A MESSAGE FROM JANET WEBBER

Our 7th Community Summit theme was incredibly timely. Almost every day during the planning and delivery of the Summit, a new story would break or research would be released that addressed the impact of disinformation. These touched upon nearly all aspects of society, from politics, populism, journalism and democracy to the economy, health and migration. But one common thread united them: disinformation polarizes us. We knew that we had to address this division and draw awareness to the very real threats our communities face.

We began our work on the Community Summit as we always do: by engaging. This year our level of engagement reached new heights. We reached deeper into the institution, connecting with more faculty and departments than ever before. We advanced our student engagement activities, establishing an in-house student peer ambassador cohort. We cultivated several exciting new partnerships, forged new relationships and designed a Summit that reached wider than ever before, encouraging more and deeper conversations between our attendees and the greater public.

JANET WEBBER
Executive Director, SFU Public Square
Our efforts paid off. Confronting the Disinformation Age was our biggest Summit yet with more than 4,400 in-person attendees, including a sold-out presentation at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. But more than just drawing big crowds, the events served as an opportunity to create, share and embrace knowledge that can affect change on a topic that is emerging and evolving in real time.

In the end, we produced 14 events in support of this year’s Community Summit. None of this work happened in a vacuum. Our work supports and is grounded by SFU’s deep commitment to building social infrastructure, strengthening the fabric of society, and the creation of and exchange of knowledge. We are extremely fortunate to receive incredible support from across SFU. So much of our Community Summit is designed and implemented through some form of partnership. Each year the willingness of community to trust us to help hold space for and with them to convene meaningful programming astounds and humbles me.

We are most grateful for the continued and generous support of the Jarislowsky Foundation. Dr. Jarislowsky’s continuing record of philanthropy and civic leadership stands as one of the best examples of global citizenship and democratic engagement. He has been active in educational, cultural and charitable activities of many kinds, has endowed more than 23 university chairs, and contributes frequently to television, radio, magazines and newspapers.

We are also thankful for the continued relationship with Vancity. This ongoing partnership demonstrates Vancity’s longstanding commitment to fostering development and responding to the challenges and changing needs of community.

As we move forward in planning the 2020 Community Summit, be sure to subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on social media to stay up to date on our progress and for opportunities to engage with us during the year.
9 DAYS
14 EVENTS

4,400 TOTAL ATTENDEES

21 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

71 VOLUNTEERS including work-study students, office volunteers, Peer Ambassadors and international interns

8 CLASSROOM PARTNERSHIPS reaching 160 students

RESEARCH FEATURED from 25 different SFU departments
Without it, we cannot understand or effectively respond to the events that shape our world. Throughout history, campaigns to deliberately spread false information to influence public opinion or obscure the truth have been launched by individuals, organizations, and governments. But today, we’re living in a new age of information facilitated primarily by digital technology. These advancements offer us extraordinary access to facts and data, but also allow for harmful, inaccurate and manipulated information to be created and disseminated at an unprecedented speed, scope and scale. Falsehoods are pitted against facts in competition for our attention and technology is used to exploit our cognitive functioning without repercussion. In what is being called the “post-truth” era, the distortion of our information landscape is eroding our trust in institutions, political systems, the media and each other.

SFU Public Square’s 7th Community Summit, April 10–18, 2019 — Confronting the Disinformation Age considered how the proliferation of disinformation is impacting society and challenging our capacity to make informed decisions about our economic, social, and political lives. Together, we co-created strategies to ensure stronger and healthier information ecosystems and stimulated more connected and resilient communities.
We as a society face many great and complex challenges. They cannot be solved by any one group, sector or individual alone. Overcoming and responding to the challenges we face now and in the years ahead requires the combined knowledge and efforts of our diverse society. At a time when global trust in public institutions wavers, the 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer finds that academic experts are still ranked highly as trusted sources of information in society, even more so this year over last. As Canada’s engaged university, SFU has the responsibility to respond to our most pressing social issues. Universities have an important part to play to not only share our knowledge, but to listen to and learn from community which holds unique knowledge, experience and perspectives. The role of SFU Public Square is to bring complex issues into the community for discussion, deliberation, and solution-finding, which demands that we foster relationships between communities to ensure we work collaboratively on solutions for the challenges of our time. This year’s Community Summit, Confronting the Disinformation Age was intended to raise awareness, investigate, and create the space for attendees to learn, think and talk about misinformation, disinformation, fake news and other ways our information ecosystem is being polluted, the impacts this is having on our society, and how we might best respond.

