

Camosun College Student Society

Welcome from your CCSS!

Local 75 of the Canadian Federation of Students



Christopher Gillespie
External Executive

College...the final frontier...well, not really, but it IS the start of exploring strange, new ideas...seeking out a new life, studying new civilizations, and boldly going where every single student has gone before. At the Student Society, we're here for you. A number of elected officials, some with special constituencies, are standing by to assist you. Whether you want to get involved in the student movement, need some advocacy, or just some food, we're here for you. As a student, you are part of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), a nationally based organization, with provincial counterparts, that advocate student rights and post-secondary education issues on a National and Provincial level.

We are everywhere on campus. Resistance is futile. From your free student planner, to the food bank, International Student Identity Card, the Walk Safer program, or the Universal Bus Pass. We plan your CamFestival activities at the beginning of the year, and a beer garden on both campuses over the course of the year. As a society, we're aiming to make your time at Camosun fun, exciting, and as stress-free as possible.

The Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) provides funding to a wide range of student activities. Clubs, the student newspaper, The Nexus, the Pride Collective, Women's Centre's at Interurban and Lansdowne, and First Nation's Students Association.

All of these groups work hard to ensure that they're individual constituencies are adequately represented on our board and to ensure that their constituents have a real Camosun experience. We feel it's only logical that way.

In addition to working directly with you, our fellow students, the CCSS works with the College to provide you with an Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is there for you, if you need neutral intervention. We also work on a Provincial and National level to ensure that your voice is heard by government. As a lobby organization, we work to ensure that Government is aware and working on student issues, like housing, transit, lower tuition, and environmental sustainability. Ensuring your voice is heard is our prime directive.

As a member of the Canadian Federation of Students, the CCSS works closely with other student unions across BC and Canada on a wide range of campaigns. Please come by one of our offices and ask about our services, sign a petition, pick up a button, or even join the student movement to lower tuition fees. There's no reason not to get involved immediately. We're always on Red Alert!

On behalf of the CCSS, we welcome you to the CCSS and a great year at Camosun College. We wish you the best of luck in your studies and hope you will swing by and say hello at our local beer gardens.

CCSS Resources

The Student Handbook

Every year the Student Society publishes a student handbook. The handbook contains information specifically relevant to Camosun College students. The handbook is available to all students at the Student Society offices.

Welcome Week

Every year the Student Society funds and organizes activities to help students get oriented and enjoy their first week at Camosun.

Student Advocacy

Student Advocates are proactive by spreading awareness of student rights and responsibilities. In matters of conduct or grades an Advocate can guide you through Camosun's appeal structure. Advocates can also refer students to other resources while offering support and guidance during those stressful processes. If you require advice or someone to accompany you to a meeting please call 250-370-3590 or stop into your nearest Student Society office.

Child Care Support

Lansdowne Campus: Toddler, Preschool
Interurban Campus: Infant, Toddler, Preschool

Phone: 250-370-4880

The CCSS passed a Child Care Levy in a Student Referendum (April 2005). All students pay a levy of \$1 per month to support on-campus child care at Camosun College.

Club Funding

The Student Society recognizes and supports clubs at Camosun College by providing funding and other resources to student clubs. If you are interested in forming or getting involved with a club, contact the CCSS at either campus.

Emergency Student Aid

Part of the funds raised by the Student Society go to providing emergency bursaries to help students in unforeseen financial difficulties. These moneys are matched by the provincial government. For further information contact the Financial Aid & Awards office at either campus.

First Nations Student Association

Lansdowne Campus: Y 314
Phone: 250-370-3218

FNSA is run by the First Nations students of Camosun College for First Nations students. We offer various services such as a lunch program, cultural support through Elder's Dinners, talking circles, feasts and community awareness and outreach through First Nations Awareness Week. Come on in, grab a coffee and socialize.

Food Bank

The CCSS commits part of its resources, and receives donations from the College community to operate a confidential emergency food bank service. The food banks are located at the CCSS office at each campus.

