



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

150 Charles St. West, Room 127
Toronto, ON , M5S 1K9
(416) 585 - 4473
www.vusac.ca | fb.com/vusacuoft

December 4, 2020

Re: The Vic Zero Sustainability Strategic Plan

We, the elected and hired representatives of the Victoria University Students' Administrative Council, wish to express our support for the demands outlined in the [Vic Zero Sustainability Strategic Plan](#). In doing so, we call on the Victoria University administration to commit to a comprehensive and collaborative approach to building a more sustainable, resilient, and just campus and community at Vic.

The authors of the Strategic Plan state that, "We believe that the university has a both duty and a vital role to play in the movement towards taking tangible climate action at the University of Toronto, in Toronto, in Canada, and beyond." While we acknowledge the efforts that Vic has made and continues to make, it is crucial that the University create coordinated courses of action to actively fulfill this duty and role.

Such courses of action, as detailed in the Strategic Plan, should abide by the principles of engagement, transparency, social responsibility, social justice, and looking to the future. These principles were originally laid out in the Sustainability Commission's [Fall 2019 petition](#), which garnered 143 signatures, calling for the incorporation of sustainability into President Robins' Strategic Plan. In the year since, the Vic Zero Committee was formed as a subcommittee of the Sustainability Commission and with the mandate to translate these principles into a goal-oriented framework. This framework is manifested in the recently released Vic Zero Sustainability Strategic Plan.

In putting this framework into action, it is absolutely imperative that Vic's governing bodies respond to this report in a transparent and collaborative manner, meaning that substantial consultations with the student body must take place. Moreover, beyond consultations, Vic should allocate tangible decision-making power to its students around issues of sustainability. In endorsing this Strategic Plan, we commit this Council to participating in these consultations and holding the Vic administration accountable to this level of transparency.

Vic has a moral responsibility as a national leader in higher education to secure a stable and just future for its current and future students, and as such, must urgently take the necessary steps towards climate action and justice. We implore Vic's governing bodies to immediately address and act on the demands outlined in the Vic Zero Sustainability Strategic Plan.

In service and solidarity,

The Victoria University Students' Administrative Council 2020-2021

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