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ATTENTION Aboriginal Steering Committee, Simon Fraser University
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FROM William G. Lindsay, Chair
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RE: Office for Aboriginal Peoples Annual Report / Aboriginal Strategic Plan

Introduction and Highlights

The year 2012 has been a very exciting one at Simon Fraser University for Aboriginal strategic initiatives. The Office for Aboriginal Peoples (OAP) continues to work with on and off-campus partners in the implementation of the Aboriginal Strategic Plan. In fact, SFU has completed a revision of the current Aboriginal Strategic Plan that will update it and take its new implementation date to 2018. This new plan is now available for perusal on the OAP website.

The Office for Aboriginal Peoples, its partners, and Aboriginal strategic initiatives continues to get tremendous support from many areas of the university including from President Andrew Petter; Vice President-Academic and Provost, Dr. Jon Driver; Vice President-External, Dr. Philip Steenkamp; and the Associate Vice President-Students, Dr. Tim Rahilly, to name some. We wish to thank these ones and many others who have helped us to engage and transform the university.

Highlights from the past year include the following: the First Nations Studies Program is now a Department; the Indigenous Research Institute has been established (with over 50 members); the Executive MBA Program in Aboriginal Business and Leadership began its first cohort; (1) returning home (2) a gift offering of Haida argillite carvings from the dedication of the Frog Constellation in the Saywell Hall Atrium.

As well, the following all continued on with their good work: the People, Ecosystems, and Management; the Training of Aboriginal Program; and the Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage (IP

These are just some of the exciting things that have happened at SFU see the Office for Aboriginal Peoples website at <http://www.sfu.ca>

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- x A Centre for First Nations Languages and its concomitant First Nations language programming continues to offer and expand programming and work with expertise in the Aboriginal community.
- x Lifelong Learning, Community Education Programs, and the Aboriginal Pre-University Bridging Programs have the following to report:
 - xLifelong Learning received the second year of University Priority Fund support for 2012-13 in the amount of \$200,000 for the two Aboriginal Pre-University Bridge Programs under the strategic initiative "Support for Aboriginal students" with a target initiative being "To help recruit and retain Aboriginal students."
 - xCommunity Education Programs in Lifelong Learning is pleased to report that fifteen Aboriginal Bridge Program graduates received offers of admission to SFU for the Summer/Fall 2012 term. Fourteen of the graduates have now embarked on their first year of undergrad studies in the Faculty of Health Science and in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This is a significant accomplishment that speaks to the value of a pre-university transitional experience for Aboriginal students.
 - xA relationship with Mitsubishi Corporation is being fostered in collaboration with Advancement. With funds from Mitsubishi Corporation, we are fortunate to be able to provide a limited number of study grants to stude

stipends for Aboriginal students in the Faculties of Science and Health Sciences, including students interested in population health sciences.

2. Research Development

- x Research projects in many areas, with an Aboriginal focus, continue to be done all over the university.
- x The Indigenous Research Institute for SFU continues to be developed

training, and education to support sustainability and conservation in Coastal British Columbia, with a focus on the Central Coast. The theme of the Hakai Network's research is "Science in a Social Context". It aims to conduct research that is transformative in its ability to make a difference in coastal British Columbia. The network works collaboratively with First Nations and other partners and is committed to community-based research. The Hakai Network receives its core funding from the Tula Foundation and works in close partnership with the Hakai Beach Institute, a research station on the Central Coast of B.C. operated by the Tula Foundation. The primary First Nations partners are the Heiltsuk Nation (in Bella Bella) and the Wuikinuxv Nation (in Rivers Inlet).

Members of the Hakai Network are researchers who support the vision and objectives of the Network and are actively involved in its research. The 123 members represent nine universities from Canada and the United States, three levels of government (Federal, Provincial/State and First Nations), several ENGO's, and individuals. Research priorities for the Hakai Network are developed collaboratively with its partners. About twenty graduate students and post-doctoral researchers are supported directly by the Network with a number of others being associated with the Hakai Network's activities. Over the last year, core Hakai Network members (a smaller subset of the 123 mentioned above) generated thirty-two scientific publications and gave sixty-five presentations to public, community, or academic audiences. The Hakai Network hosted a series of seminars,

Toronto. The workshop challenged participants to consider the meaning of customary law and its relationship, both in theory and in practice, to legal pluralism, cultural heritage and intellectual property rights. In March, the Traditional Knowledge Licensing and Labeling Website 1.0, created by IPinCH team members Jane Anderson and Kim Christen, was launched. This accessible digital platform will contain a set of standardized licenses and fair-use labels that can be applied to already existing and future generated content that contains community recognized traditional and Indigenous knowledge. In May, the Inuvialuit Pitqusiit Inuuniarutait: Inuvialuit Living History website, a product of the IPinCH case study,

- x Develop career resources
- x Support learning difficulties
- x Improve access to disabilities services
- x Assist residence enrolment
- x Provide Indigenous Cultural Competency Training for staff

This 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.

