At a recent gathering with some of the world’s academic leaders in deliberation, one of the most active American academics, Martin Carcasson, exclaimed to the group, “I know what I’d like my Centre to be when it grows up—the SFU Centre for Dialogue”.

I was a little taken aback by his comment. It takes leaving home to really appreciate and understand the body of work and the unique approach that we have cultivated through the SFU Centre for Dialogue.

For sixteen years SFU has been helping to grow the field of dialogue by creating space for transformative conversations—designing our own processes, establishing new curriculum and building the scholarship of dialogue and deliberation by freely sharing the results of our work. But rarely do we pause to take stock of our efforts.

To recognize, for example, that since 2000 we have:

- opened a purpose-built facility for convening dialogues—the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue;
- engaged over 600 undergraduate students in the SFU Semester in Dialogue;
- designed and convened thousands of community dialogues;
- helped to launch SFU Public Square, the signature initiative of our university’s commitment to community engagement;
- provided support to academics wanting to incorporate dialogue and deliberation into their teaching;
- launched a social enterprise to support governments in their public decision-making processes; and
- built a strong Fellowship program in five thematic areas.

And yet it feels like we are just beginning. Never has there been such a need for a space where people can step outside of their positional constraints, their prisons of knowing and come together and grapple with serious social, environmental and economic challenges.

The demands of our polarized world require us to hone our skills, deepen our knowledge, teaching and practice and discover new ways of engaging people to advance solutions to seemingly intractable problems. Our vision is to serve as a go-to convener for serious, productive and outcome-oriented discussion about the most pressing issues of our time, and our current global circumstances demand that we live up to that vision.

With this publication, one of the first comprehensive overviews of the SFU Centre for Dialogue’s programs, we want to stimulate a conversation with you about our work. We recognize that these pages capture a freeze-frame in our evolving story and there is so much more we could include here—but it’s a start. And all good conversations have to start somewhere.

So please, join us as we take this democratic idea of dialogue and deliberation and broaden it to fill a space that is sorely needed in this world. A space where people can come together—across difference and across borders—to create positive and enduring social change.

Shauna Sylvester
Founded in 2000, the Centre for Dialogue acts as a hub for dialogue and engagement initiatives, exploring emergent and complex issues of public importance. We work across sectors and borders to support communities locally, nationally and internationally. As a trusted convener, we create a space for respectful conversations between diverse stakeholders, where mutual curiosity and collaborative inquiry act as alternatives to adversarial approaches.
WHAT WE DO

The Centre for Dialogue helps build a culture of dialogue and engagement through a series of strategic programs, responsive services, partnerships and a biennial award for excellence in dialogue.

Our Dialogue Fellows, Associates and staff lead dedicated programs in five focus areas:

- **CIVIC ENGAGE** Strengthening democracy through effective public engagement.
- **CLIMATE SOLUTIONS** Advancing local and international solutions to climate change through dialogue and collaborative policy impact.
- **PEACE AND SECURITY** Promoting international peace and security through creative diplomacy and conflict prevention.
- **INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE** Bridging different ways of knowing, and strengthening collaboration and innovation by engaging cognitive and identity diversity.
- **URBAN SUSTAINABILITY** Advancing resilient and livable cities.

The Centre for Dialogue also is home to the signature initiative of the university’s commitment to community engagement—SFU PUBLIC SQUARE.

OUR VALUES

We work in service of the public to generate solutions for our most pressing challenges.

We bring together and honour diverse voices and actively remove barriers to participation to reflect the full range of community interests and create conditions for innovation.

We believe in the importance of transparency in our methods and our motives, and in how we share what we learn with the wider world.

What is Dialogue?
Dialogue is a focused conversation among equals. It offers helpful ways to work together cooperatively, encourages mutual understanding between diverse perspectives and leads to stable, resilient outcomes.

Productive dialogue is entered into with a spirit of curiosity, an interest in continually learning from and with others and a willingness to be changed. Instead of convincing and advocating for what one already knows, dialogue encourages one to enter a space of the unknown—exploring each other’s experiences and values to better understand points of agreement and disagreement, and to come to new insights together. Dialogue helps reduce rhetoric and adversarial positions around polarized issues, allowing a space for participants to express their concerns and vulnerabilities in a respectful and collaborative space.

There are many complex problems facing our communities, workplaces and schools. To respond wisely to these problems requires the input of many, often diverse, voices. Dialogue approaches offer some hopeful ways to relate to one another and how we govern ourselves.

Joanna Ashworth, Founding Director, Dialogue Programs, sfu
In 2014, the Centre for Dialogue hosted the Reconciling Injustices in a Pluralistic Canada dialogue, one of the most comprehensive events ever held in Canada to highlight the knowledge and expertise that stakeholders themselves bring to reconciling injustices.

With over 100 participants, including government representatives and community leaders involved in reconciliation efforts, the dialogue explored reconciliation for both past and current injustices in Canada. Outcomes of the event included a set of principles to support reconciliation and a resource to stimulate further discussion and learning around Canada’s response to historical and contemporary injustices.

Reflecting on the event, Program Director Robin Prest was struck by the depth of engagement the event created with multiple communities. He describes how a dialogic approach allowed for the creation of a unique body of knowledge that couldn’t have existed without such a diverse group of people coming together.

Designing the dialogue with the assistance of community advisors, including Karen Joseph and Chief Robert Joseph of Reconciliation Canada, the Centre for Dialogue learnt new ways of engaging in dialogue process, enriched by traditional Indigenous knowledge.

What really makes a difference in our dialogue circles is you’re not only hearing about Aboriginal history; you’re asked to come and bring your history, to talk about your history. And it’s then that we begin to identify this common humanity between all of us.

*Chief Robert Joseph*, keynote at Reconciling Injustices
CIVIC ENGAGE

Civic Engage strengthens the democratic process through effective public engagement. Our work leverages the Centre for Dialogue’s reputation as an experienced, neutral facilitator and promotes the use of dialogue in the public sphere, helping governments and citizens work together on policy decisions.

