

# Annual Report 2017/2018

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We are the students of George Brown College committed to supporting each other in the struggle for students' rights, the pursuit of quality education and the provision of services in a safe, equitable and accessible environment.



he Student Association functions as the central student government representing the interests of all George Brown College students. The Student Association focuses on representation, advocacy, delivery of services and the operation of businesses to support its overall mandate.

#### THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION'S BASIC OBJECTIVES SHALL BE:

- A. To build a united student movement among the students of George Brown College regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, language, ability, sexual orientation, age or socio-economic status.
- B. To provide a democratic forum to voice students' concerns and issues.
- C. To provide the opportunity for students to unite in various student groups to address concerns specific to particular constituencies of the Student Association.
- D. To facilitate cooperation among all students and student groups to work towards common goals on a cooperative basis.
- E. To voice the students' perspective on issues at the college, municipally, provincially, and federally and to represent the students' interests at all levels.
- F. To promote awareness of pertinent College activities and policies.
- G. To strive towards a high-quality education by providing optimal support services accessible to all students.







### Message From BOARD MEMBERS

It was a great year at George Brown College.

Whether you are a new or returning student, school always brings excitement but also a little bit of nervousness. But don't worry, as full-time students of George Brown College you are members of the Student Association, also known as the SA. This means that you are a part of the student movement!

The SA puts students first because we would not exist without you—our members. Here at the SA, we firmly believe that you're always in the right place. We have an incredible team of staff who are always ready to answer your questions, help you navigate and understand your health benefits or even help you find your classroom.

The SA has an elected board of directors, which is made up of students. We work together to ensure that the diversity of our members is represented in all our events and campaigns.

The board of directors is committed to embracing the full diversity of race, creed, national origin, gender, culture, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and ability of our members.

Your executive team was dedicated to ensuring that the SA was advocating for the academic rights of our students, better services on every campus and improved communications between students and faculty.

This year we continued to grow our service offerings to students and continued to diversify our events. We served thousands of students from our front offices, and had thousands of others take advantage of or participate in our programs.

We had an amazing year with all of you!

Best wishes, Your SA Board of Directors



## 2017/2018 BOARD MEMBERS

#### **EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

Director of Campus Life - Mercedes Burrowes Director of Communications & Internal - Riddhi Modi Director of Education - Tiffany White Director of Equity - Alex Stewart Director of Operations - Kushagra Manchanda

#### **CAMPUS DIRECTORS**

Casa Loma Campus Director - Jasmyn St.Hilaire Satellite Campus Director - Ashley Cammisa St. James Campus Director - Calvin Batholomew Soto Waterfront Campus Director - Jolie Tadros

#### EDUCATION CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE

Art and Design Representative - Jeremy Worrall Business Representative - Kevin Yu Community Services Representative - Tisha Graham Construction & Engineering Representative - Vacant Health Sciences Representative - Vacant Hospitality Representative - Vacant Liberal Arts & Preparatory Studies Representative - Vanessa Truong

#### CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTATIVE

First Nations, Metis and Inuit Representative - Leslie Van Every Accessibility Representative - Yuseph Jackman International Students Representative - Kushagra Manchanda LGBTQ Representative - Garth Vernon Woman & Trans Representative - Jimberly Cotoner Black Students' Representative - Arnel Fleurant



#### **PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA**

The SA's publications and media department produces a number of publications, including the student newspaper The Dialog.

In addition to the print edition of the newspaper, which is on racks and handed out every two weeks, the student journalists at The Dialog also publish a digital-first website at dialognews.ca that has all of our regular content plus breaking news, videos and a podcast.

Our team of student journalists have broken important stories at the college that have affected changed at George Brown College as well as won national student journalism awards.

The SA's monthly email newsletter that is sent to all full-time GBC students is a great way to stay informed about what's happening at the SA and at your college. You can sign up on our website studentassociation.ca

The SA's website at studentassocation.ca features all the news and events from your Student Association. Be sure to check out our active events calendar for what's happening at George Brown College.

