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MEDIA RELEASE

Bullying topic of first Surrey teen Café

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A series of **Philosopher Cafés** for teens addressing some of the key issues they face starts on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Surrey Centre Library.

Presented by SFU Continuing Studies, and co-sponsored by the **Simon Fraser University Surrey -TD Community Engagement Centre** (CEC) and Surrey Libraries, the first in the series is titled *The Evolution of Bullying*. The discussion will focus on how bullying begins, how it is perceived, and its various forms, including cyber-bullying.

The free sessions will be held at the Surrey Centre Library, room 402. Teens between 13-18 years of age are welcome to attend. No registration is necessary.

The teen series is modelled after SFU Continuing Studies' **Philosophers' Café**, a series of informal public discussions that are offered in libraries, cafés and restaurants throughout Metro Vancouver. The cafés, which are open to everyone, have brought dialogue and discussion to thousands of people interested in exploring a wide range of issues.

Moderators will be Farimah Salimi, a graduate student in educational technology and learning design at SFU, and Shiva Manavipour, an SFU alumna who works with children and youth with special needs in Burnaby. Manavipour is also pursuing a graduate degree in educational leadership.

Other topics in the teen series will include:

Feb. 18: *Is Technology the New Drug of the Century?* A discussion of how much technology use is an addiction and whether it is a good educational tool.

March 18: *Teen Self-Confidence*, focusing on what it is and how to build it, and how teens deal with peer-pressure.

April 22: *Change*. A session looking at what changes teen have experienced and how they deal with changes in their lives.

May 20: *Peer Pressure*. The focus will be on what pressures youth face and how they deal with them.

June 17: *What Would You Like to Learn in School?* A discussion of hopes, dreams and opportunities as teens consider their interests and possible careers.

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