



I hope that this fall term has kicked-off successfully despite how different it feels this year. For some, it is different because many classes have been moved online. For others, it's because their colleagues had their roles impacted by the workforce adjustments made by the University. These are challenging times for everyone and your [chapter executive](#) acknowledges the emotional toll these changes can cause. We are committed to always advocating for our members and are here to support you.

Our chapter has been working with the union groups across campus and also those up-island, to ensure the BC government recognizes the important role post-secondary education plays in aiding our society and economy as we navigate the pandemic. Our op/ed on this important topic was published Friday, September 11 in the Victoria News and can be read [here](#). We have also launched an online petition at www.pea.org/psenewdeal and are asking members to support our campaign in pressuring the government to invest in higher education during COVID-19. Please consider adding your voice.

Sheryl Karras
UVic Chapter Chair

Remote Working Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the remote working survey in June. We had really great engagement, with 571 members sharing their insights. We are currently reviewing all of the data but wanted to share some high-level details from the survey:

- Over 59% of members feel their remote working experience has been very successful.

- A large number of comments focused on the positives of having less of a commute and improved flexibility.
- Members also shared their feedback on the need for more support when it comes to ergonomic issues.

All of the submissions are helpful for future bargaining as they give insight into the successes but also the challenges our members are facing.

Virtual Chapter Annual General Meeting

Save the date for our virtual Chapter AGM this year, which will be Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Details will be shared closer to the AGM.

Furniture and equipment protocol

Members are reminded that the university has a [furniture and equipment protocol for remote working](#). In addition, members may be eligible to deduct some work-space-in-home expenses. Ensure you review the [T2200 Declaration of Employment and Work-space-in the-Home Expenses](#) information on the UVic website.

BC Budget submission

In June, the PEA made a submission to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on post-secondary funding and economic recovery in BC. Read the submission [here](#).

Member Profiles



Adrienne White

Senior Laboratory Instructor

Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology

Petch Building

19 years at Uvic - started as a lab assistant

Best part of the job: There are so many great aspects of my job - I love teaching and science. I also am fortunate to work with a great team of lab instructors! The ultimate reward in my job is seeing the students gain experience and ultimately confidence in the lab. When I get an email from a former student to tell me that they got the job, or were accepted into medical school or a graduate program, I am so happy to know that I helped them succeed!

Most challenging of the job: Recently it's been modifying our curriculum and delivery methods because of the pandemic. Our undergraduate lab program has received an exemption to deliver the third and fourth-year lab courses on campus. The exemption will allow students to continue to acquire the necessary lab skills that they need to be successful in future lab courses, and ultimately to be competitive in the workforce following graduation.



Kimberley Curry

Senior Laboratory Instructor

Department of Biology

Cunningham Building

14 years at UVic - started as a research technician

Best part of the job: My favourite part of the job is working with students, both undergraduate students in the lab courses and graduate students in their role as a teacher. I find it very rewarding to help undergraduate students develop lab skills and watching them as they reach the point that they fully understand it. Every term, with every lab course, I build a new team of lab instructors, made up mostly by graduate students, and I enjoy supporting and guiding them through the term.

Most challenging of the job: Recently it's been to rapidly re-develop lab exercises and make them viable in an online setting. Having finished a summer lab course, I can officially say that it is possible to provide an online lab experience for students using

pre-recorded video lessons, Zoom breakout rooms for students and Microsoft Teams to collaborate on assignment questions. We're expecting 550 students in the course this fall!

Key Dates

Orange Shirt Day

September 30

Central Pro-D Fund Application

Deadline - September 30

UVic Chapter Annual General Meeting - Virtual

Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Professional Employees Association

505 1207 Douglas St

Victoria, BC V8W 2E7

Canada

Toll free: 1-800-779-7736

You are receiving this email because you are a PEA member. If you unsubscribe, you will no longer receive important updates about bargaining, your collective agreement and more.