We also produce The Source student handbook, which outlines all of the SA's programs and services and also serves as a useful day planner for students.



#### MEMBER SERVICES

Member services inspires and educates students by offering front-line services, such as health benefit inquiries, college-wide referrals and the sale of tickets and SA clothing. We administrator the student benefits program as the health and wellness of our students matter. We help students find the information they need to succeed academically.



#### **CLUBS AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**

George Brown College is home to over 70 student clubs in various categories including academics, environmental, leisure, faith-based, entertainment, political, language and sports.

The clubs program is provided through the Student Association and creates a community for students to come together for a wide range of purposes and shared interests.

Why should students join a club?

Clubs have a positive impact on the experiences outside the classroom and students' everyday lives.

One of the benefits of joining a club is the opportunity to develop leadership and soft skills such as communication, positive attitude and work ethic through interactions with both individuals and large groups.

One of the best benefits of participating in a student club is having the luxury to have fun! Meeting new people and participating in activities will add value to your school experience at George Brown College.



#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Community Services is a service wing of the Student Association that provides non-academic student supports and the planning and execution of seven programs:

- Student food banks
- Casa Loma and Waterfront Good Food Markets
- Income tax clinic
- An annual food drive
- A community garden
- Mental health week
- A supper club

As part of our effort to assist financially disadvantaged students, the community services co-ordinator is also responsible for relationship management of partnerships from community members to assist in providing support and being a partner in our struggle to eliminate hunger within our George Brown College community to help students receive the support they need to succeed academically.



#### TTC METROPASS SALES

Metropass sales are held at the college during the last 5 business/school days of the month. Sales are run by the Student Association, with funding from George Brown College. The program will be ending as of Nov.30, 2018, as the TTC is ending Metropass sales and moving all ticketing to the Presto electronic system.

From July 2017 to June 2018, the Student Association sold over 15,000 VIP Metropasses and over 3,000 Post-Secondary Metropasses to staff and students in the college. During the sales period, we utilize locations on each main campus to reach staff and students.

As the Metropass Sales program wraps up, the SA will be providing complimentary Presto cards to staff and students who purchased Metropasses from us in 2018. Cards will be given out from Dec. 10 to 14 at our regular sales locations from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or until sold out.



#### **COMMUNITY ACTION CENTRE**

The Community Action Centre employs peer staff with lived equity experience to prop each other up as we press on to get to class – or face the world. Breaking social isolation is a political act. We team empathy with solidarity. We discuss how we differ, we invest in how we intersect.

We offer resources to change-makers and we believe that marginalized college students are change-makers. Through campaigns, programming, workshop, teachings, trainings and materials we welcome people into curiosity. We come together to question established systems and histories. We look at what is possible beyond what already exists. We all have something to learn and teach.

The CAC is a safe(r) space on campus open to all students who care about issues of equity to gather.

You're in the right place.







#### ACADEMIC ADVOCACY

Through the academic advocacy program, students benefits from the promotion and awareness about academic rights and responsibilities to strengthen students' academic success at George Brown College.

The program aims to guide students on college policies and procedures when they encounter an academic issue during their studies. The program promotes self-advocacy and encourages students to resolve academic issues at the lowest and most immediate level.

The program supports students who choose to pursue an impartial review of their issue through an academic hearing, where appropriate. The program advocates on behalf of students in cases where students are unable to self-advocate and in cases when systemic issues are identified.



#### SA EVENTS

Our goal is to create memorable moments for students.

The way we create those moments is by planning diverse events that enable students to get together.

These wide-ranging events consist of the following:

**Pub Nights:** Genderful LGBTQ party, Fuego Latino Latin party, Desi Night/ Diwali South Asian party, MAWD Caribbean party.

**External Events:** GBC Fest, Back-to-school & End-of-year boat cruises, Toronto FC soccer games, Toronto Blue Jays baseball games, Axe throwing outing, Canada's Wonderland Halloween Haunt, Paintball outing at Sgt. Splatters, Black Panther movie screening.