ENGAGING SFU

When planning the Community Summit, it all starts right here at SFU. We are inspired by the incredible work coming from the community of students, faculty, staff, and researchers, and each year we look to leverage their knowledge throughout the lifecycle of the Community Summit. "We need to engage in constructive dialogue. We need spaces both real and virtual to come together to learn, listen, and debate. We need ready access to reliable evidence... We are more motivated than ever to share that knowledge and provide forums for public deliberation."

ANDREW PETTER
President, Simon Fraser University
“Universities have such an important role to play in terms of combating misinformation. We do research that helps us really determine ways in which information can be differentiated from misinformation.”

JOY JOHNSON
Host; VP Research and International

Staff and Faculty Partnerships
During the early planning phase, we were guided by the thought leadership of SFU’s Deans and Vice-Presidents as well as community partners in zeroing in on the theme for the Community Summit. Once we had a topic we began consultations with faculty. Given how disinformation touches on all aspects of society, it was important to consult with all eight of SFU’s faculties. Their expertise gives the Community Summit the intellectual credibility it needs and ensures it is evidence-based, relevant and impactful.

Overall, the Community Summit involved partnerships with 36 faculty members and 28 programs from across SFU, more than double the faculty involvement from the 2018 Community Summit. This section will describe these partnerships and how they culminated in events and activities.

Vancouver + Innovates
For the opening night of the 2019 Community Summit, we continued our longstanding partnership with SFU Vancouver, SFU Innovates and the SFU Vancity Office of Community Engagement to host Innovations in Research, an annual showcase of SFU’s thinkers, researchers and experts, who help give the Summit its intellectual foundation and illustrate the varied ways in which SFU is undertaking efforts and finding solutions to address the issues highlighted in our Community Summit.

This event was part of SFU Vancouver’s 30th Anniversary year long series of activities and featured Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research and International, as moderator for a night of thought-provoking presentations and stimulating conversations. SFU faculty, staff, students (both graduate and undergraduate), and alumni presented their research and projects in a public forum to a packed house. In all, 28 members of the SFU academic community came together to each present examples and stories of how their work is confronting disinformation.

Topics included rethinking traditional approaches to climate reporting, misinformation regarding refugee and newcomer narratives, methods for improving data literacy and access to academic knowledge, and countering online extremism. A full list of exhibitors and presenters is available on the Innovations in Research webpage, and full presentations can be viewed on the SFU Public Square YouTube page.
Zakimi’s presentation *Right-Wing Extremism Online: Are We Part of the Problem?* focused on exploring the way online platforms facilitate radicalization and extremist conversations. Her research investigates popular Canadian online forums that are known to foster right-wing extremist narratives, with the goal to identify the online behaviour and interests of forum users to create more effective and targeted approaches for the prevention and countering of radicalization in Canada.

For the first time in B.C., this one-day forum brought together different agencies and stakeholders concerned with digital literacy and digital rights. The goals of the forum were to raise awareness about the connections between digital education and digital rights, share information about issues of digital inequalities people experience, and gauge interest in further collaboration and collective action. More than 100 participants took part in the day, including representatives from frontline literacy and social service agencies, university researchers, librarians, non-profit social rights and anti-poverty groups, and adults who experience digital inequalities.
The day began with a welcome by Elder Doris Fox who reminded us that communities work best when “no one is above and no one is below.” This imperative to lift up marginalized voices and those who experience discrimination online and offline arose over and over during the day.

The keynote speaker, Marianela Ramos Capelo of Open Media, introduced the concept of digital rights, the ways in which digital rights are being transgressed through digital technologies and the need for a collective movement to address this. Marianela gave participants language, terminology and concepts to work with as we moved into small group discussions that followed the keynote.

The afternoon panel, moderated by Shantel Ivets, drew on the concept of intersectionality and the ways in which different groups are positioned online and in digital policy through relations of colonialism, racism, and discrimination.

