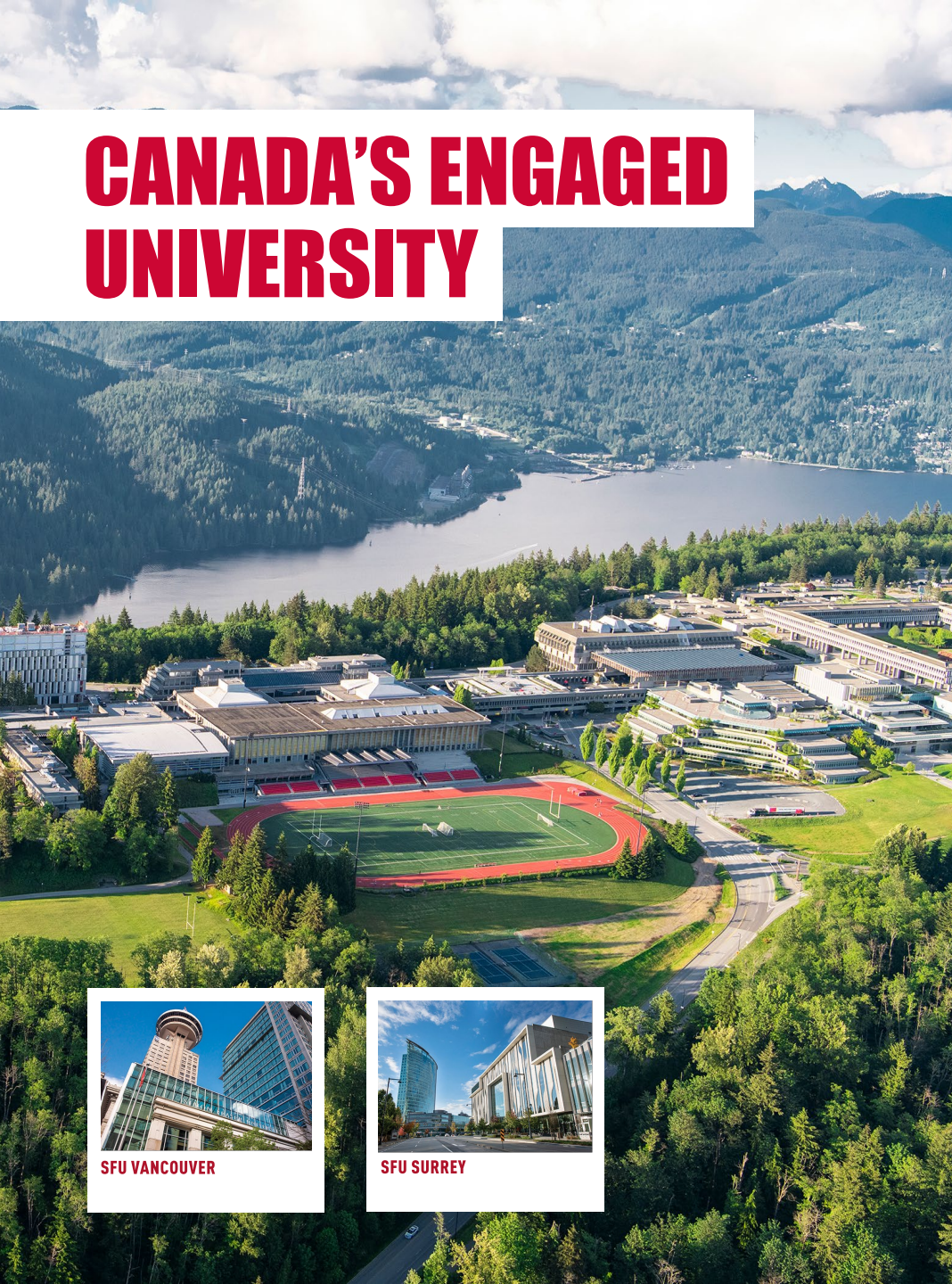


# CONTEXT AND DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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# CANADA'S ENGAGED UNIVERSITY



Consistently ranked among Canada's top research-intensive universities, SFU is globally recognized for excellence in research, innovation and sustainability. With over 35,000 students at 3 campuses and more than 180,000 alumni around the world, our work and impact can be seen in all corners of the globe.

## #1

WORLDWIDE FOR SUSTAINABLE  
CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

*Times Higher Education  
Impact Rankings 2023*

## #5

WORLDWIDE FOR  
CLIMATE ACTION

*Times Higher Education  
Impact Rankings 2023*



SFU VANCOUVER



SFU SURREY

SFU acknowledges the Coast Salish Peoples on whose unceded lands our campuses reside.





