



# 2021/2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Student Association of  
George Brown College*

**"Stronger Together"**

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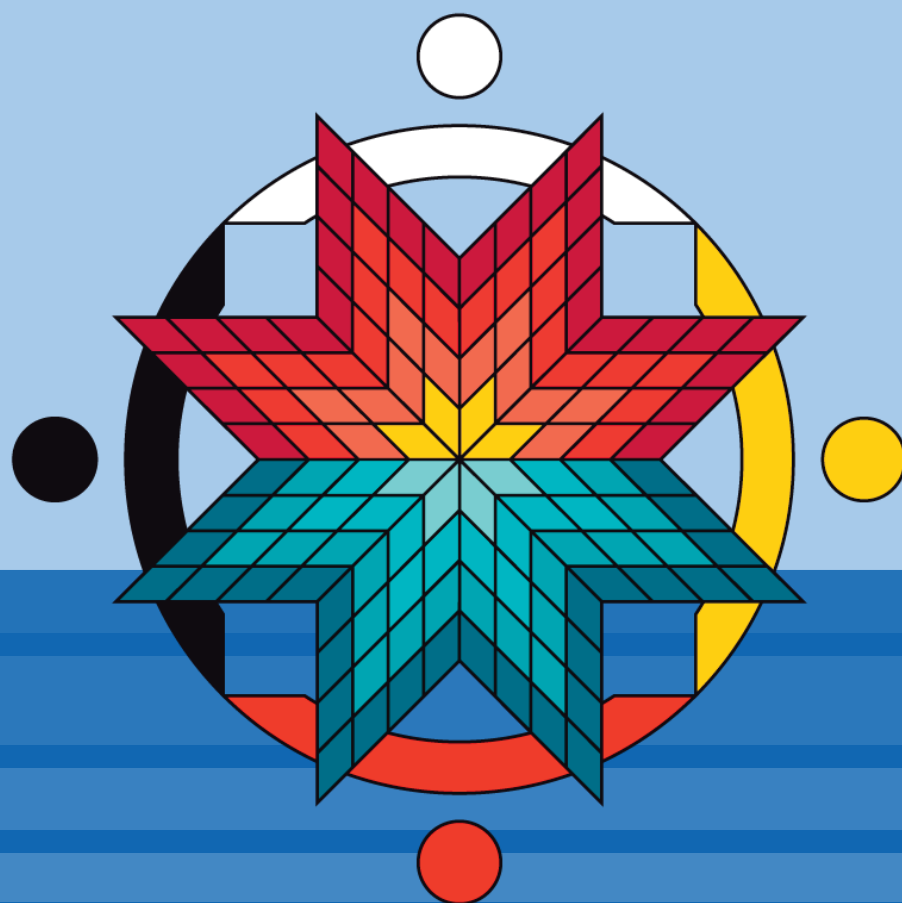
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## Land Acknowledgement

*As many of us are settlers on this land, it is our collective responsibility to pay respect and recognize that this land is the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and that we are here because this land is occupied. In recognition that this space occupies colonized First Nation territories, and out of respect for the rights of Indigenous people, it is our collective responsibility to honour, protect and sustain this land.*





# To Our Members

## A Message From the Board of Directors

As members of the student movement, we find strength in unity. We witnessed our strength, determination, tenacity, and resilience during this year of unseen and unprecedented challenge: from weathering the Pandemic, to enduring reports of global violence, and witnessing the ongoing struggles of the Indigenous Community, the Black Community, and many others who are facing adversity. These challenges forged our bond even stronger than before, and our commitment to support each other remains steadfast.

I would like to share our key highlights and the work we achieved with the incredible support, courage, and creativity demonstrated by our Board, Management, and staff, and most importantly, our members' continuous engagement and encouragement. Key highlights of the SAGBC year include initiating the Equity & Care Relief Fund; supporting students through our mission statement; opposing the Student Choice Initiative; fighting against racial inequality; and more. It is with the support of our members that we were able to accomplish the following over the 2021/2022 year:

The SA supported students through the delivery and disbursement of the Equity & Care Relief Fund, a \$50,000 fund for equity students impacted by the pandemic. This was among the first pandemic relief funds across any school or student union.

