rather than seedlings to better match the habitat provided by mature trees. In addition, there was interest in informing the community of when and where the replacement trees will be planted on campus.

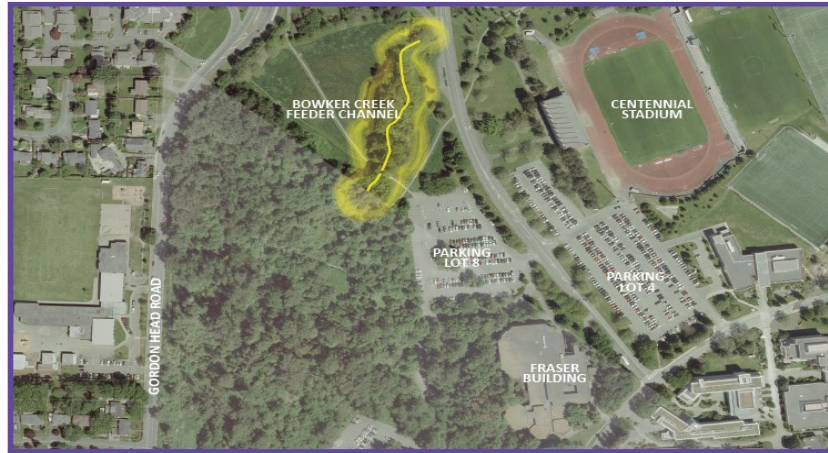
Opportunities for Restoration of a Natural Ecosystem

In addition to restorative planting and stormwater management features around the new building, the project team presented three environmental restoration project opportunities. Participants were asked to provide feedback on the three restoration projects and restoration actions. In general, there was support for the Fraser Building expansion project contributing to an environmental restoration project on campus that is beyond the project boundary.

Bowker Creek Feeder Channel

The Bowker Creek Blueprint is a collaborative restoration plan between municipalities and land stewards to enhance the Bowker Creek Watershed; the feeder channel is identified as an opportunity for riparian restoration and widening of the riparian buffer. Restoration actions include:

- Where possible extend the riparian buffer,
- Remove invasive plant species and replant with Indigenous species.



Bowker Creek Feeder Channel location

The comments received on the Bowker Creek Feeder channel supported the expansion of the riparian buffer, increasing interpretive signage, planting Indigenous plants, and the opportunity to involve both community groups and students in restoration activities. While most of the comments were general comments on the restoration activities of the project, there were two comments that selected this restoration project as the preferred option.

Alumni Garry Oak Meadow

The Alumni Garry Oak Meadow is the historic site of a Garry Oak ecosystem, which provided camas harvesting for local Indigenous communities. In 2003, restoration efforts were undertaken to enhance and restore this area to a Garry Oak meadow ecosystem. Restoration actions include:

- Remove invasive species and replant with Garry Oak trees and meadow plantings,
- Install interpretive signage contributing to enhancement of Indigenous knowledge on campus.



Alumni Garry Oak Meadow location on campus

The comments received on the Alumni Garry Oak Meadow supported the inclusion of interpretive signage for Indigenous knowledge. Four comments selected this restoration project as the preferred option due to its visibility for the general public and inclusion of the Indigenous knowledge.

Campus Greenway – West

The Campus Greenway ‘Woodlands’ restoration project’s existing pathway overlooks the University Club pond which is also the headwaters of Bowker Creek. Restoration actions include:

- Install Bowker Creek interpretive signage,
- New seating area and platform overlooking University Club pond,
- New trees planted in naturalized arrangements,
- Replacing lawn with native plants.



Campus Greenway – West location on campus

The one comment we received on the Woodlands restoration project, preferred this option as it merged two of UVic’s projects together and provided consistency between the Campus Greenway and Fraser Building.

NEXT STEPS

The feedback received will be presented at the university's Campus Planning Committee in November 2019 and will be used to shape the early direction for the Fraser Building Expansion.

Project updates and future engagement opportunities will be posted at uvic.ca/fraserexpansion