Public Engagement Services
Civic Engage designs and implements inclusive and transparent public engagement processes to produce outcomes that reflect both citizen values and real-world constraints. We aim to create space for respectful and productive conversations between stakeholder groups, moving beyond “yes versus no” to allow for co-created solutions and stronger, more resilient outcomes.

Our methods are informed by leading industry standards such as those defined by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (NCDD), and the Kettering Foundation.

Since 2006, the Centre for Dialogue has designed and facilitated hundreds of events on a local, national and international scale, reaching hundreds of thousands of citizens. After a 2014 event with Dr. Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer about the health of citizen engagement in British Columbia, the Centre for Dialogue leadership saw an opportunity to more formally support the field through the creation of a new program: Civic Engage.

Robin Prest  Civic Engage Program Director

Robin is the Program Director for Civic Engage, where he works with senior decision makers to improve the clarity and impact of public engagement. With over ten years’ consulting experience, Robin has helped governments and citizens to collaborate on topics including land use decisions, transportation, reconciliation and strategic planning.

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Civic Engage’s primary mission is to strengthen the democratic process by helping governments and citizens work collaboratively on policy decisions.

The SFU Centre for Dialogue is the gold standard for public engagement.

Mairi Welman, Manager, Strategic Communications & Community Relations, District of North Vancouver

Capacity Building and Professional Development
Profits from our fee-for-service practice are reinvested in the field of public engagement and dialogue through our capacity building and professional development programming.

Community of Practice for Elected Officials
Civic Engage is partnering with British Columbia’s Local Government Leadership Academy to build an Elected Official Community of Practice on public engagement. Through workshops and webinars, we are working to increase the capacity of local governments to integrate high-quality public engagement into their decision-making processes. This initiative recognizes the key role of elected officials in sponsoring public engagement, as well as their need for targeted professional development opportunities that leverage participant knowledge and maintain confidentiality.
When tensions over parking and access in North Vancouver’s Deep Cove peaked in recent years, Civic Engage’s community dialogue brought Deep Cove from a place of conflict to one of collaborative decision-making and action.

As Deep Cove’s scenic landscape and outdoor activities attracted increasing numbers of local and international visitors, the village centre’s capacity to accommodate them remained limited. To help find feasible solutions, Civic Engage independently designed and facilitated a deliberative dialogue in February 2015, in partnership with the District of North Vancouver. Participants were invited to place themselves in the shoes of a city planner, with full information about potential parking solutions and constraints.

This dialogue-based approach allowed diverse stakeholder groups, including residents, business owners and recreational users, to hear different perspectives and identify areas of compromise and mutual agreement. This type of process differs significantly from traditional town hall meetings, which, although serving a necessary and important purpose in certain contexts, create a structure of engagement that is inherently adversarial.

The District of North Vancouver Council has since passed two motions to act on participant recommendations. 93% of participants indicated a desire to participate in similar events in the future, and almost three quarters of participants felt their perspectives were impacted as a result of hearing the views of others. Successful public engagement initiatives like this one are helping to restore public confidence and build broader participation for democratic processes, while embedding the practice of dialogue in our institutions.

Over one day we met in groups with someone from each constituency in each group. Our ideas and suggestions, that we developed together, in an atmosphere of friendliness and respect, were forwarded to council […] No fight, no nasty comments, just a community of responsible citizens, young and old, working together.

J. Paul Stevenson (participant), North Shore News, August 19, 2015
CARBON TALKS

Carbon Talks is a trusted convener of public dialogues on the transition to the low-carbon economy. Since its inception in 2010, we have held dozens of public and invitational dialogues in order to raise awareness, work towards solutions and break down the barriers to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Our dialogues are well known for their solutions-orientated focus, timeliness, depth, diverse range of participants and deliberative design. Working in partnership with governments and public bodies such as the City of Vancouver, City of Calgary, Metro Vancouver, TransLink, BC Hydro, and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, we have helped to inform or move a range of policies including transportation in Vancouver, district energy in Calgary, and smart infrastructure.

Each month we host a public conversation on an emerging issue in the low-carbon economy, such as strategies for addressing rising sea levels, green infrastructure financing, and new thinking on carbon pricing.

Our partnership with Carbon Talks has been extremely valuable. As a result of our work with them, we’ve been able to engage our stakeholders to help shape some of our most important carbon reduction programs and then have their support in moving them forward.

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver
Carbon Talk’s expertise in collaborative cross-sector dialogue made it a key partner in the City of Vancouver’s development of a new transportation plan.

Vancouver experienced dramatic shifts in transportation habits from 1996 to 2011, including an increase in pedestrians, cyclists and transit users, and a marked drop in the number of vehicles, despite a growing population. In fact, the city had exceeded many of the targets set out in the 1997 Transportation Plan well ahead of its 2020 goal. It was time for Transport 2040: a broad consultation process leading to a renewed long-term strategic vision for transportation, land-use and public investment decisions.

As part of this process, Carbon Talks partnered with the City of Vancouver to host two dialogues with key stakeholders in 2011 and 2012. The first facilitated discussion around the social and economic considerations of the plan, while the second invited feedback on specific proposals regarding walking, cycling, transit, motor vehicles, goods and services, and land use.

Recommendations surfacing from these events contributed to the development of high-level policies and specific actions proposed in the Transport 2040 Plan, which was adopted by City Council in October 2012.

Our partnership with Carbon Talks has been extremely valuable. As a result of our work with them, we’ve been able to engage our stakeholders to help shape some of our most important carbon reduction programs and then have their support in moving them forward.

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver
RENEWABLE CITIES

Building on the climate leadership of municipal governments, Renewable Cities is a global initiative supporting cities through the transition to 100% renewable energy and increased energy efficiency in their electricity, heating and cooling, and transportation sectors.

Launched in 2015 with the inaugural Global Learning Forum, we have been working with our partners to advance renewable energy solutions at the urban scale through research-based dialogue, collaboration and thought leadership. Some of our major events in 2015-2016 included:

- facilitating a dialogue at the COP21 UN climate conference in Paris to discuss political challenges and share best practices between a dozen cities from five continents;
- co-convening the Kassel International Dialogue with the German Environment Agency, World Future Council, and deENet, to develop criteria that help cities plan for 100% renewable energy;
- holding the first gathering of North American cities committed to 100% renewable energy in San Francisco in July 2016;
- co-convening two events at the world’s largest business and sustainability conference, GLOBE 2016 in Vancouver.