The SA's efforts to support students continued with our 2021/22 engagement in the fight for student rights. In service of this, it was important for us to amend and update our mission statement. Playing a very important role for every organization, mission statements define an organization and provide detailed information about what the organization does, how they do it, and who their work aims to benefit. As such, our new mission statement reflects our strategic guidelines and properly embodies our various contributions towards the success of GBC students.

Another win for student rights included the defeat of the Provincial Government's Student Choice Initiative. The attack on the independence of post-secondary institutions was deemed unlawful and struck down in Divisional Court – a decision upheld in the Court of Appeal for Ontario. This constitutes a huge win for students who will continue to benefit from the services offered by organizations like the Student Association.

Our work with politicians continued through involvement with the Canadian Federation of Students – both provincially and nationally. By participating in lobby week, the SA Board of Directors had the chance to connect with MPPs on issues brought forth by the students. Our Students Together lobby document presented issues such as affordable education, fairness for international students, mental health support, Indigenous learner's support, and more, bringing student voices directly to the people who can make lasting change.

Finally, our strength and unity did not end within the walls of GBC but extended into the broader community as well. By spreading our care and compassion to those experiencing anti-black racism, anti-Indigeneity, and war, we aimed to provide support and relief to those experiencing grief and mourning. To this end, our team approved a \$15,000 donation to Ukrainian refugees through a Canadian based non-profit supporting Ukrainians.

As we look towards another year full of challenges, successes, and triumphs, we take pride in the work we've done this year to prepare us to continue in our fight for student rights and global justice. We look forward to continuing to support you in this journey.



## A Message From the General Manager

As we navigated our way through another year of lockdown and remote operations, I can say with great pride that we returned gradually to in-person operations by January 2022 with an intent to better support our members in building their futures. Our members taught us the true meaning of resiliency through their continuous engagement of with our programs and services and despite the pandemic restrictions during 2021-2022, they did just that.

Throughout the year, we responded to emerging needs and shifted our priorities to respond to the most pressing matters. The Grab and Go initiative creatively ensured access to care kits, resources, food, frosh items and giveaways for our members. We celebrate the teams that boldly hosted in-person events while ensuring our members were kept safe, and the teams that met with students individually, in groups and online. These actions led to the largest donation for program enhancement from GBC in the history of the organization.

We focused on utilizing established networks and relationships to strengthen our ability to reach students who were located all over the world. We lent our voice to challenge those who might adversely affect the membership and organization through decisions around fee reconciliation and student rights to accessible education. We campaigned for continued Covid emergency relief funds and acknowledgements for increased financial aid support. At the governance and operational level, we assessed our long-term viability, identified the competencies and capacity required to transition to meet present and emerging challenges. In addition, we looked to fortify the organization's health through a governance review process and presented a capital space feasibility study to George Brown College. The Board of Directors collaborated strongly with the staff and members to advance the strategic goals of the organization.

On behalf of the managers and staff, it is my pleasure to present our Annual Report, which shares the impact of our programs and services, but most of all, it tells a story of extraordinary resilience during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rosalyn Miller





# Sustainable Development Goals



## THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Student Association's Board of Directors delegates brought forward a motion requesting the adoption of the SDG Accord to the members of the Canadian Federation of Students at the National General Meeting in November 2021 Members Meeting, and encouraged participation and advocacy in support of the SDG Accord. The motion was accepted and supported by all universities and colleges.

The SA Board is tirelessly committed to a just planet and is fighting for a world where there is zero hunger; good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; reduced inequalities; responsible consumption; and climate action. In pursuit of this, the SA hosted world speakers on the topics of sustainability and education during GBC Orientation and has worked throughout the pandemic to unite students on issues around climate action. The SA will be the first college student union signatory to the UN accord and has modeled the way for other schools.

