

My name is Michelle Purchase, my pronouns are she/they. I am a fourth year social work student thankful to be residing on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen and WSANEC peoples. My motivations to be a student representative for the senate come from my years spent at UVic witnessing a greater need for student advocacy that centers student experiences and voices, over statistics and fiscal worth.

My social work and advocacy background gives me experience in anti-oppressive frameworks, while reminding me I am accountable to the people I represent and am trying to help. I intend to bring attention to student concerns ranging from unpaid practicums, sustainability projects and divestment, empowerment of collectives focused on social justice issues and more.

Most recently I have advocated for decreased tuition and have been in conversation with the UVSS about this issue. Additionally, I am advocating for paid practicums for those faculties that currently hold unpaid practicums as mandatory. My social justice engagement extends to other areas such as respecting and implementing Indigenous sovereignty ie., opposing the pipeline project and standing in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en peoples. As well as, experience volunteering with vulnerable populations in various ways such as distribution of safe sex and drug use supplies and transition house respite care.

I am passionate about creating both conversation and action around ways UVic can improve its services, and encourage a dialogue between myself and anyone who has an issue they see needing addressed. Thank you for your time and consideration and if elected I look forward to working with the other capable and hardworking representatives to make tangible change within this institution.