Housing

The CCSS maintains an internet listing service where students can find affordable accommodation and roommates. Posters advertising housing opportunities are also placed on bulletin boards around the two main campuses. For more information, or if you would like to list accommodation, visit the CCSS website: myidealhome.com/ccss.

Levies and Fees

These fees provided are for 2008-09. Student Society fees and levies are approved annually and changes will take effect in September 2009. For updates, check the College website and publications beginning May 2009.

The Camosun College Student Society supports a number of initiatives through levies passed by student referendum, supporting: a Building Fund, designed to raise funds to build a Student Society building at some point in the future (\$3.50/month); a fee for membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (\$1.95/month); a Child Care levy to support students as parents (\$1/month); a levy to support the ongoing CCSS operations and services (\$7.15/month); a Student Benefits Plan levy to provide most students with Extended Health and Dental benefits (\$50/term each, September and January, to 12 months coverage); a Recreation and Athletics levy (\$5.78/month); a Recycled Paper levy to raise funds to work in partnership with the College to move toward using only recycled paper throughout the College (\$0.15/month); and a UPass levy representing 25% of the cost of an adult monthly bus pass (\$17.31/month).

Ombudsman

Email: ombuds@camosun.bc.ca
Phone: 250-370-3405

The CCSS and College administration co-fund the Ombudsman office. If you have gone through the normal channels and still feel that you are not being treated fairly or you have a problem and do not know where to turn, contact the Ombudsman office.

Pride Collective

Lansdowne Campus: RH 103
Phone: 250-370-3429

The Pride Collective provides resources, support and a safe, social setting for all gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans gender and two-spirited Camosun students.

Student Benefits Plan

Lansdowne Campus: RH 101
Phone: 250-370-1614
Email: ccssplan@camosun.bc.ca

Interurban Campus: LACC 117
Phone: 250-479-5578
Email: interurbanplan@camosun.bc.ca

The CCSS provides full-time students with an affordable health and dental plan. All students who are taking nine (9) hours or more a week in an eligible program, are enrolled in the plan. If students already have extended health or dental coverage, they may opt out of the plan, and receive a refund of the fees they have paid. Opt out deadlines for the plan will be posted at the start of each semester.

The Nexus

Lansdowne Campus: RH 201
Phone: 250-370-3591

CCSS fees fund the student newspaper published once every two weeks. The paper serves to inform students about the College and larger community. Students are encouraged to get involved in running and contributing to their student paper.

UPass

The UPass is a service that is provided by the Camosun College Student Society in conjunction with the UVSS and the UVic Graduate Student Society. Everyone who is a member of the Camosun College Student Society is automatically eligible to receive a UPass. The UPass offers bus passes to students at about one quarter of the regular cost.

Used Books

In an effort to help facilitate the sale and purchase of textbooks, the CCSS operates an online used book database via their website. To sell, buy or trade textbooks please use the links available on the CCSS website: camosunstudent.org.

Walk Safer Program

Phone: 250-370-3666

Walk Safer is a personal safety initiative involving campus patrols and escorts during evening hours (September through April) by screened volunteers. This program hopes to encourage a sense of personal and community safety.

Women's Centre

Lansdowne Campus: RH 102
Phone: 250-370-3484

Interurban Campus: LACC 133
Phone: 250-370-4071

The Women's Centres are safe places for women, organized by women. The Centres offer comfortable meeting places to connect with women and to plan women centered events. The Centres' libraries include materials on issues such as equality, health, violence, sexuality, as well as several other women's related issues. The Resource Centres are open to all women and men of the College community.

Who Makes These Decisions?

All decisions about policies or money spent are ultimately accountable to the elected Board and Directors. Elections are held twice per year and any student can run for a position on the 21-member Board. Every year there is a General Meeting where audited financial statements are adopted and changes to the CCSS bylaws are debated and decided on.

Further information on these matters, policy manuals, financial statements and CCSS bylaws are available at any of the CCSS offices or on the website camosunstudent.org.

Where Are We?

Website: camosunstudent.org

Lansdowne Campus: LMC 107
Phone: 250-370-3590
Fax: 250-370-3693

Interurban Campus: LACC 111
Phone: 250-370-3868
Fax: 250-370-3830