

Cloverdale Campus Update: The KSA Unveil Our New Office Space!

>> The KSA is bringing new services to the Cloverdale Campus.

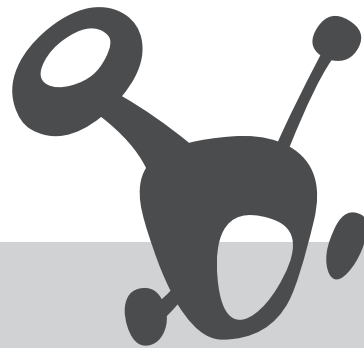
The KSA has finally gotten space on Kwantlen's newest campus in Cloverdale! Our new office is in the main common area of the Cloverdale Campus, where the vending machines were located (don't worry, the vending machines are still on campus too). The office space will contain a copy centre, computers for student use, game tables (such as pool, ping-pong, or foosball), and a staff office.

In other Cloverdale news: For some time the KSA has been contemplating changing our democratic structure to better represent trade and vocational students. Many students have expressed

difficulty in running for office in the KSA, particularly when many of the trade and vocational programs are short in duration (some as short as eight weeks!). For this reason, a new group called the Cloverdale Assembly will be created.

The Assembly will function like a general meeting of all Cloverdale students with every student in attendance able to vote on the business at hand. The Assembly will be able to spend money, host events and social activities on campus, represent Cloverdale students to the broader KSA Council, and perform other democratic and advocacy services for Cloverdale students.

A KSA staff member stationed at the Cloverdale Campus (the Cloverdale Campus Coordinator) will assist the Assembly in functioning smoothly and effectively. Any students who are interested in the position of Cloverdale Campus Coordinator can contact the KSA's General Manager, Desmond Rodenbour, at desmond.rodenbour@kusa.ca.



The KSA Election Results Are In!

>> Meet the new KSA Board of Directors!

The KSA held its annual General Election from February 4 to 7. Here are the results of the vote:

The new KSA Board of Directors is made up of some old and friendly KSA faces. Nathan Griffiths (Director of Operations), Ashley Fehr (Director of Academic Affairs), Derek Robertson (Director of External Affairs), Steven Lee (Director of Finance), and Trevor Loke (Director of Events), who have all been involved in the KSA in previous terms, will begin working together soon to create an amazing Kwantlen experience for students in 2008.

Vy Trinh continues on as Campus Director and Emily Hampton begins her work as Campus Representative in Surrey. In Richmond, the well-loved Kareem Elmassry joins the team as Campus Director, with Reena Bali, Harj Dhesi, and Vanessa Knight joining him as Campus Representatives, and Kris

Byl, Nicole Joe, and Sally Le joining him as Campus Officers. Langley Campus welcomes Jennifer Mamchur as its new Campus Director alongside Jennifer Campbell and Matt Szekeres, who were elected as Langley Campus Representatives, and Chris Farrer and Jennifer Galland, who were elected as Langley Campus Officers.

Three new liaisons were also voted into office in February. Mathew Dimera was acclaimed as the Queer Liaison, Thinesh Balasubramaniam was acclaimed as the International Students Liaison, and Sarah Anne Williams was acclaimed as the Women's Liaison. During their terms, the liaisons will each be creating and meeting with their respective Commissions to continue the dialog between the KSA and Kwantlen's minority students. If you're interested in participating in the Queer, Women's, or International Students Commissions, feel free to contact the new liaisons via the KSA's website (www.kusa.ca).

Congratulations to all of the newly elected officials who will be taking office April 1! It is a long standing joke at the KSA that the new officials take office on the 1st of April - April Fools! You Got Elected!

A note from all the exiting elected officials: We'd like to say thanks to the students for voting for us and not those other people. It has been a long hard road and now someone else must take up the fight for student rights at Kwantlen!



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// KSA campaigns

Referendum News: The CFS Sued the KSA!

>> On April 8, 9 and 10, we can vote to withdraw our membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) - here is one more reason for you to come and vote!

Back in September the KSA gave notice to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) - in a petition signed by **2,600+** or **22%** of Kwantlen students - that we would be holding a referendum on **March 18 - 20, 2008** on our membership in the provincial and national organization. From September to March, the KSA and the CFS were charged with forming the Referendum Oversight Committee (ROC) to administer the referendum. It was composed of two members from each side.

