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MEDIA RELEASE

Squamish Nation Chief one of Canada's first Executive MBA in Aboriginal Business and Leadership graduates

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Photos: <http://i.sfu.ca/mJaUWB>

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Ian Campbell, hereditary chief of the Squamish Nation, is among the first cohort of 14 graduates from Simon Fraser University's [Executive MBA in Aboriginal Business and Leadership](#).

The program is Canada's first credited MBA for established Aboriginal leaders, entrepreneurs and others working with Aboriginal communities. In 2013, *B.C. Business* magazine acclaimed the program as one of B.C.'s 10 most significant innovations.

Campbell, 41, is a visionary who has ambitious plans for his people. And now that he has completed the country's first Executive MBA in Aboriginal Business and Leadership, he has the knowledge to forge ahead with ideas for projects that include developing the Jericho Lands and pursuing development and business collaborations with other nations.

"We're moving away from managing welfare to managing wealth," he says.

Campbell was accepted into the [Beedie School of Business](#) program without an undergraduate degree, but with significant career experience. He says the program "absolutely delivered" on formal business skills and tools while also recognizing and addressing how to incorporate traditional Aboriginal protocols and knowledge.

"I'm employed as lead negotiator in intergovernmental relations for the Squamish Nation," he says. "We're engaged in significant projects throughout our territory that deal with intergovernmental relations, business opportunities, and investment. So my focus in the EMBA was fourfold: creating a vision, structuring our nation's corporate division, building capacity within the nation, and inspiring our young people."

The new 33-month part-time EMBA program is very timely, he says, and he credits SFU's courage and foresight in creating it.

"As Canada goes through reconciliation we really have to ask ourselves, 'what are the actions that go with that?' The leadership SFU exemplified in creating this program has inspired many of our Indigenous groups to move beyond the status quo. We're now in transition to recreate ourselves—not in isolation but with the rest of Canada."

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 almost 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 a leader amongst Canada's comprehensive research universities and is ranked one of the top universities in the world under 50 years of age. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities—Vancouver, Surrey and Burnaby—SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 30,000 students, and boasts more than

130,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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