## Strategic Direction

Our Strategic Direction is an initiative developed in response to large-scale changes necessitated by the COVID-19 virus and shifting policies at George Brown College. After many surveys, focus working groups, and planning sessions, we are confident that our new Strategic Direction is grounded in our core values and represents our recommitment to responsibility and responsiveness as a partner in the student movement.

The Strategic Direction is based in three foundational motivations:

- **To Adapt** Our two year recommitment to change, growth, and progress
- **To Inspire** Identifying strategic priorities through a shifting policy environment
- **To Grow** Recommitting to transparency, responsibility, and responsiveness

It also encompasses three strategic priorities, each with specific action points, that we will address through the next two years of our programming and initiatives:

1. **Build connections within an engaged student community**
2. **Invest in people, technology, and processes that lead to digital transformation**
3. **optimize organizational learning and development, sustainability, strategic recruitment, and high-performance teams**

## Student Feedback

Over the course of this year, the SA has sought student feedback to ensure that our work, services, programming, and offerings are of the utmost benefit to our membership. On top of accepting feedback through our social media channels, Live Chat boxes, tabling efforts, and via direct contact, we have also distributed student surveys to gauge the efficacy of our events, satisfaction with college procedures around Covid-19, and the need for additional supports in the face of global unrest.

**12** Student Feedback Surveys

**405** Student Respondents

# Our Impact

## Student Health and Wellness

The **Community Care Centre (CCC)** focuses on maintaining the health and wellness of GBC students. By teaching content related to consent, sexual health education, harm reduction and more, students can live their lives with dignity. The CCC furthers its work through community partnerships by offering trauma-informed practices, peer support and equity-based programming to provide a comprehensive approach to health.



**1779** applications to Equity and Care Relief Fund

**447**  
Radical Retro Care Days kits distributed



### Care Kit Supplies include:

Sexual health products  
Pregnancy tests  
Menstrual supplies  
Covid safety supplies  
First aid kits

The **Student Nutrition Access Program (SNAP)** provides support to students related to nutrition, health and wellness. Offering programs like the SNAP Resource Centre and Food Hamper program, and providing resources related to food banks, social programs and volunteer tax clinic, SNAP works to ensure student success from an angle of total wellbeing. COVID-19 significantly affected the operations of the food pantry throughout June 2021 – May 2022. SNAP was forced to pivot its operations and overcome various hurdles to thrive during the pandemic and continue serving and supporting students facing food insecurity. As the pandemic continued to unfold, SNAP continued food hamper delivery, and the distribution of grocery gift cards to students.

**785** tax returns filed

**10,135**  
student inquiries



**1654** Grocery gift cards distributed

**138,000**  
pounds of food distributed



### Students assisted via:

- Zoom
- Live Chat
- Email
- Phone

**Health Benefits** are available to full-time domestic and International students. Our various plans – offered through partner WeSpeakStudent – gives GBC students access to extended health and dental services so they can maintain a vigorous life while completing their studies. The Student Assistance Program, which provides additional counselling support, has evolved to be able to respond to the needs of students living outside of the country: the service is now available by phone in over 100 languages, and WeSpeakStudent facilitated webinars online each semester to aid students in getting to know the plan and services better.

**14,344** Enrolled in domestic plan

**7,525** Enrolled in International plan

**821** Enrolled in International ESL plan



**579** Responses to Student Satisfaction survey



**116**

Students supported through Student Assistance Program

## Student Social Experience

Your college experience is more than just lectures and assignments, it's about connecting with your fellow students for an exciting time. Your Student Association's **Events and Recreation** team works tirelessly to bring you exciting programming like talent shows, movie nights, cultural events and more. The pandemic may have kept us apart, but the Events team made sure we all got the chance to come together



**Clubs** give students the opportunity to connect over a shared goal or interest. The SA collaborates with students from all walks of life and helps bring them together under the banner of Academic, Health and Counselling, Recreational, and Social and Cultural clubs. We help those with a passion bring together students from around GBC



## Safety and Inclusion

**SafeWalk** offers students, staff and GBC visitors friendly accompaniment while walking to or from campus. Ensuring the safety of those who request SafeWalk services is paramount, therefore, all staff are have extensive training in first aid CPR, AED and more. SafeWalk's online events complemented its campus work in providing safety knowledge to students, including Basic First Aid Theory and Intro to Understanding & Managing Aggressive Behaviour webinars.