Food events: Ice cream days, Free pizza day, Diwali night, Desi night, Fuego Latino

Guest speakers: Charlamagne Tha God & You Got This Girl

**Collaborative events:** Therapy dogs, Canada's Wonderland, Taste of the Caribbean, Ryerson fun fair

**Other events:** Bubble soccer, Oasis week – hand & back massages, Mentalist show, Tarot card reader event, Hands on Exotics animal visit, GBC Got Talent showcase, Video gaming day, Illusionist show.



#### INTERNAL

The Internal coordinator plays a fundamental role in the organization support and implements systems in areas affecting student employability, improving campus life and sustainability of the organization. The Student Association employed approximately 172 part-time student support staff in 2017-2018. These positions provide support in the different departments that make up the Student Association. Employability on campus also aids students in building their character, employment history experience, enhance their skills during their time in college and to also prepare them after graduation. The Internal coordinator also books external vendors to come on campus to educate and vend products and services to the student body. This 2017-2018 year, the Student Association had approximately 20 external vendors with many coming on campus throughout the academic school year. Through this revenue stream, this allows opportunities for corporate and local companies, as well as entrepreneurs to interact with students, improving the campus life experience and sustainability.



#### KINGS LOUNGE

The Kings Lounge Bar and Eatery is in the heart of the St. James campus' A building. The Kings Lounge is student owned and operated, which means that all proceeds from the restaurant go right back into supporting student activities.

We offer a diverse menu with fresh options for quick grab-and-go bites to casual lunches. Along with many student favourites, we are pleased to feature options for a breadth of different diets, including vegan and gluten-free options.

If you're in the mood to watch the game, grab a snack between classes or just relax with some friends, the Kings Lounge is the perfect spot for you. We offer a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages to accompany your meal.

Working with the SA's events squad, we host regular pub nights that have become a legendary part of the GBC experience. Grab your classmates and come on in for the best parties in Toronto—you won't be sorry you did!



#### SAFEWALK

Safewalk is a joint initiative program brought to you by the Student Association in collaboration with George Brown College. We provide walk accompaniment service to students, staff and visitors of the college community during weekdays nightly from September to April.

Being a pro-active safety measure on campus, we aim to improve the community by creating a safer environment for all.

In the 2017-18 school year, the Safewalk program provided walk accompaniment service to 2,591 people and helped over 6,000 people at the desks, while reporting over 500 audit-related safety findings to the college.

All staff members have extensive training, including emergency first aid, customer service and understanding and managing aggressive behaviour.

Safewalk is available on all campuses during the school year. Service is limited to a 2 km radius from any of our locations, and we are available to be dispatched within 2 km to meet anyone not able to meet us at one of our stations.

For more info, follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram @gbcsafewalk.



#### LEGAL AID

Our legal aid service supports hundreds of students each year for free. From landlord and tenant to international student support our Lawyer works with students to provide them with meaningful support as they deal with a number of difficult situations.



ON INFO: y, Feb. 7 11 a.m. to 3 p.m esday, Oct. 24 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m 8 | 11 a.m. to 3 p.m 7 Junt - Failting Room E126

Monday Feb. 5 & Thursday, Feb. 8 11 a.m. to 3 p.m 21 Januar & Builden Beren 105 Date Lance

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Mrican & Caribbean dance perf Free food – Provided by BSSN

mes – Kings Lounge | 8 P.M. to 1 A.M. Music by: Jeff Jam The DJ BC students // \$5 for guests (two guest per GBC studen

INCLUDES:

Waterfront campus - Main Lobby Casa Loma campus - Student Centre St. James campus – Kings Lounge Thursday, Dec. 14 & Thursday, Dec. 21 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. SEE THE MOVIE BEFORE IT COMES OUT! PANTHE

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et available online @ www.campusvibe.ca/sagbo

This is a 19+ event. Dress code: Semi-formal minu from St. James campus only at 6 p.

