

SFU Press Releases Collection

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MEDIA RELEASE

SFU Welcomes Budget 2016

March 24, 2016

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The 2016 federal budget will provide much needed support for universities to improve facilities, expand research, and support business development according to SFU President Andrew Petter.

“This is a very positive budget for post-secondary institutions such as SFU,” says Petter. “As Canada’s engaged university, we are particularly well-positioned to draw upon this support to drive innovation, create jobs and strengthen the economy.”

Petter says there are a number of aspects of the budget which are especially promising. The budget’s Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund will fund up to 50 per cent of the cost of infrastructure projects aimed at modernizing facilities on Canadian campuses.

“Renewing aging facilities on our Burnaby campus and expanding our Surrey campus to accommodate high demand programs are priorities for SFU,” he says. “We look forward to working with the federal and provincial governments to advance these goals.”

Budget 2016 also commits \$95 million per year, starting immediately, to support discovery research, and \$800 million over four years, starting in 2017, to support innovation networks and clusters.

Petter says these commitments will help further strengthen SFU’s research capacities and align with *SFU Innovates*, the university’s comprehensive innovation strategy. Under that strategy, SFU has expanded VentureLabs to become B.C.’s largest technology business accelerator, with links to accelerators in Ontario, India and China. The strategy also supports research mobilization, social innovation and student entrepreneurship.

The budget also allocates \$73 million over four years to new co-op placements and work integrated learning opportunities. This coincides with SFU’s plans to expand its already extensive co-op network. Currently 8,500 SFU students are working with 6,000 co-op employers in Canada and around the world.

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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