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MEDIA RELEASE

It's a Brown New World: Now What? Kamal Al-Solaylee delivers the Milton K. Wong lecture in Vancouver

June 27, 2018

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Best-selling author and journalism professor Kamal Al-Solaylee will give the 2018 Milton K. Wong lecture—moderated by Michelle Eliot, host of CBC Radio's *BC Today*—at the BMO Theatre Centre on Wednesday, June 27.

Presented by [the Laurier Institution](#), [CBC Ideas](#), [SFU Public Square](#), and the [SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue](#), with financial support from [Parc Retirement Living](#), Al-Solaylee will discuss brownness as a distinct racialized experience and how it can provide a lens to understand the intersection of race and politics. The lecture draws from his most recent book, *Brown: What Being Brown in the World Today Means (to Everyone)*, exploring personal stories and global perspectives and experiences of people of colour from 10 countries.

WHAT:

The Milton K. Wong Lecture is Canada's premier lecture on multiculturalism. It is named after Milton K. Wong, one of the founders of The Laurier Institution, in recognition of the remarkable contribution he made to the understanding of the value and complexity of Canadian diversity and to the advancement of pluralism in Canada.

WHEN:

- June 27, 2018
- Reception at 6:00 p.m., lecture from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WHERE:

- Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre
- 162 West 1st Avenue, Vancouver

WHY:

Multiculturalism is increasingly valued by Canadians:

- According to the "[Canada's World Survey 2018](#)," multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion are increasingly seen by Canadians as the country's most notable contribution to the world.
- The Centre for International Governance Innovation "[Diversity Dividend: Canada's Global Advantage](#)" special report found that, viewed across all Canadian sectors, a one percent increase in ethnocultural diversity was associated with an average 2.4 percent increase in revenue and a 0.5 percent increase in workplace productivity.

However, despite this, hate crimes against people of colour are rising:

- From [Statistics Canada](#): Between 2015 and 2016, the number of police-reported crimes motivated by hatred of a race or

ethnicity increased 4 percent. In all, 48 percent of all police-reported hate crimes in 2016 were motivated by hatred of a race or ethnicity. Much of this increase was a result of more hate crimes targeting South Asians (+24 incidents) and Arabs and West Asians (+20 incidents). Despite posting a decrease in 2016, crimes targeting Black populations remained one of the most common types of hate crimes (15 percent of all hate crimes).

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

Al-Solaylee is available to speak to media on Wednesday, June 27 during the day. Please contact Ian Bryce (604.773.8134, ian_bryce@sfu.ca) for media inquiries and interview opportunities.

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 more than 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 150,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, B.C.
Canada V5A 1S6

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