FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT
engaging a sustainable world

STRATEGIC PLAN
2017-2019
Executive Summary

This Strategic Plan offers the Dean’s vision for the Faculty of Environment, that is reinforced by Guiding Values, long-term Strategic Objectives and Initiatives.

Specific Projects to advance those initiatives are detailed in appendices that are updated annually. It is expected that each project may require a more detailed, individual project plan and measurable targets, to be developed within the broad Strategic Plan presented in this document.

Faculty and staff are invited to propose specific projects to advance these initiatives. Please email suggestions to the Dean, at fenvdean@sfu.ca.
As one of a handful of interdisciplinary environmental faculties in Canada – and the only one in Western Canada – we offer a broad range of world-class educational, research and community-engaged opportunities.

Our combination of credit and non-credit program options address a range of issues including:

► past environments, aboriginal and archaeological origins of society;
► human and physical geography;
► environmental management and resource issues;
► sustainable community development;
► environmental science;
► business and sustainability;
► ecological restoration;
► global climate change and environment systems;
► environmental values and heritage;
► and so much more!

Our research accomplishments place a number of our home departments within the top ten in the country, according to QS World University rankings, and among the top 25% of departments in their subject areas worldwide.

Uniquely linking teaching and research with community engagement, the Faculty ensures that academic achievement is matched with significant, on the ground application.

Our researchers, students, staff, alumni, friends and community partners each help us to make a difference in building a more sustainable world.
Vision and Guiding Values

The Faculty of Environment’s core values support:

► A realistic but positive, hopeful vision of a just and sustainable world
  While genuinely acknowledging environmental challenges, we recognize the power of positive thinking to enact meaningful change.

► An understanding of “environment” that includes diverse processes across both natural landscapes and sustainable human settlements
  “The environment” reflects complex relations between human beings and the natural world in which we are situated. Since that world is more than 50% urbanized, city building is integral to the environmental mission.

► Teaching, learning and research that are innovative, impactful, academically rigorous, collaborative, discipline-based as well as interdisciplinary
  Exemplary educational and research programs provide both deep and broad approaches to impacting positive environmental change.

► Indigenization and community engagement as integral, rather than supplementary to teaching, learning and environmental research
  Engaging Canada’s indigenous origins as well as other diverse community relationships is integral to our mission.

► An experience that is rewarding and inspiring to students, staff, faculty, alumni, sponsors and community members
  Education is life-affirming. Sharing the joy of learning across all Faculty of Environment communities is how we define the academic experience.

► The promotion of social and environmental justice, equity, care, respect and well-being at all levels, from hiring practices to research engagement
  As an institution of higher learning, our goal is to promote an ethic of virtue and moral integrity at all levels.

TO BE THE LEADING FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT, DEFINED BY ITS PREEMINENT, COMMUNITY-ENGAGED EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS TO SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE WORLD
Strategic Objectives

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT’S STRATEGIC PLAN RESTS ON THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Enhance the student experience, through advancing environmental teaching and learning**
   We are here first and foremost to support our students, each of whom deserve a rewarding set of opportunities at all levels of their learning experience.

2. **Support world-class, leading edge environmental innovation and research excellence**
   The joy of discovery and change happens only through high-integrity research.

3. **Engage the community in a meaningful and mutually supportive manner**
   More than supporting ivory tower thinking, the Faculty of Environment strives to make meaningful environmental changes regionally, nationally, and internationally in close collaboration with community partners.

4. **Enhance respect for diversity and interdisciplinary collaboration**
   The Faculty of Environment aims to advance diversity, tolerance and respect for multiple voices, acknowledging that meaningful, interdisciplinary environmental dialogue is required to address “wicked” environmental problems from a range of perspectives.

5. **Optimize operational management of the Faculty**
   Delivering educational opportunities in a way that is fiscally responsible, efficient, and judicious is central to our publicly funded institution.
1. **Enhance the student experience, through advancing teaching and learning**
   - Create additional co-op, field courses and applied educational curriculum options
   - Support major student conferences and campus clubs, activities and meetings
   - Encourage Indigenization of the curriculum
   - Strengthen programs that integrate business and sustainability concerns
   - Seek more significant integration of the Humanities into Faculty of Environment curriculum
   - Integrate and enhance urban with environmental programming
   - Maximize course accessibility
   - Provide support programs dedicated to international students’ specialized needs
   - Encourage teacher training and skills upgrading
   - Ensure more comprehensive PhD teacher training
   - Promote student interaction at the Faculty level through social events
   - Encourage program directors and Chairs to identify, justify and achieve educational goals
   - Seek to expand programs at the Surrey and downtown campuses
   - Explore program development focused on Asian environmental/urban priorities
   - Invite additional proposals for new, timely, undergraduate and graduate programs

2. **Support world-class, leading edge innovation and research excellence**
   - Enhance relevant, innovative research opportunities that engage faculty members across multiple disciplines and departments
   - Provide strategic support for high-quality, discipline-based as well as interdisciplinary research grant applications
   - Update Faculty-wide, strategic research plans annually

3. **Engage the community in a meaningful and mutually supportive manner**
   - Respond to major community-based research priorities
   - Include community partners to help guide the development of the Faculty of Environment
   - Strategically communicate Faculty of Environment activities to a broader public audience through social media
   - Sponsor high-profile speakers and organize workshops/lectures at media-intensive events
   - Provide continuing education in Environment
4. **Enhance respect for diversity and interdisciplinary collaboration**
   - Facilitate joint appointments, where appropriate
   - Build curriculum that complements, rather than competes with curriculum of other Faculties
   - Develop new international cultural exchanges amongst faculty and students
   - Provide diversity training for faculty and staff
   - Support gender equity across all units
   - Organize collective social events for faculty, students and staff
   - Seek to co-locate Faculty of Environment in an integrated space

5. **Optimize operational management of the faculty**
   - Provide a safe, healthy and productive environment for faculty members, staff and students
   - Ensure regular, faculty and staff communication on Faculty priorities and activities
   - Increase efficiencies in curriculum delivery
   - Promote equity in teaching allocations and workload
   - More actively engage in student recruitment to increase undergraduate enrolments
   - Develop new sources of income through specialty, professional graduate programs and continuing education opportunities
   - Work with the Provost to address budgetary shortfalls
   - Engage with donors to reach $2M annual goal
   - Update Faculty of Environment Communication Plan annually
Cover photo of students taken during EVSC 491 field trip to Fraser River.