



SUDS Conference Report

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ARRIVAL - AUGUST 12

OPENING CEREMONY + KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DANIEL QUAN-WATSON

The conference started off with a great introduction from the official SUDS Coordinator, Holly Leigh. She introduced the Keynote speaker, Daniel Quan - Watson.

Mr. Quan-Watson gave a fantastic speech on institutions within Canada and how they affect everyday Canadians. He talked about what role each individual plays in society, as well as how you can be the most effective leader for all people you encounter and work with (especially in those situations where there might be conflict). While differences and diversity on teams has the capacity to bring advancement to a halt, if the leader is able to bring team members together and use that diversity to their advantage, the team will be able to find great success. It is up to all of us as both leaders and followers to try and bring out the best in all of our cohorts.



DAY 1 - AUGUST 13

Advocacy, Government Relations, and how to Get Sh*t Done



For this presentation, Mackenzy Metcalfe (the Executive Director of CASA) presented on government relations and the most effective ways to communicate and advocate to politicians. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn how we can best represent students in front of our elected officials.

Keynote Presentation: Lev Bukhman



Lev Bukhman gave a great presentation on how to be a student leader. It was wonderful to hear advice from a past student leader discuss how to live in the moment and set healthy work life boundaries.

Anti-Racist Approach to Media Literacy



Amrita Aggarwal from Bakau Consulting gave a wonderful presentation on how to be more aware of racial connotations within the media we consume. It was very eye opening to consider how we interpret news and what sources we use to inform ourselves about the world around us.

Campaigns



Dario Garousian from Crestview Strategy gave a fantastic presentation on how to run campaigns on campuses. It included an interactive aspect where we got the opportunity to work with other student leaders and "plan" a campaign to run.

DAY 2 - AUGUST 13



Cultural Violence and Resistance

Kyada Simons and Parisa Jahanloo spoke about how leaders can be more equipped to help those who have experienced trauma heal. Sexualized violence is unfortunately prevalent on campuses, and this was an important opportunity to open up this conversation.



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Staci Hegarty from Envision Rise gave a fantastic presentation on how to be more inclusive towards diversity in the workplace. It included a wonderful interactive portion where we had a chance to answer tough questions and critically think about how we interact with those around us.



Closing Ceremony + Closing Keynote Speaker: Wally Oppal

After a closing statement from AMS VP External, Erin Co, we were introduced to the closing Keynote Speaker, Wally Oppal. He gave a very interesting speech on necessary reform within the RCMP, specifically speaking from his experience with the Robert Pickton case.

Gala

The conference ended with the Gala event!



TRAVEL DAY

Our flight didn't leave until the evening, so we took the day to go to the Simon Fraser University Campus. We met with the Simon Fraser Student Society President, Helen Pahou, and their VP Finance & Services, Abhi Parmar. It was great to meet with other student leaders and find better ways to advocate for our students.

Overall, SUDS was a fantastic place to meet with other student leaders from across the country and bond over both similarities and differences of how we interact with our provincial governments and respective institutions. The workshops were all very interesting and opened important conversations on how we can better ourselves and better support students in the coming year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any one of us! We appreciate your involvement and look forward to using this experience to support students moving forward.

Sincerely,

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