**SA Legal Services** is here to help with a broad range of legal issues including housing situations, family law, employment, accident and even criminal cases. Toward the end of the 2021-22 academic year, we started planning a return to individual on-campus appointments where appropriate, and that effort has gained considerable traction. Online services increased in part due to the ability and flexibility service to allow for daily consultations. Our **Virtual Tax Clinic** also successfully pivoted to an online delivery and provided assistance to students as they navigated their income tax returns.



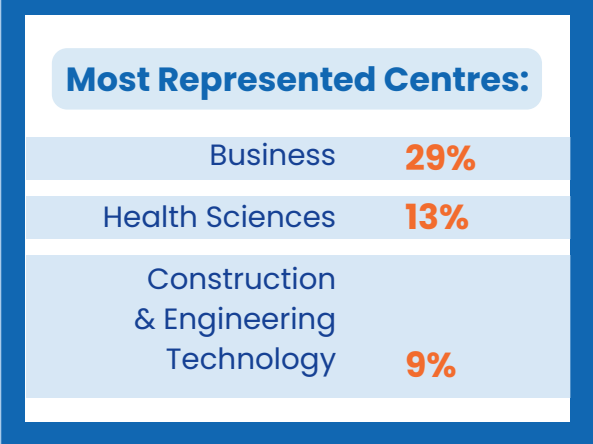
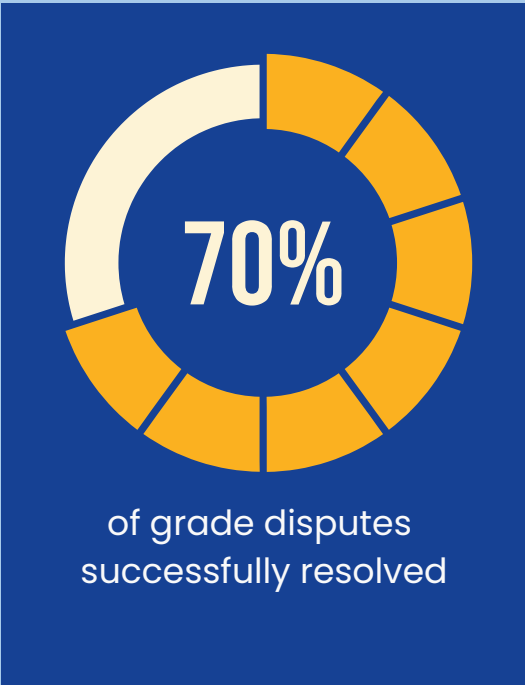