In May 2017, Renewable Cities hosted a Global Learning Forum in Vancouver to bring together leading cities with the private sector, academia and civil society.

To be a “Renewable City” is to employ a holistic approach to managing urban energy use, covering the electricity, heating and cooling, and transportation sectors.

Harry Lehmann, German Federal Environment Agency

Renewable Cities’ expertise in facilitating dialogue allowed us to increase the share of interactive discussions and deeper conversations between participants. Renewable Cities added clear value to the outcomes report of the Kassel International Dialogue.
In May 2015, Renewable Cities brought together over 300 international leaders from municipalities, the private sector and civil society to discuss the implementation of ambitious renewable energy targets in cities.

Through highly participatory and multi-sectoral dialogue, the event galvanized a community of practitioners on cutting edge urban energy issues. Participants—from Calgary to Copenhagen, from Amsterdam to Austin—were able to actively contribute to each session and came away with a keen understanding of the opportunities and challenges of transitioning cities to 100% renewable energy. The Forum demonstrated that this transition is not only possible, but that it is already underway.

Two Canadian municipalities have since adopted a 100% renewable energy strategy with the support of Renewable Cities, while several others began actively exploring such a goal.

Renewable Cities Global Learning Forum was the best conference I’ve ever attended. A huge reason for that was how practically oriented it was—there was a repeated emphasis on taking home ... practical implementation lessons, information and very specific suggestions from other Forum participants.

Zachary Shahan, Director, CleanTechnica
CLEAN ENERGY CANADA

Clean Energy Canada works to accelerate Canada’s transition to clean and renewable energy systems, envisioning a future where Canada has one of the most advanced energy systems in the world and has significantly reduced its carbon pollution by the year 2050.

Through research and dialogue, we build awareness and support for solutions that address climate disruption and foster an energy-efficient, environmentally responsible and prosperous economy.

Our programs support:
• the transition to renewable electricity, by connecting, aligning and amplifying the voices of Canadian renewable electricity producers;
• low-carbon transportation, by promoting sustainable vehicles and efficient and effective public transportation;
• pricing carbon pollution, by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise in government and advocating for policy solutions.

Merran Smith  Centre for Dialogue Fellow and Executive Director for Clean Energy Canada
For decades, Merran has worked to unite industry, government and civil society organizations to solve pressing social and ecological challenges. Her leadership in the landmark Great Bear Rainforest conservation agreement helped ensure the protection of thousands of square kilometers of British Columbia’s coastal ecosystem. She is the founder of Clean Energy Canada, the nation’s leading think tank on clean energy solutions. Merran is currently one of Canada’s representative on the International Clean Energy Ambassador Corps and served on BC’s Climate Leadership Team in 2015. She is also a 2016 recipient of the Vancouver Board of Trade ‘Wendy McDonald Award’ for community leadership and a 2014 recipient of the Clean 16 Award for Leadership in Clean Capitalism.

Clean Energy Canada brings diverse voices and ideas together—and makes sure they’re heard. On a tight timeline, they convened an unusual coalition of experts to find common ground on climate policy solutions.

Jacob Irving, Canadian Council on Renewable Electricity
Standing at the intersection of research and dialogue, Clean Energy Canada is helping to inspire policy development for Canada’s forthcoming National Climate Plan, which will aim to fulfill Canada’s international climate commitments and spur a clean energy transition here at home.

Canada’s federal, provincial and territorial governments are hard at work developing a climate strategy that is expected to include measures related to clean technology jobs and innovation, carbon pricing, reducing greenhouse gas pollution and climate change adaptation.

To meet or beat Canada’s 2030 climate goal, and to continue making progress after that, we need clean energy to power far more of our daily activities than it does today. Over time, we’ll need to switch from driving gas-powered cars to those that run on clean electricity. Clean electricity will also heat and cool buildings and power industrial processes. This economy-wide switch—from fossil fuels to clean electricity—is known as electrification, and modelling assessments show that it’s a critical climate solution for Canada.

To ensure electrification forms part of the forthcoming national climate plan, Clean Energy Canada convened a roundtable that brought together leading researchers and industry representatives on electrification with the goal of arriving at a set of ambitious policy recommendations on electrification. The initial roundtable, facilitated by Centre for Dialogue Director Shauna Sylvester in May 2016, featured strong engagement and a sense of the impact this group could have by working together.

After follow-up work with roundtable participants, Clean Energy Canada shared the finalized policy recommendations with provincial and federal governments. Our team will work to broaden support for these recommendations and hopes to keep a powerful coalition of allies from multiple sectors engaged in helping to shape an ambitious national climate plan and seeing it implemented across Canada.

Clean Energy Canada has carved out an important niche in articulating a well-researched and grounded vision for a clean energy future. Prior to Clean Energy Canada’s emergence, there has not been an entity that has done this effectively.

Survey participant
ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM (ACT)

Climate change is here, bringing unprecedented challenges but also new opportunities. ACT brings leading experts from around the world together with industry, community and government decision-makers to explore the risks posed by top-of-mind climate change issues and identify opportunities for sustainable adaptation.

Our work focuses on nine key climate change areas: biodiversity, extreme weather, energy, water security, crops and food supply, sea level rise, health risks, population displacement and new technologies.

The ACT model brings together a wide range of stakeholders for dialogue around each priority topic, followed by a period of policy development that offers graduate students at SFU’s School of Public Policy a unique opportunity to make tangible contributions to real-world issues.

Through a combination of research, education, outreach, dialogue and policy innovation, our work bridges theory and action in support of sustainable adaptation that will benefit the Canadian economy, its decision-makers and communities.

Deborah Harford Centre for Dialogue Fellow and Executive Director of ACT

A lifelong environmentalist and passionate communicator, Deborah’s work with ACT has gained her national recognition as a thought leader in climate change adaptation and practical coping strategies. She was appointed as a Climate Solutions Fellow in June 2015, and is co-author of The Columbia River Treaty: A Primer, published by Rocky Mountain Books in 2014.

As Deputy Mayor of Vancouver, and the lead on the City’s work to become the Greenest City in the world by 2020, I deeply appreciate ACT’s work on climate change and the resources and policy insights the team develops.

Deputy Mayor Andrea Reimer, City of Vancouver
As Canada and the United States begin to review one of the largest international trans-boundary water treaties, ACT is helping to lead a dialogic and participatory process that sets a global precedent for resource management in face of climate change.

As of 2014, both nations have the opportunity to renegotiate the landmark Columbia River Treaty, a 60-year agreement pledging mutually beneficial flood control and hydroelectric power generation in this trans-border river basin.

The review period gives voice to the perspectives of First Nations and other residents of the river basin, who were excluded from the original negotiations. Key concerns include the restoration of salmon in the river and the protection of cultural heritage sites.

Further, the treaty must now consider the incipient, yet unpredictable, effects of climate change in the region. Warmer, wetter winters, a receding snowpack, and hotter summers will affect the timing and quantity of river flows, create concerns for water security, and increase demand for hydropower. A world of climate change requires us to think beyond man-made borders. Dialogue is crucial in creating bipartisan solutions that consider the ecological health of the river basin as a whole, so it may continue to benefit both nations.

At this critical juncture, ACT is leveraging its expertise in climate change and dialogue to act as a policy advisor on adaptation to climate change, as well as to support meaningful multi-stakeholder participation. In 2015, ACT partnered with the Canadian Water Resources Association to host a public dialogue exploring the social, political, legal and environmental issues related to the treaty through presentations and panels from local and provincial government, First Nations and academia.

ACT’s work has been successful in bringing together highly-regarded experts to provide valuable insights and encourage informed public discussion of water and climate issues.

Jessica Clogg, Executive Director & Senior Counsel, West Coast Environmental Law
DIVERSITY AND INNOVATION

While many Canadian and international diversity initiatives focus on the important goal of “identity diversity,” Daum’s work builds on widespread research findings that indicate the added value of effectively engaging identity and cognitive diversity in knowledge creation and innovation.

Robert is a senior advisor, program lead, and moderator for university and government diversity initiatives and public programs. He co-leads an international, interdisciplinary research consortium, and is collaborating on three SSHRC-funded projects at UBC and BCIT. He is Chair of The Laurier Institution and a founding Director of Reconciliation Canada. He is on the UBC Strategic Plan Steering Committee and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation’s editorial board. He co-convened the Intercultural and Civic Engagement Strategy Group for the Vancouver Immigration Partnership.

In 2012 the Centre for Dialogue partnered with the Iona Pacific Inter-religious Centre to host the Compassion in Religion student conference.

Over 100 post-secondary students from 13 Canadian and U.S. universities and colleges joined over 100 elders in a day-long event featuring a panel of storytellers from eight religious traditions. Breakout sessions facilitated almost entirely by SFU Semester in Dialogue alumni opened up dialogue around compassion, religion and society.

The spirit of the dialogue is illustrated in a moment that stood out for Dr. Robert Daum: in the closing plenary, an international graduate student from a conflict zone described how in the 18 months since his arrival, this was the first time he had participated in a discussion about religion in which, as the student put it, “I could feel my fists unclenching.”
TWO WAYS OF KNOWING

The Two Ways of Knowing research initiative aims to design, implement and report a novel negotiation and leadership tool that recognizes and incorporates two different ways of knowing that are common to the human experience: circular and linear thinking.

Circular thinkers believe successful interactions are dependent on meaningful relationships and authentic communication, while linear thinkers strive to stay focused on a goal and make continuous progress. These invisible differences in thinking style often lead to cross-cultural differences and can stunt negotiations. Two Ways of Knowing proposes a process that structurally includes and values both thinking styles.

The project includes:
- a post-secondary course and professional development workshops on the value of incorporating both circular and linear thinking;
- interviews with representatives from First Nations, academia and the mineral extraction industry;
- a book outlining the theoretical foundation and practical applications of this approach.

INTER-CULTURAL DIALOGUE

Kim Hudson • Centre for Dialogue Fellow

Kim’s work in Two Ways of Knowing is enriched and informed by her expertise as an exploration geologist, mineral management consultant, federal lands claim negotiator and a consultant to First Nations and the extraction industry in the Yukon. Kim is also a workshop facilitator, leadership consultant and co-founder of the Balanced Leadership program taught at Hollyhock and the Haven. She is the author of The Virgin’s Promise: Writing Stories of Feminine Creative, Spiritual and Sexual Awakening.

INTER-CULTURAL DIALOGUE

Julian Griggs • Centre for Dialogue Associate

An internationally accredited dialogue facilitator, Julian Griggs is one of the founders of Dovetail Consulting, a Vancouver-based firm specializing in collaborative approaches to environmental planning, resource management and community development. Julian brought his years of experience working with all levels of government, First Nations and the not-for-profit sector to his role as the Director of the Shared Decision Making in BC research project.

SHARED DECISION MAKING

From 2012 to 2015, this research initiative examined non-treaty, government-to-government agreements between First Nations and the Provincial Crown in BC. The project offered a neutral platform for reflection and shared learning, away from the negotiation table.

Through a series of dialogues and interviews with First Nations and provincial practitioners involved in the development and implementation of the agreements, the project explored:
- the genesis, scope and intent of shared decision-making agreements;
- their contribution to reconciliation as well as land and resource management decision-making;
- tools and best practices to support implementation.
Through national and international dialogues, public and academic writings and other forms of advocacy, our Fellows support diplomacy and conflict prevention within official circles and civil society alike, in response to current and future security challenges such as nuclear disarmament, cyber security and space security.

PEACE & SECURITY

Dr. Jennifer Allen Simons  Centre for Dialogue
Senior Fellow
An award-winning policy advisor and Order-of-Canada recipient, Jennifer has made it her life’s work to foster greater understanding of key global barriers to peace. In 1985, she established The Simons Foundation, committed to advancing positive change through international initiatives, research and education in peace, disarmament, international law and human security. A partner of the Centre for Dialogue, The Simons Foundation also acts as a convener of high-level strategic and policy dialogues and of academic and public events on policy-driven issues.

Paul Meyer  Centre for Dialogue Fellow
After a 35-year career as a diplomat with Canada’s Foreign Service, Paul is no stranger to the value of dialogue in high-stakes dispute resolution and security contexts. His diplomatic postings include successfully supporting confidence-building measures for conventional forces as part of arms control negotiations in Europe in the late 1980’s and serving as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. He is also Senior Fellow at The Simons Foundation and contributes to the education of emergent leaders by teaching courses on diplomacy through SFU’s School for International Studies.

From the perspective of Dialogue Fellow Paul Meyer, contemporary threats to peace and security ushered in by the Internet age—cyber criminality and interstate cyber conflict—call for dialogue on a global scale. Alongside his work on nuclear disarmament and space security, Paul has been advocating on behalf of cyber peace and the desire of many to sustain the Internet as a medium for free exchange of information and ideas rather than having it become just another battleground. “All cyber security stakeholders will have to become engaged to ensure that irresponsible state conduct in cyberspace is not allowed to compromise this unique environment for humanity,” he explains.

A Senior Advisor for ICT4Peace, a Swiss NGO dedicated to promoting peaceful cyberspace, Paul has been invited to share his expertise through media channels, public talks and presentations at international conferences, such as the UN World Summit on Information Society.

Recognizing that 80% of Canada’s population lives in cities, the Centre for Dialogue works locally, nationally and internationally to support cities in meeting the needs of current and future generations. The Centre serves as a convener, consultant and partner in dialogue and engagement initiatives exploring urban issues, such as Transport 2040, Renewable Cities and CrossroadCity.

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

CrossroadCity is a strategic, non-partisan initiative dedicated to supporting and enhancing the vision of Metro Vancouver’s vision to be an inclusive, healthy, prosperous and liveable region. The project supports student research on regional issues, a series of podcasts exploring issues of youth in Metro Vancouver and a documentary on the history of the region.

In July 2016, the Centre for Dialogue co-hosted a gathering of senior city thought leaders in Wakefield, Quebec, including the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities and his senior staff, to consider a New Cities’ Agenda for Canada.

This generative session created a number of concrete recommendations, including developing comprehensive and comparable data on cities, the need to explore tripartite relationships in delivering much-needed infrastructure to urban areas, and the potential of creating a smart cities challenge to drive innovation and collaboration.

Gordon Price • Centre for Dialogue Fellow

Gordon is a former City of Vancouver Councillor and a globally recognized urbanist. Since 2005, he has been the Director of the SFU City Program, offering courses and free public lectures to explore urban issues such as urban design, sustainable community development, transportation, land-use and heritage conservation. He has a long history of service to regional committees and non-profit boards, and has helped to launch City Conversations and other public-engagement programs at SFU.

A 2010-PIECE PUZZLE

When Vancouver and Whistler were awarded the 2010 Winter Olympics, local residents and activist organizations were incensed that it would siphon off desperately needed funding from pressing issues such as homelessness, mental health, addiction and poverty.

Just a week after protests turned violent at the unveiling of a countdown clock for the Olympics, students of the Spring 2007 Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue hosted A 2010-Piece Puzzle. The event created a civil conversation between the highly adversarial positions that surround the Olympics, including Olympic officials, anti-poverty activists, sustainability experts, municipal civil servants, corporate CEO’s, tourism specialists and residents of the Downtown Eastside. Participants envisioned positive Olympic legacies and proposed specific recommendations to make those outcomes a reality. A new balance was struck between concerns of social issues and the love of sport that was so apparent among proponents of the 2010 Olympics.

For Senior Dialogue Fellow Mark Winston, the power of dialogue to bridge gaps between seemingly intractable positions is exemplified by a 2007 public dialogue held at the SFU’s Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue that helped turn anger into understanding and compassion around the contentious 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games.

SENIOR FELLOW

Mark Winston • Semester in Dialogue, Centre for Dialogue Senior Fellow

One of the world’s leading experts on bees and pollination, Mark has had an illustrious career researching, teaching and writing on bees and agriculture, environmental issues and science policy. He directed Simon Fraser University’s Centre for Dialogue for 12 years, where he achieved international recognition as a distinguished Canadian educator concentrating on creating leadership development opportunities for students that contribute to social change in communities. He currently is a Professor and Senior Fellow at Simon Fraser University’s Centre for Dialogue and a Professor of Biological Sciences.
SFU SEMESTER IN DIALOGUE

Each semester the program offers an original, interdisciplinary experience that bridges with the community and creates space for students to reflect on what they are doing and why it matters. Our approach to learning helps students to better define their personal and professional goals while gaining effective skills in areas such as communication and group work.

We believe that universities should inspire students to take responsibility for and contribute to the world around them, and provide the ability to communicate and be effective through tools such as dialogue. There is no more important task than encouraging young Canadians to care about the world around them, and to provide them with the tools they need to be effective ambassadors for positive change in our communities.

Janet Moore • SFU Semester in Dialogue, Co-Founder & Co-Director of CityStudio

Janet is a Professor, Professional Practice with over 20 years of experience conceptualizing, imagining and designing the future of the university classroom.

CityStudio Vancouver is an innovation hub where City staff, students, and community co-create experimental projects to make Vancouver more sustainable, liveable and joyful. CityStudio Vancouver launched in 2011 as a collaboration between the City of Vancouver and the city’s 6 public post-secondary institutions. SFU is a founding partner.

