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MEDIA RELEASE

Media Advisory: Dr. Jeff Reading to be introduced as Western Canada's first chair in heart health research for First Nations peoples

January 20, 2016

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The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Simon Fraser University (SFU) and St. Paul's Foundation will be introducing the inaugural First Nations Health Authority Chair in Heart Health and Wellness at St. Paul's Hospital on Thursday, Jan. 21, 11:00 a.m. at SFU's Bill Reid Gallery (639 Hornby Street) in downtown Vancouver.

Dr. Jeff Reading, a leading national and international expert in indigenous health, will be introduced as chair. The \$2.5 million chair, the first of its kind in Western Canada, places a holistic focus on First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples' cardiac health to drive research that can improve health outcomes.

Media are invited to attend the announcement. A media availability and photo opportunity will follow the program. Photos will also be made available after the event on [SFU's Flickr account](#).

SFU Vice-President, Research Joy Johnson; SFU Faculty of Health Sciences Dean John O'Neil; First Nations Health Authority CEO Joe Gallagher; First Nations Health Authority Chief Medical Officer Dr. Evan Adams; Dr. Andrew Ignaszewski, Physician Program Director, PHC Heart Centre, Head, Division of Cardiology PHC; and Dr. Jeff Reading, First Nations Health Authority Chair in Heart Health and Wellness will speak at the event.

WHAT: Dr. Jeff Reading's introduction as the First Nations Health Authority Chair in Heart Health and Wellness at St. Paul's Hospital

WHEN: Thursday, January 21, 2016
11:00 a.m. (media availability to follow at 11:30 a.m.)

WHERE: The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art at SFU's Vancouver campus
639 Hornby Street

LEARN MORE:

- [Historic Chair to Lead Heart Health Research for First Nations Peoples](#)

ABOUT THE FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY:

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is the first province-wide health authority of its kind in Canada. In 2013, the FNHA assumed the programs, services, and responsibilities formerly handled by Health Canada's First Nations Inuit Health Branch – Pacific Region. Our vision is to transform the health and well-being of BC's First Nations and Aboriginal people by dramatically changing healthcare for the better.

ABOUT ST. PAUL'S FOUNDATION:

St. Paul's Foundation raises funds to support inspired care, research, and teaching at St. Paul's Hospital, a treasured provincial health resource for all British Columbians. Our hospital specializes in the care of people with heart and lung disease, HIV/AIDS, mental illness, renal disease and people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. We integrate the best clinical care with real-world research and education, and provided care to more than 400,000 patients from across BC last year. For more information, or to donate, visit www.helpstpauls.com.

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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