The ROC met from January to March and managed to decide the start of the official campaign period (March 3), but could not agree on **how campaign materials were to be approved, what the referendum question would be, and who would conduct the polling.**

The KSA's position was that a third party should conduct the polling so that no one would doubt the integrity of the polling process. The CFS refused. The KSA also put forward the position that neither side should have veto power over the other's campaign materials. Again, the CFS refused. And when it came to the referendum question, the CFS made the following proposals:

1. Are you in favour of the Kwantlen student body maintaining formal relations with student bodies at the following institutions: [followed by a list of every school whose student union is a member of the CFS], through a democratic framework called the Canadian Federation of Students?
2. Are you in favour of stopping the further fragmentation of Canada's student movement through a democratic framework called the Canadian Federation of Students?

These suggestions alone revealed the CFS' strategy - to stall the referendum process so that the polling dates would have to be moved. Needless to say, the KSA caught on and hired a third party to conduct the polling and stop the CFS from preventing Kwantlen students their right to vote. So, the CFS promptly sued the KSA for violating the CFS bylaws, campaigning outside of the campaign period, and distributing misinformation about the CFS - and asked that the referendum be postponed until the fall.

The court hearing was held on March 14. The Judge, Justice Mark McEwan, ruled that the KSA had acted reasonably

(continued on page 2)

in this issue

- 01 Referendum News: The CFS Sued the KSA!
- 02 Why Did the KSA Have a Forensic Audit?
>> Part 4
- 03 Why Are We Voting to Leave the Canadian Federation of Students?
>> Reason 8
- 04 Cloverdale Campus Update: The KSA Unveil Our New Office Space!
- 04 The KSA Election Results Are In!

Referendum News: The CFS Sued the KSA!

[continued from page 1]

given the circumstances, dismissed the CFS' claims about illegal campaigning and misinformation, and ruled that because the ROC had failed to set any rules about the referendum process, the referendum would have to be postponed until **April 8 – 10**.

Students at **Simon Fraser University** and graduate students at **University of**

Victoria voted in separate CFS membership referendums on March 18 – 20. Dozens of CFS supporters from all across the country were on hand to campaign for the CFS. Put two and two together. **That's just dirty politics – and it is one more reason students to vote to leave the CFS!** We will not be part of an organization that uses these kinds of tactics against Kwantlen students!



Why Did the KSA Have a Forensic Audit?

>> Part 4: The exciting conclusion to the tale of the leadership scandal that erupted at the KSA in 2005/06.

Recap of Part 1, 2 and 3: In May of 2005 the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) was in the grip of the Reduce All Fees Party (RAF), an odious group of students led by **Aaron Takhar**. On **September 29, 2005**, RAF held a **Special General Meeting (SGM)** to change the KSA bylaws. Although the meeting was a complete sham, RAF used it to expel the students opposed to their actions from the KSA and to reduce the checks and balances in the KSA bylaws. The SGM was videotaped and is posted on **www.youtube.com**.

Those opposed to RAF asked the B.C. government to not accept the legitimacy of the SGM, but were told that they could only do so by issuing a B.C. Supreme Court challenge. The RCMP was also contacted about the **\$8,000 rigged prize draw that occurred at the SGM**. The RCMP opened a file but **did not investigate the matter further**. So, the students fought RAF as best as they could. They ran in the January 2006 KSA election, but because **the election was rigged**, they were prevented from being elected. They also tried to hold a KSA General Meeting to impeach RAF, but received **legal threats**. **The only option left for the students was to take RAF to court**, and because they didn't have money to pay for a lawyer, they **prepared to represent themselves**.

Part 4: Months passed and a lengthy statement of claim was drafted. The stress of the ongoing uphill battle with RAF had taken its toll on the students and they began to lose their drive. It was at this time that someone came forward and offered to help fund the legal case.

