

JUNE 15TH, 2020

OCSU

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

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A Feminist Win!

Article by West Coast Leaf

Today we celebrate a hard-fought and long-overdue win! After years of advocacy by feminist organizations, **the BC government announced \$10 million in funding over three years to community-based sexual assault services.**

For some time now, we have understood community-based sexual assault services as life-saving resources. Without these services, survivors may not be able to leave a violent relationship, access counselling, or understand the pathways forward following an assault.

This reality is particularly true for survivors who experience intersecting forms of marginalization. For racialized, Indigenous, trans, non-binary, disabled and refugee survivors, as well as those who engage in sex work, systemic marginalization and barriers impede access to health care or the justice system without community-based supports.

For this reason, as part of our work on Dismantling the Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault, we have been advocating for dedicated, sustainable funding for community-based sexual assault services alongside our partner organizations: EVA BC, the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic, and WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre. Together, we argue that community-based sexual assault services must be available to every survivor of sexual assault as an essential part of a rights-based framework for addressing sexual assault in BC. This funding is an important first step in making access to these essential services a reality.

Indigenous Student Survey

We are looking for self-identified Indigenous students (current or alumni who have graduated in the last 3 years) to participate in an Indigenous Student Co-op/WIL survey.

All students who participate will be entered to win a \$500.00 gift card prize and their answers while delivered to via video or teleconference call will be anonymized when amalgamated for a final report.

Students interested in participating in the survey can email Jewell Gillies

JGillies@okanagan.bc.ca directly and book a time for a video call or a telephone call. The survey should take 30-45 minutes roughly. Link Below.

June Giveaway!

We are pleased to announce that our first June giveaway was a huge success and 5 lucky winners were each sent a \$50 gift cards to PC online.

Now, onto the next June giveaway, which will be Instagram exclusive so be sure to be following us there. This giveaway will focus on supporting local businesses, follow along these accounts for details:

@ocsu.kelowna, @ocsu.penticton, @ocsu.salmonarm.

Students will only be eligible to enter once through their home campuses Instagram. Details on how to enter will be available through Instagram.

OCSU App

Did you know that OCSU has its very own App?! Our App is available for download for both Android and Apple smart phones for **FREE**.

The OCSU App is designed to answer all student questions in one convenient place. It includes COVID information from the Students' Union as well as the College, campus life resources; including events and campaigns happening on campus and online, services; like Health & Dental information and where to find student discounts near you, student chat, buy and sell, and the list goes on and on!

Download the App today! Link below.

Black Lives Matter

The whole world is watching the most recent events of police brutality, with George Floyd as one of the most recent victims, being murdered by Minnesota Police Officers. As protests have broken out across the United States we have all been a witness to police violence against protestors. The whole world has watched police officers drive SUVs through crowds, enforce curfews to attempt citizens from participating in protests, and firing rubber bullets and tear gas at protestors and journalists.

We are saddened and outraged that the Black community still has to fight for their lives in a system that is supposed to protect them but is failing to do so. We stand with the Black community and support them. Their voices need to be heard and action needs to be taken. There is no room in our society for white supremacy and anti-Black racism. Students in British Columbia stand in solidarity with the Black community in our province, country, and around the world.

We cannot pretend Canada is immune to such systemic racism. Canada has a long history of police brutality and violence, especially towards the Black community and Indigenous peoples. We all need to be active in dismantling systems that were built on oppression, and building systems that support all.

We encourage everyone to listen to what the Black community has to say, do some learning on how to be actively anti-racist, sign petitions, and donate (if you can) to different groups. It is our collective responsibility to not be silent, to speak up against injustice, and to take action.

SOME WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Visit this Black Lives Matters action tool here to sign a petition, donate, and access resources. Donate to the Minnesota Freedom Fund, which is helping post bail for those stuck in the criminal system. Donate to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Donate to the Black Liberation Collective, which focuses on transforming post-secondary institutions to be safe and accessible for Black students.

And as always, reach out to organizers and activists in your local communities to see how you can support them.

- **British Columbia Federation of Students**