

SFU Press Releases Collection

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MEDIA RELEASE

SFU hosts dialogues on the future of innovation in Canada

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Photo (Sarah Lubik): <http://at.sfu.ca/rBnfxW>

SFU hosts dialogues on the future of innovation in Canada

Roundtable events are being held at SFU's Vancouver campus today (Sept. 8) to knock down the walls between sectors, leverage Canada's diversity

Growing innovation across Canada will take the collective input of experts and the general public alike. With that in mind, all ideas will be on the table when Simon Fraser University hosts a pair of events Sept. 8—including a public dialogue—on developing a national innovation strategy.

Key stakeholders will shape the discussion at a private meeting during the day, followed by a public forum on Canada's Innovation Agenda, convened by **SFU Innovates**, SFU Public Square and Sarah Lubik, SFU's director of entrepreneurship. Lubik is one of **10 Innovation Leaders** working to promote the agenda and bring together stakeholders across the country.

Similar events are happening in other Canadian cities. In Vancouver, the private roundtable events will be held during the day at **VentureLabs@** at Harbour Centre, and the **public dialogue** will be held in the evening from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Centre for Dialogue. BCTech Association, Futurpreneur Canada and Tech Vancouver are supporting the events.

The private event will draw diverse expertise and views from thought leaders in social innovation, First Nations, education and entrepreneurship, on how Canada can achieve its potential to create economic and social value through innovation.

"Innovation is not something the government does alone; it takes the entire country, universities, businesses and the community to work together toward a shared vision, preferably an ambitious one," says Lubik.

"By creating and supporting an entrepreneurial, creative and socially innovative culture in our society, we have the opportunity to set the country on a firm path towards long-term economic growth, a higher quality of life for everyone and a substantial positive impact in the world."

The **Government of Canada's inclusive Innovation Agenda** was announced in June by a coalition of federal ministries, including Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Science, and Small Business and Tourism. Its goal is to build Canada as a global centre for innovation.

The initiative is seeking input from people across the country on how Canadians can take action in several key areas: to build an entrepreneurial and creative society; advance global science excellence and world-leading partnerships; grow companies and accelerating clean growth; compete in a digital world; and ease how we do business.

"Canada needs a bold, coordinated strategy on innovation that delivers results for all Canadians," says the Hon. Navdeep Bains, federal minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

“We need to move forward with fresh ideas and a joint action plan that will make innovation a national priority and put Canada on a firm path to long-term economic growth.”

Following the events, the public is invited to continue to engage in the national discussion and development of the Innovation Agenda by sharing their ideas and feedback on the initiative’s interactive website:

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/062.nsf/eng/home>.

LEARN MORE:

- [Canada’s Innovation Agenda Background](#)
- [SFU Public Square event page](#)
- [Q&A with Sarah Lubik on creating a more entrepreneurial and socially innovative society](#)

WHO’S SPEAKING AT THE PUBLIC DIALOGUE:

- Al Etmanski, founding partner of Social Innovation Generation (SiG) and BC Partners for Social Impact;
- Pauline Terbasket, member of the Syilx Nation and executive director of the Okanagan Nation Alliance;
- Jeff Booth, Founder, president and CEO of BuildDirect.

ABOUT SFU INNOVATES

SFU Innovates is a university-wide strategy to harness, link, and mobilize SFU’s resources to drive innovation through four pillars of activity: industry/community engagement, incubation and acceleration, entrepreneurship, and social innovation.

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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