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MEDIA RELEASE

Media Advisory: NEC & SFU Native Basketball Tournament 2017—May 20-21

May 19, 2017

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Simon Fraser University and Native Education College are hosting the NEC & SFU Native Basketball tournament, a two-day event celebrating sport, culture and community—on May 20-21.

The tournament will use the First Nations tradition of friendly competition combined with cultural exhibitions to bring together 500-800 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal basketball players, Elders, performers, vendors, volunteers, families and friends. In addition, Steve Hansen, coach of the SFU men's varsity basketball team, will be in attendance along with varsity team players to facilitate two free basketball workshops for Aboriginal youth on Saturday afternoon.

The event encourages participants to learn more about the available post-secondary education opportunities that are open to them in a fun and friendly environment.

This tournament is at capacity with 31 teams registered with participants that are both men and women of all ages.

Last year's event attracted hundreds of spectators, and organizers expect this year's event will be equally popular. Aboriginal entertainment, food, crafts vendors, and elders will all once again be a part of the festivities.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- This tournament helps build and strengthen ties between the University and Aboriginal communities and is an opportunity to showcase the University environment to those who have not yet experienced it.
- The University is proud to experience Aboriginal culture on campus, with initiatives such as this it will help contribute to the reconciliation between diverse peoples and communities.
- Through SFU's **Aboriginal Reconciliation Council** the University is committed to support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action, which seeks reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

WHAT: NEC & SFU Native Basketball Tournament

WHERE: Lorne Davies Complex, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

WHEN: May 20-21

Saturday May 20th - 10:00 am - 8:00 pm (Last scheduled game begins at 7:00 pm)

Sunday May 21st - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Last scheduled game begins at 4:00 pm. Followed by the closing ceremony at 5:00 pm)

VISUALS:

- On Saturday (May 20), two free youth basketball clinics at 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm (ages 8-12) and at 2:00 pm-4:00 pm (ages 13-18)
- On Saturday (May 20), opening ceremony at 5:00 pm
- On Sunday (May 21), closing awards ceremony at 5:00 pm
- Vendors: arts and crafts, jewelry and native sports apparel

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 145,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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