#### COVERS OF THE DIALOG NEWSPAPER











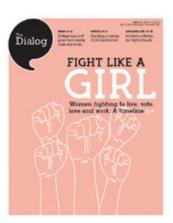








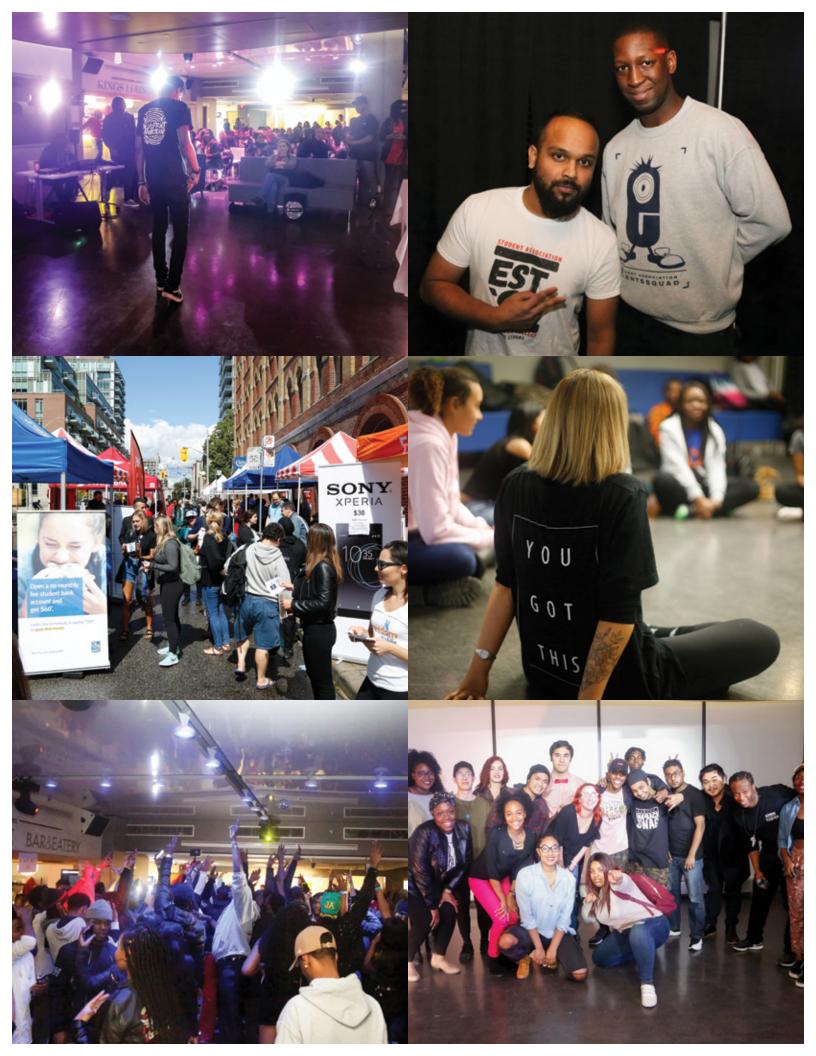














## **STUDENT ASSOCIATION FEES**

The sa receives a small portion of the fees at the college, which is spent to offer various services to students:

Clubs

#### SA OPERATING FEE: \$64.74 per year

This fee is used to operate many services and departments in the SA including events, clubs, food banks, Community Action Centre, campaigns, academic advocacy and The Dialog.

#### **SA BUILDING FEE:** \$34.64 per year

The SA helped to build the Casa Loma Student Centre in order to provide students with a place to eat and relax. A portion of this fee is also used to pay off the existing mortgage and maintain the facility.

#### **SA CONTINGENCY FEE:** *\$2.09 per year*

This amount goes into a fund that allows us to deal with unforeseen expenses and emergencies.

#### **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS:** \$8.24 per year

This fee goes towards membership in the CFS, which gives students perks such as free ISIC cards.

**HEALTH INSURANCE:** \$206.53 per year (Domestic) \$603.34 per year (International) The SA provides extended health care benefits to the students of George Brown College

