

FROM THE OFFICE OF

Dr. James Mandigo
Acting President and Vice-Chancellor



December 5, 2023

Ey St'émexw St'elt'ilém/Good Medicine Songs
c/o Holly Arntzen & Kevin Wright
Artist Response Team (ART)
10694 244 Street
Maple Ridge, BC V2W 2E6

Ey swáyel Dr. Siyamiateliyot Elizabeth Phillips, T'it'elem Spath Eddie Gardner, Dr. Lolehawk Laura Buker, Holly Arntzen, Kevin Wright, and Xótxwes Jonny Williams,

On behalf of the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), I express sincere gratitude for the meaningful partnership that has flourished between Good Medicine Songs (GMS) and the university over the past two years. Your unwavering commitment to reconciliation, particularly through the revitalization of the Halq'eméylem language through song, serves as an inspiration. UFV takes great pride in our collaboration with GMS, and we eagerly anticipate further strengthening this connection in the years to come.

2023 was a special year for the connection between UFV and GMS. In September, in recognition of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, UFV was honoured to present the Chowiyes-Xwithet/Rise Up-Wake Up! gathering for its second year. Attendees came together to listen to stories and sing bilingual songs, written in Halq'eméylem and English. It was a powerful learning opportunity for nearly 250 students, faculty, staff, and community members as we all continue our journey toward authentic truth and reconciliation.

St'elt'elawtexw: a Celebration of Community on September 12-14 was the university's opportunity to gather with community, about community, in community; to share and to showcase the incredible impact of the partners we engage with. We were so grateful to GMS for working with us on both our launch event in Abbotsford and the celebration at the EcoFarm. The joyful learning with our campus and our community was uplifting and meaningful, showcasing the unique way that GMS uses art and song as a springboard for deeper learning.

In June, I had the privilege of witnessing the Listen to the Stream/Xwelelam te Stótelō concert presented by GMS and Chilliwack's Imagine High Integrated Arts & Technology Secondary, in celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day. This inspiring gathering paved the way for GMS and Imagine High students to open UFV's Educational Leadership Summit in November and start the day in a good way with one participant writing that they "Loved the beginning [of the summit] with learning language through song and appreciating the importance of the environment and connection to local land." Attended by 50 members of senior leadership from UFV and our six closest school districts, the performance was a testament to what we can do when we all work together in providing meaningful Indigenous education for students.

