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MEDIA RELEASE

Bearing witness to the transformative testimonies of residential school survivors

April 26, 2017

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At Simon Fraser University's Vancouver campus on Thursday, Apr. 27, acclaimed radio journalist Shelagh Rogers, OC, will reflect on being an honorary witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Rogers will discuss the impact of hearing hundreds of residential school survivors speak at national and regional events. The real history of Canada was not taught to generations of Canadian school children—but Indigenous peoples lived it. What does reconciliation mean now that Canada knows the truth of their experience?

WHAT:	Revelation: Bearing Witness to the Transformative Testimonies of Residential School Survivors
WHEN:	Thursday, April 27 6:30 p.m.
WHERE:	Segal Building at SFU's Vancouver campus 500 Granville Street

There are limited tickets reserved for media to attend the talk on a first come, first served basis. Please RSVP via email at wyl12@sfu.ca. The talk will also be live streamed on SFU's website. Rogers will be briefly available for one-on-one interviews after the event. SFU history professor Mary-Ellen Kelm, an Indigenous peoples expert, will also be at the event and can provide additional commentary.

According to the TRC, witnesses are called to be the keepers of history when an event of historic significance occurs. They are asked to store and care for the history they witness and most importantly, to share it with their own people when they return home.

"We all have a role to play as Canadians, but as a public post-secondary institution, we bear a special responsibility to lead intercultural dialogue and understanding about reconciliation beyond Canada 150," says Catherine Murray, associate dean of SFU's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. "Shelagh Rogers shows us how to bear witness and grow in understanding."

Rogers, chancellor of the University of Victoria and long-time journalist, has traveled the length and breadth of this country, interviewing thousands of Canadians and collecting their stories.

In the last few years, she has committed herself to working towards reconciliation from coast to coast to coast. She plans to

devote herself to reconciliation for the rest of her life.

The talk is part of SFU's Department of History's yearlong lecture series, Canada 150: Confederation in Question.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:

Catherine Murray is available for interviews on April 26th.

Mary-Ellen Kelm is available for interviews on April 26th and 27th.

Shelagh Rogers is available for interviews immediately after the event on April 27th.

LEARN MORE:

- **SFU News: Q&A: Radio journalist Shelagh Rogers to share insights on being a TRC honorary witness**

ABOUT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY:

As Canada's engaged university, SFU is defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU was founded 50 years ago with a mission to be a different kind of university—to bring an interdisciplinary approach to learning, embrace bold initiatives, and engage with communities near and far. Today, SFU is Canada's leading comprehensive research university and is ranked one of the top universities in the world. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities – Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey – SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 35,000 students, and boasts more than 135,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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