## Advocacy and Support

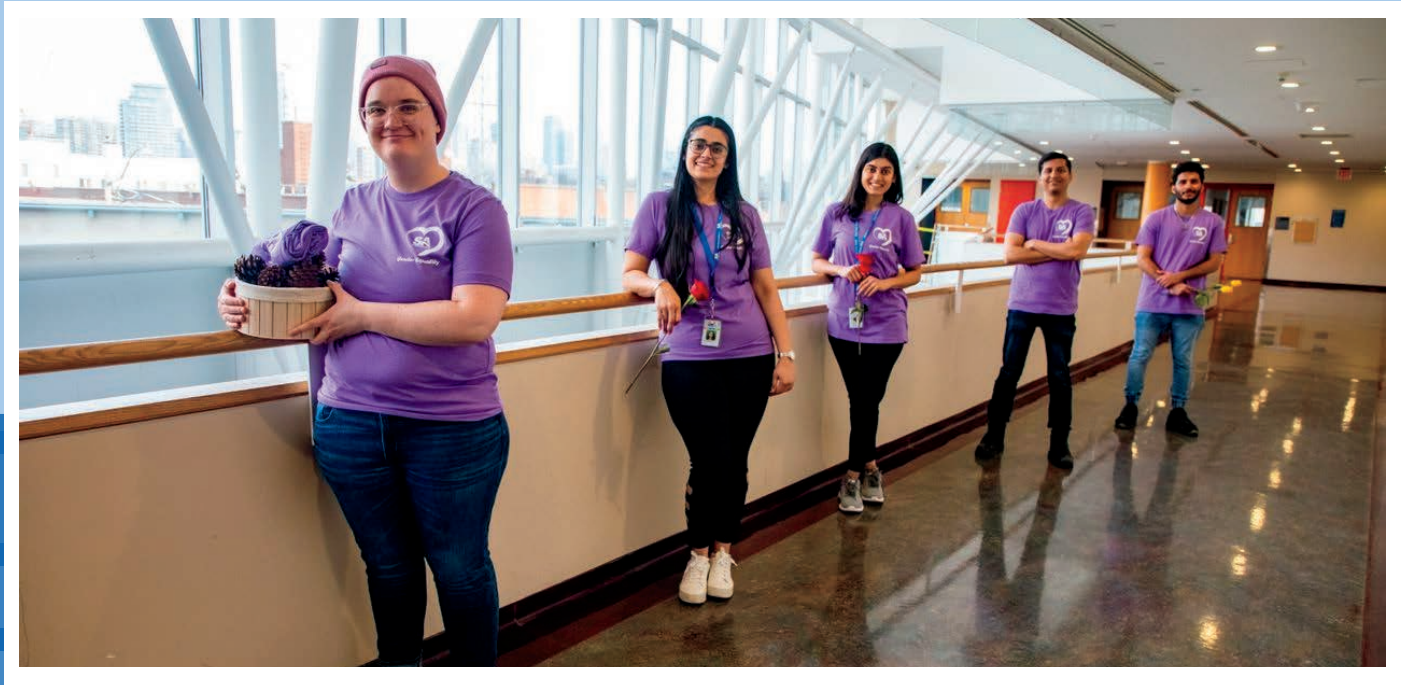
Unique with the services it offers, the **Community Care Centre (CCC)** gives students a space – both physical and virtual – to feel connected. Staff members have lived experiences of marginalization to ensure those who come into the space feel seen. CCC offers trainings and workshops, events to mark equity dates throughout the year, peer-to-peer counseling, and was able to offer this support virtually throughout the pandemic.



**Academic Support** helps students overcome their hurdles to success. Offering assistance in navigating the tricky rules surrounding rights and responsibilities, staff give students information and peer support to resolve issues at the lowest level.



The Student Association pledged to the George Brown College Foundation to provide **Awards, Bursaries, and Scholarships** to our students. The SA also contributed towards the Student Association Scholarships and Capital projects.



