

Annual Plan 2023/24

The StFX Students' Union



Our Mission

Since its incorporation in 1965, the St. Francis Xavier University (StFX) Students' Union (the Union) has been a student-led organization that provides services and advocates for its membership, all students of StFX. As StFX and the rest of the world readjust and emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, our Students' Union team is taking this year head-on to create a strong foundation for student leadership and advocacy on our campus for years to come.

Your Union executive team has been hard at work identifying the key issues students face today on our campus and finding solutions through research and consultation to address these problems. Over the course of this summer, we have created and begun to implement our Annual Plan, which outlines the substantial goals and measurable objectives we seek to reach and achieve over the 2023-2024 year. This year is also a Strategic Planning year, which means we will also be laying the foundation for what the next three years will look like for the Union, solidifying our priorities and more extensive multi-year plans, and creating a sustainable framework for future teams to build from. The Annual Plan highlights the actionable goals for this year, which will fit into the larger strategic objectives to create long-lasting impacts on students' lives now and all students in StFX's future.

Building from our foundational core values, our team has created this comprehensive Annual Plan for the 2023-2024 year to help build up all students and prioritize their success at StFX. We will accomplish this through strengthening supports for mental and physical health, approaching student issues like the affordability of post-secondary education and barriers to academic success with a holistic lens, and working continuously to make the Union an inclusive and accessible organization that supports all students by empowering traditionally underrepresented voices that need to be heard on our campus. While we seek to accomplish these goals, we will do so with a renewed consideration of what sustainability means to us at the Union. We will carefully consider each action we take from the lens of how we engage with our environment and work to do any part we can in promoting environmental sustainability on campus to protect the world around us. We are striving to make ourselves visible to all students on campus, not only to provide transparency into what we do on a day-to-day basis, but also so we can be the most effective in our work as advocates, fostering a community where all students can bring issues and challenges they are facing forward so we can work to solve them together.

This Annual Plan is our blueprint for making our Union, and the entire StFX campus, inclusive, sustainable, safe, and responsive to student needs. With clear, actionable, and measurable goals, we aim to create a positive impact and a tangible difference in the lives of StFX students this year and going forward.

Your 2023-2024 StFX Students' Union Executive Team

StFX Students' Union Core Values

- Servant Leadership to Students
- Trust, Integrity, Respect
- Transparency and Accountability
- Fun, Inclusive Student Engagement
- Sustainable, Innovative Practices

Pillar 1) Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Annual Goals	Actionable Items
Increased Accessibility within the Union	Continue transitioning all honorarium jobs to hourly pay
	Run an awareness campaign to highlight the need for a Union fee increase to implement an equitable pay structure
	Investigate and address gaps and barriers to Union jobs
Inclusivity and Accessibility for On-Campus Food	Collaborate with Sodexo and advocate for policy change on allergy accommodation and meal plan opt-out
	Run an “On-Campus Food Survey”
	Collaborate with other Student Associations to create a report for on-campus dining
Student Society Experience	Support student societies via improved society leadership training
	Review society governance structure and language
	Review society event planning procedure
Emergency Grants	Review Emergency Grants policy, submissions process, and privacy
	Increase budget and number of emergency grants available
	Redefine program parameters
Connect with First Years	Host a Successful O-Week
	Engage with students in residence
	Host more events for the first years after O-Week
	Run a Frost Week

Pillar 2) Sustainability, Affordability, and Development

Annual Goals	Actionable Items
Environmental Sustainability	Strike an internal sustainability working committee of the board
	Develop a sustainability policy and action plan
	Create a long-term plan to sustain the community Garden
	Collaborate with and advocate for the University to decrease on-campus emissions
Affordability and Academic Success	Renew the Union/University Consultation Agreement (MOU)
	Review the internal grant program for OERs on campus and continue to run awareness campaigns for OERs
	Consult with traditionally under-represented student groups to assess gaps in academic success supports
	Promote scholarship and bursary opportunities on the Union website as well as review the current Union Bursaries
Address Food Insecurity	Expand, improve infrastructure, and create new positions for the long-term sustainability of Kevin's Corner Food Resource Center
	Diversification of food available at KCFRC
	Establish a more welcoming environment in the KCFRC
	Collaborate with local food banks and FeedNS to further improve KCFRC
	Partner with Service Learning for volunteers
	Host a food sustainability conference at StFX
Address Housing Insecurity	Implement a Tenancy Rights education program
	Collaborate with Student Life to execute a turnaround for the Good Neighbours program
	Run a Student Housing Survey

Pillar 3) Health, Wellness, and Safety

Annual Goals	Actionable Items
Sexual Violence Prevention and Response	Review the Union's Internal Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) policy
	Collaborate with the office of the SVpra to support campus-wide SVP
	Support and implement Sexual Violence education on campus and within the Union
	Promotion and awareness of the REES app
Mental and Physical Health Services and Support	Strengthen the Peer Support Program
	Promote the health plan Opt-in before September for upper-year students
	Implement a My Virtual Doctor role-out marketing campaign
	Collaboration with Flourish@X on programming for health, mental health, sexual health, and holistic wellness
	Collaborate with the Health and Wellness Office, community partners, and Gallivan to support Meningitis-B vaccination in residence and on campus
Community Building Programming	Utilize the Inn in more creative ways for more community-building opportunities and programming for under-represented students on campus
	Host new community and capacity-building events: "How to Run an Event 101," "CRA Taxes 101," and "Cooking Classes"
	Support the new community-based charity structure in residence
	Create new spaces within the Union structure for collaboration with grad students, International students, Indigenous students, Black students, 2SLGBTQIA+ students, and neurodivergent students

Pillar 4) Visibility, Advocacy, and Support

Annual Goals	Actionable Items
Effective Advocacy Plan	<p>Create an organization-wide advocacy plan</p> <p>Include advocacy for BOG, Senate, Administration, Students NS, Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, Town of Antigonish, Sodexo, Residence</p>
On Campus Visibility	Increase Union's visibility through event attendance and active engagement
	Increase media presence including TikTok and Reels
	Inform students of coordinator and sub-executive activities
Increase Voter Turnout	Exec team supports marketing strategy for elections
	Collaboration with the Chief Returning Officer and Chair
	Increased publicity during the nomination period
Union Service Assessment	Support student initiatives and grassroots movements on campus and within the community
	Foster a research-oriented approach to improving current student supports
	Collaborate with faculty, staff, and departments to evaluate services and gaps
	Host frequent and accessible town halls for student consultation

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the StFX Students' Union Annual Plan please email su_pres@stfx.ca.