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## **Back to the future-Simon Fraser style**

### Contact:

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Free Ticket Reservations: info@fraserjourneyfilm.ca  
by Friday, June 20, 2008

June 17, 2008

What's in a name? It's all in the name at Simon Fraser University as we mark the bicentennial of Simon Fraser's epic journey down the mighty river with the premier of a documentary film.

Fraser River Journey follows a group of 12 B.C. First Nations youths on a wild raft trip down the Fraser River. The film premieres on Tuesday, June 24 at 7 pm at the SFU Vancouver campus.

Wielding tiny but high-powered waterproof video cameras, the youths set out to document their adventures on one of the most stunning, diverse, and dangerous river systems in the world. In the process they learn important things about their province, their heritage, and themselves.

The film is set in the context of this year's bicentennial of Simon Fraser's 1808 exploration of the river which now bears his name, providing both a historical point of reference and an opportunity to take a hard look at the past, present, and future of Aboriginal life in B.C.

A primary goal of this project is to explore how Aboriginal youth can develop an identity and a place in contemporary society.

The documentary also shows how adults are finding ways to help Aboriginal youth participate in a culture that is regenerating and transforming.

'The Aboriginal youth experiencing such opportunities and those from the older generation who are guiding them need their voices heard, as inspiration and support for the large community of young people within Aboriginal society,' says Rick Walker, one of the producers of the documentary.

'By following these young people down the river and giving a face to a generation, this documentary highlights the new definitions of Aboriginal identity that are rapidly evolving.'

The event is free and seating is limited. To reserve your ticket, please RSVP to info@fraserjourneyfilm.ca by Friday, June 20, 2008. Please provide your name and the names of any guests you wish to bring.

### Background on the Fraser River Journey Program:

The Fraser River Journey is a community driven outdoor educational program for Aboriginal Youth. The 2007 program was a pilot for developing a leadership program using the Fraser River's cultural and environmental resources.

A core component of the program is an 800km adventure raft expedition from Quesnel to Yale. This year, twelve Aboriginal Youth participated in the Fraser River Journey. These students came from various Métis, Urban and Rural First Nations communities in British Columbia. Students were selected by their community, based on their interest in leadership opportunities and past community activity.

The Fraser River Journey program brings students into the unique Fraser River environment and

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provides the opportunity for the delivery of a leadership program and insight into the region's fascinating natural history and human ecology. The delivery of this program blends country knowledge, formal curriculum and casual conversation.

Background on the SFU Vancouver Learning & Instructional Development Centre (LIDC) Media Design team:

The Fraser River Journey documentary film was produced by the LIDC Media Design video production unit at Simon Fraser University's Vancouver Campus. LIDC Media Design produces award-winning original content in a wide range of areas, from local biographical and historical films to feature-length broadcast television documentaries which deal with important contemporary social issues with a national and international reach.