## PREAMBLE

This document is the product of an extensive consultation within and beyond the university. Participants in this process believed the vision of a student-centred, research-driven and community-engaged university is authentic to SFU. They also expressed pride in SFU's adventurous spirit, its openness, and its willingness to embrace bold initiatives.

The resulting Strategic Vision is intended to be both illuminating and aspirational. It seeks to capture the university's strengths and to show how those qualities can be harnessed to distinguish SFU as the best university of its kind.

The success of this vision depends upon the extent to which it contributes to a vigorous sense of purpose within the university, encourages individual and collective action, and provides a touchstone for future development.

While the vision is that of the university as a whole, its success also depends upon people seeing themselves within its component parts. The vision should help every individual perceive how they can contribute to SFU realizing its full potential – as an engaged university committed to enhancing the well-being of current and future generations.

## OUR GOALS

The success of the following goals depends not just on their individual attainment but on their integration – on the degree to which each contributes to the others. Students will aid and inspire research and contribute to community. Research will enhance the learning experience while enriching the community, socially, economically, scientifically and artistically. And the SFU community of communities – local and global – will serve as a dynamic and limitless classroom, offering context and applicability for students, as well as partnerships, challenges and opportunities for research.

### ENGAGING STUDENTS

To equip SFU students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences that prepare them for life in an ever-changing and challenging world.

SFU will foster supportive learning and campus environments. Combining the best traditions of academic and teaching excellence, SFU will provide students with diverse and transformative learning opportunities that enable them to gain the knowledge, critical capacities, research skills, and civic understanding required to become engaged global citizens and to thrive and adapt in demanding and dynamic environments.

Students will have opportunities to

participate in advanced research, thereby sharing in the labour and joy of creating and applying knowledge, while acquiring the skills for life-long learning.

Students will have access to an unparalleled selection of experiential learning opportunities that allow them to apply knowledge, to grow as individuals, to engage with diverse communities, to develop entrepreneurial skills and to refine their sense of civic literacy.



**SFU DELIVERS A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY**  
Building issues beyond borders prepares students for a global future. Through programs such as our BC-India Mobility Initiative, SFU students explore new business opportunities for BC like those in India's booming emerging growth industry.

### ENGAGING RESEARCH

To be a world leader in knowledge mobilization building on a strong foundation of fundamental research.

SFU will leverage its fundamental research strengths, including interdisciplinary research, close community connections, and partnerships and collaborations to become a global leader in research mobilization.

SFU will support and promote the full continuum of research, from the fundamental generation of knowledge, through the dissemination of that knowledge

within the academic community and beyond, to the application of transformative ideas for the benefit of society.

SFU will promote research excellence, supporting and encouraging all researchers, including undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff members and community partners who assist the research mission.

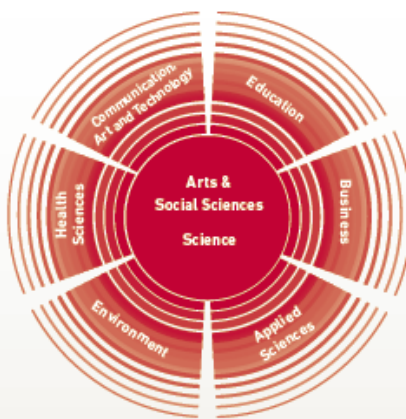
SFU will seek opportunities to transfer the results of its research to the broader society, including policy-makers, civil society leaders, and the community.

**SFU DEPLOYS TINY DETECTIVES TO HELP SOLVE CRIME**  
Forensic entomologists study insects to advance the investigation of homicide, arson, poisoning and other offences. It's just one of the ways our researchers are helping to address a broad range of societal needs.



# OUR VISION: AN ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

To be the leading engaged university defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research, and far-reaching community engagement.



SFU'S KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION MODEL

Building on Case Stewage's SFU faculties focus on an accidental reward, drawing upon a strong Arts, Social Sciences and Science foundation. The research community moved from knowledge generation through mobilization, including dissemination and application.

### ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

To be Canada's most community-engaged research university.

SFU will maintain and expand its community connections as an integral part of its academic mission, creating opportunities for practical and experiential learning; informing and inspiring research, and contributing to its relevance and success.

SFU will develop partnerships and maximize the capacities of its three campuses to enhance the social, economic, environmental and

cultural well-being of communities both locally and globally. The university will build respectful and mutually beneficial community relationships.

SFU will meet the lifelong learning needs of students, alumni and the community, and will respond with innovative programs and learning opportunities for academic, personal and professional development. SFU will be BC's public square for enlightenment and dialogue on key public issues, and will be known as the institution to which the community looks for education, discussion and solutions.



