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Simon Fraser University Community,
Partners, and Friends
William G. Lindsay, Director

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Office for Aboriginal Peoples Annual Report Re: Aboriginal Strategic Plan

Dear Friends:

Simon Fras

- For 2009-10 there were 496 self-identified Aboriginal students attending SFU. Complete numbers for 2011-12 will be available in the spring of 2012.
- Simon Fraser University currently has eleven self-identified Aboriginal faculty members who are located in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science's First Nations Studies Program (five), the Faculty of Education (five), and the Department of Mathematics (one).
- The First Nations Studies Program (now a program *in*) plus Indigenous programming in the Faculty of Education and in Lifelong Learning continue to be strengths at SFU. As well, the Faculty of Business continues to offer its Industry Council for Aboriginal Business Leadership Exchange Program and is currently planning to offer an Aboriginal Executive MBA Program in 2012-13.
- Student Services applied for and received University Priority Funds totaling \$150,000 for support for Indigenous students (specific details below).

Student Services has allocated \$100,000 for Indigenous student awards. These funds are allotted for entrance scholarships to support recruitment of new students, for academic awards to encourage success, and for bursaries to support students in high financial need.

Student Services has also designated \$50,000 for "success" programming. These funds have been assigned to various projects to enhance support and develop resources for Indigenous students:

- Enhance advising and transition support
- Facilitate peer mentorship programming
- Develop career resources
- Support learning difficulties
- Improve access to disabilities services
- Assist residence enrolment
- Provide Indigenous Cultural Competency Training for staff

The target initiative is to support recruitment and retention of Indigenous students. The long term goal is to incorporate these developed project resources into regular program objectives.

- The Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) continues to work for and with Indigenous students — First Nations, Métis, and Inuit — to offer information and support services to enhance academic success in culturally respectful, relevant, reciprocal, and responsible ways. These include Peer Educator, Peer Mentor, and Peer Advising Programs; a Welcoming BBQ for new and returning students; and the Indigenous Honoring Feast for graduates. The ISC partners with Student Services units, the First Nations Student Association, the Office for Aboriginal Peoples, the SFU Library and Student Learning Commons, and local First Nations to build a strong ISC foundation that provides learning opportunities for all SFU students. The ISC works closely with the SFU Indigenous Recruitment Coordinator to ensure a smooth transition from the admissions process to successful semesters and, eventually, graduation.

- The Indigenous Student Centre communication strategy includes a regularly updated website at <http://students.sfu.ca/indigenous/>, as well as, a weekly electronic newsletter called *Tu*. This newsletter is sent by e-mail to enrolled Indigenous students and alumni, faculty and staff, and to “Friends of ISC” contacts within the SFU system. *Tu* has the buzz on the latest ISC programming, Indigenous scholarship/bursary/fellowship information, job opportunities, special event information, special announcements, and items of special interest.
- An Indigenous Recruitment Coordinator continues to successfully work with community to encourage Aboriginal people to attend SFU. Many of these applicants are now applying under the recent *Au*, first implemented in 2010-11.
- Contact people for Aboriginal people, including applicants and current students, have been established in Academic Advising, Career Services, Graduate Studies, Awards and Financial Aid, and in the Community Education Program (Lifelong Learning).
- SFU continues to have a well organized, well funded, and well supported *FiNa* *StAb* (FNSA) to assist in Aboriginal student activities. Two members of FNSA are invited to sit on the SFU Aboriginal Community Initiatives Steering Committee.
- The two Aboriginal Pre-University Bridging Programs – *Ga* and *Hb* streams – continue to run and are receiving direct support funding from the SFU University Priorities Fund for this and the next two years.
- An Aboriginal Elders Program has been established. Two elders will work on the SFU Burnaby campus — in the Indigenous Student Centre and in the Office for Aboriginal Peoples — with another elder working with the Aboriginal Pre-University Bridging Programs at SFU Surrey. These elders will serve in many capacities as they work with students, staff, faculty, and community.
- A Coast Salish Drumming and Singing Initiative has started on the SFU campus in an effort to bring more Aboriginal culture to the campus. To be held every two weeks in the year ahead, it is open to beginners and experts, men and women, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.
- Courses and programs that are Aboriginal-oriented in their approach and methodology are either ongoing or have been started in different faculties and units on the campus and in the community. Too numerous to list here, they are available for perusal on the Office for Aboriginal Peoples website.
- A pan-university *IgRa* is being established at SFU in 2011-12. It is designed to bring together faculty and students, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, who are doing research in Indigenous areas. They will look for areas to collaborate, mentor, listen to cutting-edge guest speakers, present and share research, and work with community.

- A Centre for First Nations Languages and concomitant First Nations language programming continues to offer and expand on

