

Office of the Vice-President External

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter for Langara College's inaugural STARS submission. Achieving STARS certification builds on the College's initial 2020 Strategic Plan with huge strides made towards building a sustainable campus. The data in this report provides an accurate and comprehensive summary of our commitment to sustainability.

I am proud of our sustainability accomplishments to date, and I look forward to building upon the excellent work identified in this submission and to continue to commit to sustainability as a priority throughout the institution.

Langara College has a demonstrated commitment to sustainability in operations, administration, academics and engagement. Through numerous examples across campus, students see the College's commitment to sustainability, which we consider to be a key component to life at Langara. Our innovative and inclusive Sustainability Student Ambassador program is a fantastic example of student-led engagement on campus sustainability. Our commitment to energy and carbon reduction is demonstrated through our on-site photovoltaic and geo-exchange systems, commitment to LEED Gold certification for new building projects, and various energy and GHG emission reduction practices supported by our Strategic Energy Management Plan and Carbon Neutral Action Reporting. And, our commitment to integrating sustainability throughout our administration is strongly demonstrated by our recently announced decision to divest 50% of our investment holdings from fossil fuel companies and invest in more sustainable investment options.

Undertaking the STARS process has offered the opportunity to both catalogue the various outstanding sustainability efforts currently underway on campus, as well as to identify some important next steps to take in our sustainability journey. As part of these next steps, we will work to expand course offerings related to sustainability, build upon our relationships with other higher education institutions in the realm of sustainability, and work to formalize a climate action plan for the campus.

I look forward to the College continuing along the path to sustainability. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Yusuf Varachia
Vice-President, External
Langara College