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MEDIA RELEASE

Petter cites research partnerships as key economic driver for Burnaby

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Speaking at a [Burnaby Board of Trade](#) breakfast at the Hilton Metrotown on Wednesday morning, Simon Fraser University President [Andrew Petter](#) touted partnerships between business, government, and universities as examples of strategic investments that will assist the City of Burnaby's economic engine.

Citing the example of [4D Labs](#), an SFU-led materials science research centre that has attracted top scientific talent, Petter pointed out how a \$5 million award from the [Automotive Partnerships Canada Research Network](#) for low platinum fuel cell research would assist local industry.

"This investment will help keep the Burnaby-based fuel-cell consortium – which includes Daimler, Ford, Ballard and the Automotive Fuel Cell Corporation – at the forefront of the international effort to develop affordable clean energy technology," said Petter.

In January, 4D Labs [received an additional \\$7.7 million](#) in federal funding for the [Prometheus Project](#). The project both supports the commercialization of faculty research and assists private-sector companies, such as Burnaby's CoolEdge Lighting, to develop technologies that can create and drive entire industries.

"Prometheus already has a network of over 25 private sector partners whom it helps with clean energy, biomedical and quantum computing technologies," added Petter. "It's the kind of initiative we need to keep Burnaby and BC ahead in an increasingly competitive global knowledge-based economy."

Petter also discussed how the [Opportunity Agenda for BC](#) proposed by the [Research Universities' Council of British Columbia](#), would help address an escalating skills deficit in British Columbia with its three pillars:

1. A Space for Every Qualified Student
2. A Guarantee for Students in Need
3. A Commitment to Innovation and Jobs

For the full transcript of Andrew Petter's address, please contact Scott McLean (srmclean@sfu.ca).

Simon Fraser University is Canada's top-ranked comprehensive university and one of the top 50 universities in the world under 50 years old. With campuses in Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey, B.C., SFU engages actively with the community in its research and teaching, delivers almost 150 programs to more than 30,000 students, and has more than 120,000 alumni in 130 countries.

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