



September 18, 2024

Kevin Kraft
Independent candidate

Via email

Dear Mr. Kraft:

On behalf of UBC's Okanagan campus, congratulations on your candidacy in Kelowna-Lake Country-Coldstream. Thank you for your dedication to public service, and to the residents of this vibrant community and the province.

The University of British Columbia is proud to be a part of Kelowna-Lake Country-Coldstream. Each day, we welcome nearly 15,000 students, faculty and staff to teaching, learning and research facilities on our Okanagan campus. UBC is the largest provider of student housing in Canada and, here at UBCO, we are proud to have more than 2,100 students living in below-market rate residence spaces.

Like you, we are deeply committed to building on what makes the Central Okanagan a special place to live, work, learn and play. As you know, our connection to the region extends beyond the boundaries of campus, with many of our faculty and students actively engaged in projects that benefit the local community, including partnerships with businesses, non-profits, schools and healthcare providers.

At UBC Okanagan, we are focused on supporting our students to achieve their potential while developing the highly-skilled workforce our province needs to support industry, attract investment, and deliver health and social services. In partnership with the provincial government, we must continue to address the social and financial barriers confronting many who seek post-secondary education.

As part of our commitment to student access, UBC has created a policy that no eligible student should be prevented from studying for financial reasons alone, a policy which is supported by a financial aid program that augments federal and provincial student aid. Moreover, bolstering our commitment to the success of Indigenous students, UBC Okanagan admits every Indigenous applicant, regardless of past educational attainment, to one of a variety of pathways to a university degree.



The university is also committed to creating a cutting-edge, globally competitive research environment that allows UBCO researchers to spur innovation in traditional industries, such as agriculture, improve health outcomes, and help further develop high-growth sectors, including biotech and clean technology. As we look to further innovation opportunities that directly benefit the communities we serve, a near-term priority is to establish the Okanagan Wildfire Lab, a cutting-edge science facility at UBCO with a focus on reducing the risks posed by wildfire through testing, training and technology.

Strong partnerships with the provincial government and with our local Members of the Legislative Assembly have been essential to building a vibrant community, providing accessible, high-quality education for our students, and continuing to innovate. The support of successive provincial governments, through stable and predictable funding, has been critical to our students' success and the impact UBCO makes in the Okanagan. The interest and support of successive local MLAs has been invaluable in that effort.

Once again, congratulations on your candidacy; it is a great reward to see a proud member of the UBC Okanagan alumni community taking a leadership role in our community. Please accept my best wishes for the 2024 campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lesley Cormack".

Lesley Cormack
Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
The University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus