



## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

### **Leadership renewal**

Martin Pochurko, Vice-President Finance and Administration (VPFA), has announced his decision to retire from SFU, effective February 7, 2025. We are grateful to Martin for his





community first approach to developing and implementing mitigation and adaptation technologies, policies and strategies, and a strategic research priority for SFU.

We are proud that SFU English professor Leith Davis, marine biologist Nicholas Dulvy and chemical biologist David Vocadlo have been [named Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada](#)—Canada’s highest academic honour—for their contributions to their fields. Congratulations also to Dean of Science and kinesiology professor Angela Brooks-Wilson for being [elected](#) as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS), one of the highest honours for Canadian health scholars.

SFU received [\\$6.6M in federal support](#) for two new hubs—the Climate-Smart Data Collaboration Centre and the Agricultural Genomics in Action Centre—funded through Genome Canada. An additional \$9.2M was provided by provincial governments, businesses and research partners. The new centres will advance genomics-based agriculture and food system innovations to help Canadian agriculture industry innovate, cut its carbon footprint and boost sustainable food systems.

SFU Sustainability, the SFU Sustainability Date Office launched the “Countdown to 2030: Creating a Sustainable Future” event series campaign. The collaborative series aims to promote and highlight university-wide sustainability and climate action events in fall 2024 in the lead-up to the writing of SFU's institutional Sustainability and Climate Plan 2030. 2030 is a critical deadline for ramping up global efforts to address climate change and meeting the United Nations

- Following Dr. David J. Price's appointment as the SoM's founding dean, Christine Burnell joined the School's leadership team as Executive Director, Operations starting August 1. Prior to joining, she was Director, Operations and Administration with the Department of Family Medicine, College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.



recruitment of identified groups. Work is also well underway to inform a retention plan built out of comprehensive onboarding and mentorship programs; this work will be reported back to the Commissioner as a requirement of the Special Programs.

In September, SFU launched its university-wide initiative to develop an [AI strategy](#). The strategy aims to leverage SFU strengths in advanced computing and big data to support use of AI in learning and teaching, research, operations and community engagement.

On August 20, SFU Alumni welcomed back more than 140 alumni and special guests