CityStudio is an immersive, team learning environment combining interdisciplinary skills with the complexity of collaborating within a group setting. The SFU course combines dialogue and design elements, and requires students to engage with communities, research existing urban interventions and design projects to improve the world around them. By focusing on current issues that matter in Vancouver, students have an opportunity to develop innovative solutions that assist The City of Vancouver in reaching its goals. Students cultivate the skills necessary to conduct student led dialogues, public presentations, and to engage in multi-stakeholder processes with policy makers and City of Vancouver staff. The course offers field experiences, on-the-ground training, leadership development, group process, and project management skills.
As the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) marked its 25th anniversary in 2015, it turned to SFU Public Square to help engage the community in developing a collaborative and compelling vision for the future of downtown Vancouver.

Drawing from its years of experience and well-established networks, SFU Public Square connected with over 11,000 community members over the summer of 2015 through innovative engagement techniques including a survey, jam sessions, bike rides, social media campaigns, interviews and interactive events. The process surfaced a high-level vision of a vibrant and connected downtown community, alongside specific ideas that have informed the DVBIA’s five year strategic plan and inspired other community stakeholders.
Our dialogue-based approach has been tested in many different policy and decision-making contexts. Since 2007, the Centre for Dialogue has designed and facilitated more than 60 major public and stakeholder events, including highly scrutinized processes for government organizations such as The Province of British Columbia, Metro Vancouver, BC Hydro and Vancouver Coastal Health.

Our services include:

- Convening transformational conversations
- Supporting citizens and governments in shared decision-making
- Multi-stakeholder problem solving and strategy development
- Online engagement and consultation
- Training and building capacity of public and private sector teams to engage meaningfully with their constituents, clients and communities

I would recommend them for any organization wanting to create a great process and superb outcomes.

Michael Magee, Senior Advisor and Former Chief of Staff, City of Vancouver
This dedicated conference and meeting facility hosts a variety of rooms and spaces, fitted with state of the art communications technology and designed to accommodate a range of event purposes and sizes, from one-on-one meetings, to networking events, to 150-person dialogues.

In the Asia Pacific Hall, five concentric rings of tiered seating offer unobstructed views to enhance interactivity and openness among dialogue participants. Simultaneous language interpretation and audience-response technology facilitate active participant engagement.

The venue, including onsite services to support events, is available for rental by community organizations, businesses and governments through Simon Fraser University’s Meeting, Events and Conference Services (MECS).
Jack P. Blaney Award for Dialogue

The Jack P. Blaney Award for Dialogue is presented to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in the use of dialogue to further the understanding of complex and profound public issues.

The award presentation is accompanied by a series of public dialogue events; past awards have engaged hundreds of thousands of community members through high-profile dialogues, workshops, artwork, school curricula and media coverage.

The award is named after SFU president emeritus Dr. Jack P. Blaney, whose leadership and vision were pivotal to the conception and building of the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. It is funded by the Endowment Fund established in his honour.

Past Recipients

2015/2016 Professor Tim Flannery, for advancing a global conversation around the critical issues of climate change.
2014 Reconciliation Canada Ambassador Chief Robert Joseph, for his tireless work promoting reconciliation among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.
2012 Charter for Compassion founder Karen Armstrong, for advancing understanding about and among world religions, and promoting compassion as a way of life.
2009 Choreographer Liz Lerman, for leadership, creativity and dedication to melding dialogue with dance.
2005 Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, for outstanding courage, leadership and commitment to dialogue.
2002 Maurice Strong, for leadership on environmental sustainability.

Past Dialogues

2015 Thrive! Surrey in 2030: A residents’ lab on the future of their city
2014 Citizen Engagement and Political Civility with Dr. Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer
2013 Building a Culture of Participation with Dave Meslin
2012 Riots and Restorative Justice with Dr. Theo Gavrielides
2011 Growing out of Hunger with Will Allen
2010 The Age of Unequals with Dr. Richard Wilkinson

Bruce & Lis Welch Community Dialogue

Generously supported by the Bruce and Lis Welch Fund, the annual Bruce & Lis Welch Community Dialogue engages the community at large to explore innovative approaches to local issues through cross-sectoral dialogue.

Outcomes have included original research about the health of citizen engagement in British Columbia, the design of models of public engagement processes and contributions to the BC Justice Reform Initiative.

Past Dialogues

2016/17 The Responsibility to Protect: Achievements and Challenges with Professor the Hon. Gareth Evans

The Simons Foundation Distinguished Visiting Fellow in Dialogue on International Law and Human Security

This award enhances the understanding and raises the public profile of key international issues that affect the welfare and well-being of present and future generations and promotes public debate with respect to these issues.

The appointee initiates annual events raising public awareness and community outreach activities on issues of International Law and Human Security.
SENIOR ASSOCIATES

Joanna Ashworth • Centre for Dialogue Senior Associate

Joanna is a former Director of Dialogue Programs at the Centre for Dialogue, leading numerous projects and programs from 2002 to 2010. Today she is Associate Director at the Centre for Sustainable Community Development, where she is also a faculty member in the Centre’s academic program. She was a program founder and teaches in SFU’s Certificate in Dialogue and Civic Engagement.

Ann Cowan • Centre for Dialogue Senior Associate

Ann was a founding member of the Centre for Dialogue. Serving as the Director of Program Development, she helped Mark Winston develop the Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue and other key initiatives. During her 23-year career at SFU, she also served as Executive Director of the Vancouver campus and founded SFU’s Writing and Publishing Program and the Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing.

Glenn Sigurdson • Centre for Dialogue Senior Associate

A mediator, lawyer, facilitator and negotiator, Glenn is internationally known for his work related to complex multi-party challenges involving environmental, resource and land use issues. From 2001 to 2005 he led the Dialogue Forum, a research initiative exploring protocols and effective tools for successful dialogue.

Tony Penikett • Centre for Dialogue Senior Associate


ASSOCIATES

Michael Alexander • Director, SFU City Conversations

Michael is Director of SFU City Conversations, and an urbanist focussing on urban policy and public spaces.

Laurie Anderson • Executive Director, SFU Vancouver

Laurie’s leadership and facilitation focus is on creating the conditions that help people learn, connect, belong, grow and laugh together.

Natasha Aruliah • Facilitator, Coach and Consultant

Natasha supports people and organizations to develop the necessary cultural competence, emotional intelligence and critical thinking that promote healing, justice and equity, in Canada and internationally.

