



## **NBCGSS Election**

### **Candidates' Biographies – March 2020**

#### **Chairperson**

##### **Adrian Smith**

After completing a Bachelor of Environmental Planning specializing in Natural Resource Planning at UNBC, Adrian decided to further explore his studies by pursuing an MA in the Natural Resource and Environmental Studies (NRES) program. Adrian will be using a combined approach of historical ecology, remote sensing and resource planning to understand the impact of industrial activities on the natural landscape of Northwestern British Columbia.

#### **Director of External Relations**

##### **Abby Dooks**

Originally from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Abby is a first year Masters student in the field of Global and International Studies with a particular focus in the area of development studies. Abby completed her Bachelor's degree at Saint Mary's University with a double major in both Political Science and International Development Studies.

While studying at Saint Mary's University Abby took on various leadership roles including president of the Model United Nations Society, Co-president of the International Development Studies Undergraduate Program, Treasurer of the International Development Studies Undergraduate Program, and Co-coordinator for the SMU Shinerama Campaign.

Through these various roles Abby facilitated awareness campaigns of both Fair Trade and the impacts of Climate Change globally and locally, at her university and within the local community. These campaigns included speaking publicly about her research of the Fair Trade Coffee fields in Nicaragua, coordinating the "Fair Trade Game" for both university students and individuals in the community, advocating for Fair Trade Certification at Saint Mary's University, organizing a panel discussion on the impacts of Climate Change at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and fundraising for the eradication of Cystic Fibrosis.

As a Masters student Abby has continued to further her interest of environment and community relations by specifically focusing on Community Based Conservation in Northern Canada. Having previously researched conservations' impacts on communities in Kenya, Abby

was drawn to UNBC due to its unique positioning—surrounded by beautiful forest and home to communities, as well as indigenous communities, that share in her admiration of its beauty.

While she came for the forest Abby decided to stay for the people. As Abby immersed herself in the local community she visited the farmers market, attending plays at the local theatre, studied at various coffee shops down town and supported local entrepreneurs. She also hopes to volunteer and continue to support Conservation North—a local society advocating for the protection of the old growth forests.

Abby is of the idea that the University Community should also be able to reap the benefits that Prince George has to offer and hopes to represent the Masters community through various outreach initiatives. By developing a stronger relationship with the people of Prince George, Abby hopes to provide more opportunities for interaction between the students and the locals community.

Thank you for your consideration of Abby Dooks as Director of External Relations for the Graduate Students Society.

## **Director of Internal Relations**

**Rahim Jafari**

I am a PhD candidate in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (NRES) program. I started my study at UNBC in September 2018. Since I am so interested to be involved in the academic setting and to be among students, I became a Teaching Assistant (TA) for several courses at UNBC. I tried to serve students in different ways as well, such as being the graduate student representative in Provost's Advisory Committee and CSAM College Council. Recently, I have joined TA Union Leadership Committee as a representative in the Faculty of Science and Engineering, to work with union and tried to deal with students' and TAs' needs and resolve their problems as much as I can. As an international student I am familiar with needs of these groups and because of being a student representative and also a TA at UNBC, I know university departments and the different communities as well.

I always had the passion of working with students' clubs from the very beginning of my education in my bachelor, I was a member of Student Scientific Society for four years. During my master education I got involved in different extracurricular clubs and activities such as being a president of Student Scientific Society of Civil Engineers, being an editor in chief of Pardis Scientific Civil Engineering Student Journal, and editorial board member of Journal of Danesh Mahan.

I am well-known for being organized and responsible among students and friends. I managed to lead different groups of students for doing various activities and hobbies during my master

studies, and almost everyone was satisfied with my works and supervision. I really like to learn about different cultures as well. Fortunately, I could make lots of friends here from different nationalities and cultures, so I believe that I am capable of coping with this position very well. I am highly motivated and very interested to work in an academic environment, especially at UNBC as I am quite familiar with its structure and setting.

## **Director- at-Large**

**Lindamarie Winfield**

My name is Lindamarie Winfield. I would like to put myself forward to be of service to my fellow Timberwolves on the Board of Directors for the UNBC Graduate Students' Society. I held a position on the Northern Lights College Board of Governors during my undergrad years as well as NLC student body president two years running. This was a great opportunity to not only engage with the student body through the council, but also provide activities to students as well as incorporating the local community. Building strong positive relationships is important to me. I then completed my undergrad at UVIC with a Bachelors of Social Work. I went on to work in the United Kingdom for 15 years for local government agencies and counsels as a child protection investigator. Upon returning home, I am currently finishing my first year in the Master's Education Clinical Counselling program here at UNBC. Being part of "community", for me, means participating in activities that bring community together, building strong bonds and creating solidarity, inclusivity and cohesion. I am thankful for the current student leadership and I hope to be able to positively contribute to our future if I am selected.

Sincerely,  
Lindamarie Winfield