Arts and media on campus

You don’t have to go far or spend a lot of cash to indulge your artistic cravings at Western; on campus you can find a kaleidoscope of great cultural offerings including music, visual art, literature, film and multimedia. From the latest Hollywood films to student-produced cinema; guest musicians from around the world to our own talented students, Western’s Visual Arts students or artists are invited to exhibit on campus – it’s all available.

BY PAUL MAYNE
WESTERN’S HOSPITALITY SERVICES, trade administrators, pay that the university’s adoption of a Fair Trade Campus by September 2015 Mission accomplished. Although it meant changing the coffee being served in 15 different facilities on campus, it was a key component for the overall sustainability plan for the university said Kevin McCabe, Hospitality Services Associate Director.

“With so many claims of fairness and sustainability in the marketplace, third-party certification is an invaluable tool to ensure products actually connect with these values,” he said. “The fair trade trademark represents the best-known and most-respected ethical certification system for social sustainability issues. It provides an easy and reliable way to show that products have met standards and are monitored following best practices, public input and regular audits.”

A Fair Trade Campus isn’t about products sold, McCabe added. The title of Fair Trade Campus is awarded to universities and colleges that meet all criteria within three distinct categories: steering committee/product availability and awareness/education, participation in Fair Trade Week and 100% Fair Trade certified products.

McCabe said Hospitality Services intends to continue to grow fair trade through post-designation engagement, increasing the number of participants, introducing new products, monitoring and furthering relationships on campus, working with private foundations and developing curricula within secondary institutions. Other fair trade university campuses include British Columbia, Simon Fraser, Guelph, Selkirk College (B.C.), McGill, Brock, Ottawa, Trent and Northern British Columbia.

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Western’s Hospitality Services Associate Director, checks out the new look Espresso Bar in the Natural Sciences Centre, which switched from Starbucks’ coffee to Doi Chaang free trade coffee this August. Districts in the Social Sciences Centre, will also switch to a Tim Hortons’ self-serve operation on Sept. 14, officially recognizing Western as a Fair Trade campus.

“The criteria in each category are specific. From a product availability standpoint, the specifics include that:

• All coffee served on campus, outside of facilities, must be fair trade certified.
• At least three fair trade certified tea must be available whenever tea is served.
• At least one fair trade-certified chocolate bar must be available at every location selling chocolate bars, including vending machines; and
• All coffee and tea served at campus meetings, events and offices must be fair trade certified.

“We have been doing a number of taste tests and product sampling with fair trade teas and have chosen Numi Tea as our newest fair-trade tea to augment the other fair-trade tea already on campus,” McCabe said. “From a chocolate bar standpoint, Dairy Milk chocolate bars are fair trade and be available at all facilities and vending machines selling these types of products.”

All residence dining operations, along with six campus eateries, switched from Starbucks to Proudly Brew coffee to a local, fair-trade, organic coffee producer – Fire Roasted Coffee – in September 2014. Great Hall Catering has been serving Fire Roasted Coffee for more than five years. There is only one operation remaining to be switched over, the Natural Sciences Centre, switched to fair-trade coffee and tea.

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