

I am an undergraduate student within the Faculty of Human and Social Development. My academic interests are within the area of Public Health, Global Health, and Urban Planning. While growing up in Abbotsford, BC, I've always been grateful for the sense of community small cities have to offer, although I'm continuing to realize the inequalities and inequities that are often, disproportionately, present in smaller communities. Currently, I work as a Senior Research Assistant for the Community Health Research Team, based at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, BC. I bring an empathetic and compassionate approach to life's everyday challenges, and within my academic and work life as well. If elected, as a student senate member, I would also bring the same approach to my work.

Influencing policies and procedures that affect student's lives at the University of Victoria is incredibly important to me. A solid education can greatly impact an individual's life trajectory. The COVID19 pandemic has had profound effects on everyone's well-being, therefore, it is incredibly important to create an environment that is inclusive of all perspectives and experiences. Listening to students' experiences and, in turn, formulating strategies that can advance excellence in teaching and learning will be one of my top-priorities. Moreover, understanding the ways that the university can accommodate people who are struggling during this pandemic is extremely important. Transitioning from online to in-person learning is especially challenging for new students and I think greater supports should be given to students who will be making this transition after the omicron wave has settled. Hosting accessible events where students can discuss their concerns is also important during this time. These are just some of the issues that I am interested in and my overall vision for how I will spend my time on the Senate, if given the opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Ashmita Grewal.

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