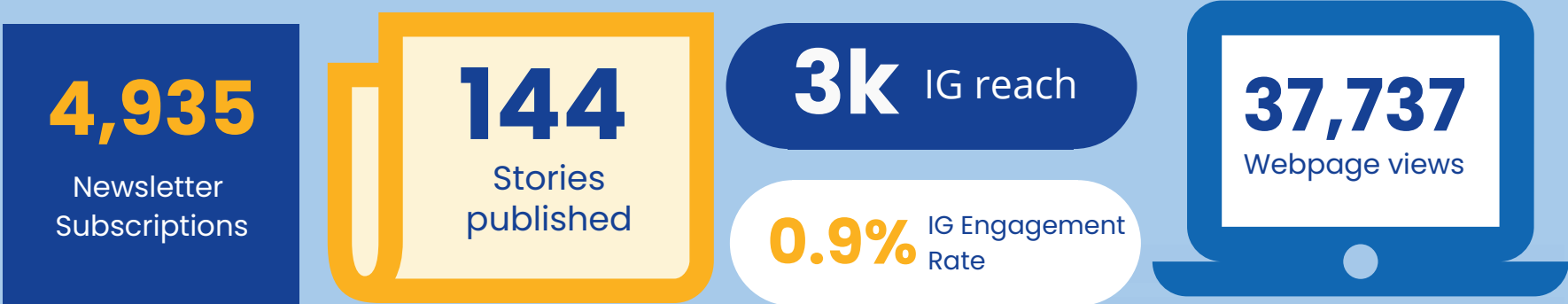
# Our Impact

## Student Access

The **Communications and Marketing** team maintain an active social media presence geared towards four main objectives: Increasing student awareness of issues that affect them, including those that impact specific student communities; Galvanizing a sense of community that reaches all corners of the student body; Inspiring confidence in the efficacy of the SA; and Promoting the actions of SA departments.



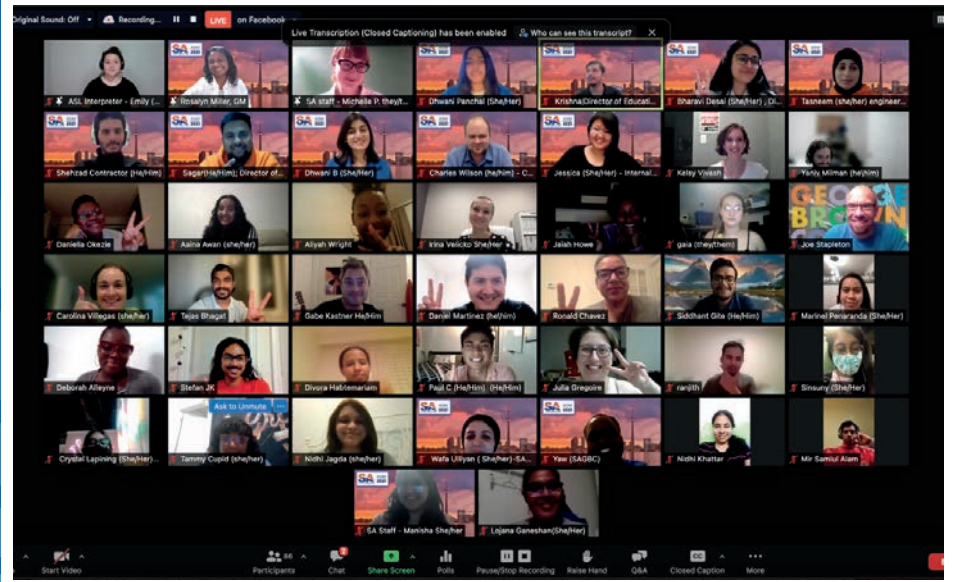
Started in 1982, **The Dialog** is the award winning newspaper of the SAGBC. Stories covering the GBC community are written by our team of student reporters and covers topics like News, Sports, Op/Ed, Arts & Entertainment and more.



As the first point of contact for students who want to connect with the SAGBC, **SA Connect** helps students by giving them the information they need. Whether tabling at each campus, giving live help, or hosting online spaces like Gather Town, SA Connect gives students the chance to meet a friendly face and get the information they need.



The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has ultimately led to the need for campus space upgrades to allow more regular cleaning and sanitation. The SA's **Buildings and Facilities** team successfully adapted and restructured office, lounges, student centers and washroom spaces to accommodate enhanced cleaning protocols and stringent health and safety measures.





# Location and Contact

## Casa Loma Campus

142 Kendal Ave. – Room E100  
(416) 415-5000 ext. 4730

## Waterfront Campus

51 Dockside Dr. – Room 033  
(416) 415-5000 ext. 5360

## Toronto Metropolitan University Campus

99 Gerard St. E. – Room 614  
(416) 415-5000 ext. 4049

## St. James Campus

200 King St. E. – Room 147  
(416) 415-5000 ext. 2455



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@SAGBC



[www.StudentAssociation.ca](http://www.StudentAssociation.ca)