Heesoon Bai • Professor, SFU Burnaby

Philosophy’s task for today’s troubled world is, in the words of Ramon Panikkar, “to know, to love and to heal.”

Herb Barbolet • Centre for Dialogue Associate

Herb is passionate about life-long learning.
ASSOCIATES (CONTINUED)

MEET THE TEAM

Duane Elverum • Co-founder & Co-Director, CityStudio Vancouver
Despairing optimist serving the curious in design, education and cities. Sailor, cyclist and mountain runner.

Aftab Erfan • Director, Dialogue and Conflict Engagement, UBC
Aftab is a scholar-practitioner and the Director of Dialogue and Conflict Engagement at the University of British Columbia.

Patsy George • Order of Canada and Order of British Columbia recipient
Now retired, Patsy is no longer on the frontlines of social work, but she retains a keen interest in social justice and a strong desire to see improvement in the conditions of marginalized people, particularly those from Aboriginal communities.

Ginger Gosnell-Myers • Aboriginal Relations Manager, City of Vancouver
Ginger is of Nisga’a and Kwikw’akw heritage and is passionate about advancing Indigenous rights and knowledge, while breaking down barriers between Indigenous peoples and all Canadians.

Julian Griggs • Principal, Dovetail Consulting Group
A seasoned facilitator, trainer and management consultant supporting individuals, groups and collaboratives to perform at their absolute best.

Susanna Haas Lyons • Civic Engagement Specialist
Susanna is an engagement strategist, facilitator and trainer, who supports better conversations between people impacted and decision-makers.

Suzanne Hawkes • Partner, Convergence Strategies
Suzanne is a facilitator, leader/trainer and management consultant committed to helping leaders and teams unleash the collective power and wisdom of diverse perspectives.

Kirk Hill • Assistant Dean, External Relations, Beedie School of Business, SFU
Kirk is recognized for his talent in bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders and guiding them in working toward a shared vision and goal, all while meeting often challenging objectives and tight deadlines.

Michelle Hoar • Co-Founder, The Tyee
Co-Founder of The Tyee and Tyee Solutions Society, Manager of The Housing Fix project.

Am Johal • Director, SFU’s Vancity Office of Community Engagement
Am has worked as an advisor to provincial Cabinet Ministers, on the Vancouver Agreement, and has been a member of the Vancouver City Planning Commission.

Genevieve Fuji Johnson • Professor, Department of Political Science, SFU
Genevieve studies and teaches democratic theory, feminist political thought, interpretive approaches to policy analysis, and a range of current public policy issues.

Karen Joseph • Chief Executive Officer, Reconciliation Canada, North Vancouver
Bringing together diverse perspectives and inspiring reconciliation in Canada.

Michelle LeBaron • Professor, Allard School of Law, UBC
Michelle is a conflict transformation scholar/practitioner and legal scholar at UBC. She researches, writes and speaks internationally on creative ways to engage intractable conflict.

Donald MacPherson • Executive Director, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, SFU
A drug policy change agent that is heading up the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition the new voice of drug policy based on public health and human rights.

Gary McCarren • Associate Professor, School of Communication, SFU
Gary McCarren is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication and Graduate Chair in the Graduate Liberal Studies Program.

Marnie McGregor • Director, Intergovernmental Relations, City of Vancouver
Marnie has a unique background in both urban planning and strategic communications specializing in translating technical information into clear language, and building consensus around progressive urban projects and policies.

Stuart McNish • Host, Conversations That Matter
For more than 25 years Stu McNish has been involved in video journalism and storytelling. He won numerous awards for his work while at BCTV (now Global), he is the host of Conversations That Matter and a veteran video storyteller in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Sean Markey • Associate Professor, SFU
Sean is an Associate Professor with the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University.

Gary McCarron • Associate Professor, School of Communication, SFU
Gary McCarron is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication and Graduate Chair in the Graduate Liberal Studies Program.

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Brenda Morrison ◆ Associate Professor, Director of the Centre for Restorative Justice
Brenda is passionate about rights, responsibility and reconciliation, through enacting processes that bring justice home to our diverse communities.

Shaheen Nanji ◆ Executive Director (acting), SFU International, SFU Vancouver
Shaheen (MA International Studies) is acting Executive Director, SFU International. Her focus includes international development, diaspora, migration and pluralism.

Tamara Pearl ◆ Therapist & Expressive Arts Therapist
Therapist, expressive arts therapist, adjunct faculty at Adler University, cross cultural bridgebuilder, and PhD student at SFU Faculty of Education.

Daniel Savas ◆ Visiting Professor, SFU School of Public Policy
Daniel is a survey research specialist with 27+ years experience and a Visiting Professor in SFU’s School of Public Policy.

Nola-Kate Seymour ◆ Chair, Vancouver City Planning Commission
Nola-Kate is Chair of the Vancouver City Planning Commission, and a member of the Pacific Fisheries Monitoring and Compliance Panel, SFU’s Urban Studies Advisory Council and UBC’s Advisory Board to the Faculty of Land and Food Systems.

Danny Shapiro ◆ Professor of Global Business Strategy, Beedie School of Business, SFU
Engaged scholar of global issues, academic entrepreneur, committed to academic and social innovation.

Arjun Singh ◆ City Councillor, City of Kamloops
Arjun has a keen interest in good community conversations, strong democratic processes and engaged citizens.

Judy Smith ◆ Associate Dean, Lifelong Learning, SFU Vancouver
Judy is an Associate Dean of SFU Lifelong Learning and the Director of Leadership and Community Building Programs.

Ingrid Leman Stefanovic ◆ Dean, Faculty of Environment, SFU Vancouver
Ingrid is Dean of the Faculty of Environment and Professor within the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University. Her research explores how values and attitudes affect environmental decision making.

Jillian Stirk ◆ Associate, SFU Centre for Dialogue
Committed to promoting dialogue. Expertise in international peace-building, global diversity and inclusion issues.

Coro Strandberg ◆ President, Strandberg Consulting
Coro is an expert in corporate sustainability and social responsibility, advising organizations on strategies to embed sustainability in the marketplace.