### SFU CAMPUSES REDEFINE THE HEART OF A COMMUNITY

Universities were created to engage minds. At SFU we go further: engaging entire communities with the power of urban redevelopment, such as the rebirth of the historic Woodward's site in downtown Vancouver.

## UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

In addition to the above, SFU commits to the following underlying principles:

**Academic and Intellectual Freedom:** SFU will be an open and inclusive university whose foundation is intellectual and academic freedom.

**Diversity:** SFU will foster a culture of inclusion and mutual respect, celebrating the diversity and multi-ethnic character reflected amongst its students, staff, faculty, and our society.

**Internationalization:** SFU will value international knowledge, understanding and engagement, and will seek to engender an active global citizenship among its students, faculty and staff, and to ensure that SFU is an engaged partner and contributor to the international stage.

**Respect for Aboriginal Peoples and Cultures:** SFU will honour the history, culture and presence of Aboriginal peoples. The university will welcome and nurture Aboriginal students and seek opportunities for greater representation of Aboriginal peoples amongst its faculty and staff.

**Supportive and Healthy Work Environment:** SFU will recognize, respect and value the essential contribution made by staff and faculty, and will seek to build and sustain a work environment that is equitable, supportive, rewarding and enjoyable.

**Sustainability:** SFU will pursue ecological, social and economic sustainability through its programs and operations. Through teaching and learning, research and community engagement, SFU will seek and share solutions. In its own operations, it will develop and model best practices, from minimizing its ecological footprint, to maximizing its social health and

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES

- > Advancing the practice and recognition of community engagement as a method of learning, teaching, and research at SFU.
- > Increasing, expanding, and strengthening SFU's ability to build equitable, sustainable, and mutually beneficial community partnerships based on respect and reciprocity.
- > Increasing SFU's readiness and ability to respond to pressing regional needs with its community partners.
- > Demonstrate and showcase community engagement's intrinsic ability to address systemic inequities and advance action on EDI and Truth & Reconciliation.
- > Advancing the field of community engagement at SFU, in Canada and beyond.

# CANADA'S ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

## VP EXTERNAL

- Centre for Dialogue
- Community Engagement Initiative
- SFU Public Square
- SFU Surrey - TD Community Engagement Centre
- Vancity Office of Community Engagement
- SFU -Student-Community Engagement Competition
- Woodward's Cultural Unit
- SFU Galleries
- Burnaby Festival of Learning

## VP RESEARCH

- Community Engaged Research Initiative
- Burnaby Civic Innovation Lab, Innovation Boulevard
- Knowledge Mobilization Unit
- Partnerships Hub
- Venture Connection

## VP ACADEMIC

- Work Integrated Learning
- Trottier Observatory and Science Courtyard
- Friends of Simon Tutoring Program
- Science Alive
- SFU Recreation Camps
- Radius Social Innovation
- SFU Continuing Studies
- Community Education+
- 55+

# CIVIC INNOVATION LAB



# EARLY RESULTS

- 2 years in operation
- 21 projects being supported
- 25 researchers engaged
- 14 SFU departments engaged
- 9 municipal departments/divisions engaged.
- 90 students engaged in supported projects
- \$33M in research project value being supported



**CIVIC INNOVATION LAB**

[www.civicinnovationlab.ca](http://www.civicinnovationlab.ca)

# THE CANADIAN CARNEGIE INITIATIVE COM

- SFU's leadership of and participation in the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification pilot and establishment in Canada. ([www.sfu.ca/carnegie](http://www.sfu.ca/carnegie)) SFU was the Canadian presenting partner in Canada of Carnegie's sector-leading Elective Classification for Community Engagement
- 2019 - 2022 co-lead a group of 16 Canadian post-secondary institutions from across Canada to:
  - learn about the philosophy and logic of the Classification
  - participate in a trial Classification process, including engaging in the data collection, analysis and synthesis required to review and answer the questions in the Carnegie CE Classification framework
  - work together as a learning community to identify needed adjustments to the existing Classification, recommend solutions and contribute to the development of a Canadian specific version of the Classification
- In 2022, formulated recommendations for a Canadian classification, including guidance on governance, the framework itself (the questions), methods of consultation and the formation of a wider community of practice.
- Just completed the official execution of the agreements between the Canadian Carnegie host institutions and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and its agent the American Council on Education to launch operations in Canada.
- Expect to launch the first cycle of the Canadian Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement in fall 2024 which will create the first opportunity in Canada for post-secondary institutions to reflect deeply on their practices for and approaches to community engagement, considering their principles, partnerships and systems that advance high-quality, pervasive community engagement within their institutions.