Desmond Rodenbour, the former General Manager of the KSA who had previously been fired by RAF 'without cause', came forward and committed to financially supporting the legal battle with money from his savings and from his severance settlement. Hungerford, Tomlyn, Lawrenson, and Nichols LLP were engaged to represent the group of students who later became the Concerned Students of Kwantlen (CSK). The CSK filed their legal complaints against RAF on July 27, 2006. On August 22, 2006, a Supreme Court settlement was reached, granting nearly all of the requests of the CSK – students who had been removed by RAF were reinstated as KSA Board members, the KSA Board of Directors at the time was dissolved and an Interim Board was put in its place, a new General Election was to be held immediately, and the old KSA bylaws were restored.

The members of CSK ran for election and took office on November 1, 2006. Since RAF had not followed many of the

KSA's financial rules, the first order of business for the newly elected KSA officials was to initiate a **forensic audit**. The results of the audit are available online at **www.kusa.ca/media**. For the next year and a half, KSA staff and elected officials focused on cleaning up the mess that RAF had left behind, both figuratively and literally, a task which we continue to this day. If you would like to see the court documents from this case, you can email the KSA's Policy Analyst, Titus Gregory, at **titus.gregory@kusa.ca** and ask.

Well, that's the story of the financial audit! Now that the KSA is functioning effectively again, we have been publishing these spiffy newsletters to help keep students informed about what the KSA is doing. If you ever have any questions about what we are up to, feel free to come down to the office or to any KSA meeting (Council meetings are every second Wednesday). All of our meetings are open and students have full speaking rights. Thanks for reading our four-part series on the history behind the KSA's forensic audit!

Why Are We Voting to Leave the Canadian Federation of Students?

Reason #8: Aaron Takhar liaised with Joey Hansen, a major CFS supporter

- Joey Hansen was the staff member at the heart of the financial scandal at the Douglas Students' Union
- The CFS did not help the KSA fight against Aaron Takhar

If you just finished reading the final installment of **'Why Did the KSA Have a Forensic Audit?'** then you're in for a treat. **Here is some of the back-story that we haven't told you yet. This story is the most important reason to leave the CFS.**

The Reduce All Fees (RAF) party came into power at the KSA due to a botched election and subsequent court case. The election was botched for a number of reasons. For one, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), who oversaw the election, wasn't able to get students to sit on the election committee which was designed to help him administer the election, leaving him to administer it alone. More than **fifty complaints** were lodged in the election and a ballot box was stolen by members of the RAF party (a fact that was not confirmed until after the election). At the time, the KSA had a tense relationship with Kwantlen's administration as well as with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

The KSA was a strong voice calling for reform within the CFS and had offered to help fund a legal battle at Vancouver Community College (VCC) between the pro-CFS and anti-CFS factions in the VCC student union. With the help of Joey Hansen (who held positions nationally in the CFS), the CFS-BC legal counsel, and Paul Browning (the KSA's Ombudsperson and a very vocal CFS supporter), Aaron Takhar drafted documents to convince Kwantlen's Vice President of Learner Support, Derek Francis, that the elected KSA officials at the time were corrupt and that he

and his slate should be immediately placed in charge. Upon receiving these documents, Francis **ordered for the locks of the KSA to be changed**. Non-RAF officials were removed from the KSA and a security guard was posted at the main Surrey KSA office to keep them out. The KSA filed a B.C. Supreme Court petition requesting an injunction against Kwantlen for its actions, but lost due to the problems with the administration of the election. It is important to note too that the staff of the KSA (some of which were RAF supporters and who ended up giving erroneous evidence in court) had just unionized with CUPE 2396, which was made up almost entirely of pro-CFS staff. At the time, Hansen was also the President of CUPE 2396.

In the first few months that RAF was in office, Joey Hansen was seen on campus several times. He was in and out of the KSA offices and attended the September 29, 2005 Special General Meeting. The students fighting against RAF approached CFS-BC for help, but were rejected because their battle was considered an 'internal student union affair'.

After the RAF party was removed from the KSA, the newly elected students sought help from CFS-BC in funding the legal battle to sue RAF for damages. Again, they were declined. Perhaps you are thinking that this is just a crazy story and are rightly asking yourself whether it is just a coincidence. Well, the CFS has also been 'caught' interfering with internal student affairs at the Simon Fraser Student Society,