Vince Verlaan ◆ Principal, MODUS Planning Design & Engagement
Committed to advancing the practices of “strong engagement”, co-creation, dialogue and generativity, in service of social learning and action.

Baharak Yousefi ◆ Head, Library Communications, SFU
Baharak is Head of Library Communications at Simon Fraser University, Director on the Board of the BC Libraries Cooperative and an active member of BC’s library community.

Janet Webber ◆ Executive Director, SFU Public Square
Janet has years of experience fostering effective ideas exchange, and has convened innovative and impactful dialogues and events locally and internationally.

Kory Wilson ◆ Executive Director, Indigenous Initiatives and Partnerships
Kory, BSc., LL.B, is Musgamagw Tsawataineuk and Laich-Kwil-Tach both nations are part of the Kwakwaka’wakw Nation. She has a deep commitment to education, both within the institutions and in the community, and she has dedicated her working life to ensuring that Aboriginal learners and other marginalized learners succeed.

Baldwin Wong ◆ Social Planner, City of Vancouver
Since 2005, Baldwin has been the lead staff supporting the Mayor’s Working Group on Immigration, which advises City Council on issues regarding immigrants and refugees.

Nola-Kate Seymour ◆ Chair, Vancouver City Planning Commission
Nola-Kate is Chair of the Vancouver City Planning Commission, and a member of the Pacific Fisheries Monitoring and Compliance Panel, SFU’s Urban Studies Advisory Council and UBC’s Advisory Board to the Faculty of Land and Food Systems.

Judy Smith ◆ Associate Dean, Lifelong Learning, SFU Vancouver
Judy is an Associate Dean of SFU Lifelong Learning and the Director of Leadership and Community Building Programs.
MEET THE TEAM

Centre for Dialogue staff manage and deliver the core educational and public programming for the Centre for Dialogue and provide support for affiliated initiatives.

STAFF

SFU Centre for Dialogue & Civic Engage

Top row (from left to right): Shauna Sylvester, Centre for Dialogue Director; Kelvin Chan, Budget Assistant; Linda Bannister, Semester in Dialogue Undergraduate Secretary; Grace Lee, Event & Marketing Coordinator (C2U Expo 2017 Community Jam); Gerilee McBride, Design & Communication.

Front row (from left to right): Brenda Tang, Manager; Aretha Munro, Executive Assistant to the Director; Lindsay Wu, Event & Marketing Assistant (C2U Expo 2017 Community Jam); Robin Prest, Civic Engage Program Director; Sebastian Merz, Civic Engage Program Manager.

SFU Public Square

Top row (from left to right): Pavan Thind, Event and Marketing Coordinator; Janet Webber, Executive Director; Kady Wong, Volunteer Coordinator.

Front row (from left to right): Alexa Walker, Engagement and Evaluation Coordinator; Melanie Findlay, Design and Communications Coordinator; Scott Young, Community Summit Project Manager.

Clean Energy Canada

Top row (from left to right): Jeremy Moorhouse, Senior Analyst; Dan Woynillowicz, Policy Director.

Middle row (from left to right): Julia Kilpatrick, Communications Director; Sarah Petreven, Senior Policy Advisor; Deb Thomison, Senior Executive Assistant; Trevor Melanson, Senior Communications Specialist.

Front row (from left to right): Natasha LaRoche, Operations Manager; Merran Smith, Centre for Dialogue Fellow and Executive Director for Clean Energy Canada; Clare Demerse, Federal Policy Advisor.

Carbon Talks & Renewable Cities

From left to right: Angela Paley, Program Assistant; Michael Small, Centre for Dialogue Fellow and Executive Director of Carbon Talks and Renewable Cities; Kathryn Sheps, Operations Manager and Dialogue Convener; Betsy Agar, Research Manager.
The Centre for Dialogue works closely with several partner organizations to deliver affiliated programming.

THE CERTIFICATE IN DIALOGUE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT is a part-time professional development certificate, offered through SFU’s Continuing Studies. Through a series of nine courses that combine theory with practice, students learn to design engagement frameworks that involve communities in decisions that affect them. Students then apply their learnings in an engagement project in the community, organization or workplace of their choice.

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER is a television and webcast show hosted by SFU Centre for Dialogue Associate Stu McNish offering in-depth interviews with thought leaders on issues shaping the future of BC. It is broadcast weekly on a number of media platforms including but not limited to television, the Vancouver Sun website and Post Media websites across Canada. The show is also picked up internationally by a growing number of websites.

CITYSTUDIO is an innovation hub inside City Hall where staff, university students and community members co-create, design and launch projects on the ground. Since 2011, CityStudio has offered semester-long Studio courses in partnership with the SFU Semester in Dialogue, as well as hundreds of project-based courses at SFU, UBC, BCIT and Langara. Janet Moore, SFU Semester in Dialogue, and Duane Elverum, SFU Centre for Dialogue Associate, are Co-Directors and Co-Founders of CityStudio.

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The Centre for Dialogue programs would like to gratefully acknowledge some of our core partners and supporters:

- Bruce and Lis Welch
- North Growth Foundation
- SFU School of Public Policy
- SFU Beedie School of Business
- SFU School of International Studies
- University of British Columbia
- City of Vancouver
- Metro Vancouver
- TransLink
- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- J. W. McConnell Family Foundation
- George Cedric Metcalf Foundation
- Ivey Foundation
- Sitka Foundation
- World Future Council
- Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions
- ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
- GLOBE Conference & Expo
- Sierra Club USA
- Canadian Hydropower Association
- Canadian Solar Industries Association
- Canadian Wind Energy Association
- Marine Renewables Canada
- Clean Energy BC
- Canadian Council on Renewable Electricity (CanCORE)
- The Energy Forum

SFU’s Centre for Dialogue also gratefully acknowledges the work of the individuals who have supported our team as co-op placement and work-study students, volunteers, contract employees and staff. We would especially like to thank the SFU temporary and permanent staff, senior administrators, faculty, alumni, donors and advisors for all of their support.