- x The BC Ministry of Advanced Education has provided SFU with \$52,200 in funding for Aboriginal Emergency Assistance. This funding is for 2012-13 with carry-over of unused funds permitted. The fund is for Aboriginal post secondary students who require short term assistance to deal with personal emergencies. The SFU Terms of Reference for the fund have been established, and the dispensing of fund monies is being looked after by Awards and Financial Aid and the Indigenous Student Centre.
- x 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; an expanded tutoring program that offers assistance in a wide range of subject areas; 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.
- x Progress continues regarding the establishment of the new Indigenous Student Centre/First Nations Student Association/Elders space in AQ 2002/03. It is hoped that the space will be available for occupation in 2013-14.
- x Established “contact people” in Academic Advising, Career Services, Graduate Studies, Awards and Financial Aid, and in the Community Education Program (Lifelong Learning) continue to work for and with Aboriginal people at SFU.
- x SFU continues to have a well-organized, well-funded, and well-supported First Nations Student Association (FNSA) to assist in Aboriginal student activities and other initiatives. For example, FNSA works in partnership with many units around the university to organize student events, to support student retention initiatives, and to partner up on university presentations e.g. Aboriginal speaker series. Two members of FNSA are also invited to sit on the SFU Aboriginal Steering Committee.
- x SFU is establishing measures to strengthen and increase services for Aboriginal graduate students. This includes better information regarding specific services, more support for the Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement Programs (SAGE), workshops to assist students in their graduate studies work, and more scholarships specific to Aboriginal graduate students. For 2012, a part-time Indigenous Graduate Student Support Coordinator was hired to assist Aboriginal graduate students in some of the above initiatives.

4. Liaison and Engagement with the Aboriginal

- x An Aboriginal Steering Committee continues to provide direction to the Office for Aboriginal Peoples regarding priorities in the Aboriginal Strategic Plan. The committee is

into Squamish, Sliammon, Halq'eméylem, Nisga'a, Helitsuk, and Huu-ay-aht languages and have been introduced to Aboriginal communities around the province.

- x An Indigenous Peoples Career Stories event took place once again on the Burnaby campus in the Spring of 2012. The

- x Coast Salish Drumming and Singing Workshops now take place for a second year on the SFU Burnaby campus in an effort to bring more Aboriginal culture/knowledge to the university. Held every week this year (expanding from being done every two weeks last year), it is open to beginners and experts, men and women, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The program expanded this Fall (2012) and is now also being offered on select evenings at the Downtown Vancouver SFU Woodward's campus CCo-4

opportunities, special event information, special announcements, and items of special interest to the community.

- x The Simon Fraser University News continues throughout the year to publish stories to do with Aboriginal people, services, programs, and events. For example, articles were published this past year which featured graduating Aboriginal students and introduced readers to the new Director, Office of Indigenous Education in the Faculty of Education.
- x The third annual Simon Fraser University News, Aboriginal Peoples Supplementary Insert was made available in early December 2012. This special insert once again featured Aboriginal people, services, programs, and events of note at SFU for 2012.
- x The Office for Aboriginal Peoples deals with numerous requests every year from media seeking news story information and interviews. For example, the Director of the OAP had numerous interviews with Global TV News, Post Media News (Ottawa), the Vancouver Sun newspaper, the Vancouver Province newspaper,

include something similar/special that will make this project stand out from other existing and similar projects; as well, further engage the Aboriginal community in this initiative.

Update: The feasibility study for this project is ongoing. The business part of the plan is nearing completion. After being provided with direction from the President and Vice President's concerning this project, the economic incubator component will be re-inserted into the draft document. Community consultation/discussion has been done to a large degree but more is planned.

4. Action item: Develop an Institutional Research and Planning document for SFU which(c)4 (ufTC (o