

As recently announced, the UFV Student Union Society is working collaboratively with UFV Athletics and Campus Recreation to develop a fitness program and fitness facilities designed to serve students studying on the UFV Chilliwack campus. Several factors played a role in the decision to not renew SUS's contract with the Canadian Recreation Excellence Corporation, operators of the Chilliwack Landing and Cheam Leisure Centres. The corporation had communicated several times to SUS over the past 12 months their requirement that SUS pay a significantly higher fee in return for acquiring access for UFV Chilliwack students to their centres in Chilliwack. No such increases have been requested by the gyms serving students in Abbotsford and the justification for such increases provided by the operators in Chilliwack were not, in the opinion of SUS, persuasive or warranted.

Simultaneous to the communication by the Canadian Recreation Excellence Corporation that fees would have to be increased, Steve Tuckwood, Director of UFV Athletics and Campus Recreation offered SUS the opportunity to collaborate in the development of a fitness program and fitness facilities on the UFV Chilliwack campus. The advantages of this collaborative project were multiple:

- a. The project would ensure that there would be no need in the immediate future to increase student fees for the purpose of accessing fitness facilities and programs.
- b. UFV Recreation services would work to schedule programs to accommodate the unique schedules of the academic programs offered at the Chilliwack campus. This consultative work between UFV rec and academic program administrators is already underway.
- c. The project gives SUS the ability to directly provide input as to the fitness programs and facilities being offered and to be developed in the future to meet the evolving needs of students on the Chilliwack campus; an opportunity that did not exist in the prior fitness arrangements with the Canadian Recreation Excellence Corporation.

SUS and UFV are committed to expanding the fitness equipment and programming available to student over the future and there exist opportunities for collaboration with the Chilliwack community on various fitness and recreational community projects and initiatives currently under consideration for development in the future.



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