The sessions and workshops discussed:

- The work of libraries in digital equity
- The City of Vancouver’s digital strategy and the need for more participation from everyday citizens in how this is rolling out
- The poor design of government online forms and services that keep low income people away from resources
- The deep inequalities in access to high speed Internet among Indigenous communities that leads to education and socio-economic exclusions
- The issues of digital media in the safety and security of street involved youth
- Promising practices in teaching digital literacy from a rights perspective
- The role of Free Geek in promoting environmental and social sustainability via hardware and software
Media Democracy Days

Journalistic integrity, independence and freedom is a critical component in ensuring our information ecosystems stay healthy. The timing of this year’s Community Summit enabled a new partnership with SFU Associate Dean of the Faculty of Communications, Art and Technology (FCAT) and Professor, Stuart Poyntz, and the team behind Media Democracy Days (MDD), an annual conference presented by FCAT and the Vancouver Public Library.

In 2019, the MDD program explored counter-populisms as a response to the rising tide of authoritarian, right-wing populisms that aim to limit democratic action and threaten social change. As the signature event for alternative, independent and democratic media in Canada, this was a natural partnership that culminated in two co-hosted events.

Face to Face(book) featured Christopher Wylie in conversation with CBC Vancouver anchor and journalist, Anita Bathe, at a special student-only event at the Vancouver Public Library. After words of welcome from Microsoft Software Engineer and our host, Sabrina Smai, Wylie and Bathe engaged in a conversation that touched on topics including the possibility of using artificial intelligence for good, the dangers of algorithmic segregation and the ethical responsibility that current and future software engineers have in creating a brighter digital future.

During a Q&A session, students had the chance to interact with Wylie directly, digging into some of his insights and asking their own questions about the future of data science.

Competing Visions of Climate Populism took place at SFU’s Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and featured three speakers discussing how competing visions of extractive and ecological populism and the accompanying misinformation are shaping political debate in Canada.

Paul Saurette, Political Studies Professor at the University of Ottawa, highlighted the contested nature of the ‘populism’ definition.

Shane Gunster, Professor at SFU’s School of Communication, explained how extractivist claims are perpetuated to promote political agendas rather than acknowledging science.
Bob Neubauer, Lecturer at SFU’s School of Communication, stressed the importance of understanding how radical eco-populist claims might potentially harm the ecosystem.

After the presentations, Shannon Daub, Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives—BC Office, responded to the presentations noting that extractivism is a reaction to a perceived threat to traditional capitalism and hopes that a future alternative will emerge as a constructive populism.

School of Public Policy

One of the most important ways to confront disinformation is to create opportunities for people to get exposure to multiple viewpoints on an issue, to witness disagreements and disputes between parties, and to promote civil and respectful discourse.

To foster respectful discourse and explore solutions around a controversial topic, we partnered with the School of Public Policy and the BC Civil Discourse Society to host a live debate focused on the question “is social media destroying democracy?” This was our second time producing an event like this with these partners, and we hope to include more civil debate in our programming going forward.

After setting the rules of engagement, moderator Stephen Quinn, host of CBC Vancouver’s The Early Edition on CBC Radio One gave the debaters the floor to make their opening statements.

Arguing that social media is indeed destroying democracy were Colin Bennett, Professor of Political Science, University of Victoria and David Moscrop, SFU alumnus and author of Too Dumb for Democracy? Their arguments were centered around the fact that social media undermines elections, political participation and good political decisions, that it is exploited by the powerful, and that the flagrant disregard for privacy from social media tech giants is inherently undemocratic.

Francesca Fionda, Data Journalist with The Discourse and Nasma Ahmed, Director of the Digital Justice Lab, argued against the motion, contending that social media enables new forms of political participation, unprecedented access to counter-narratives that challenge dominant discourse and creates a platform for marginalized voices and whistleblowers to speak up.

Beyond just exploring an important and controversial issue, we were curious to discover if people were willing to change their minds about an issue after listening to contrary arguments based on quality information. To achieve this, we had the audience participate in anonymous votes before and after the debate. Each ballot had a unique identifier so we could understand if and how each person’s voting preferences may have changed after the debaters made their case.

The result was that yes, people are indeed willing to change their minds when presented with new information. These results make us optimistic about the value and viability of civil discourse and possibilities for responsible use of the debate format.

SFU’s Big Data Initiative

This year, we partnered with SFU’s Big Data Initiative to host an industry roundtable and focus group on the theme of data and democracy as part of their Data Visionaries Series. This roundtable featured one of our keynote speakers, Sue Gardner. Working in partnership with our co-presenter Microsoft, we were able to assemble a notable group of delegates who were willing to speak freely and voice concerns and recommendations pertinent to the complexity of data sharing and security in the disinformation age.
Participants from a range of industries and backgrounds spent the afternoon working through three main questions:

What has been done elsewhere to facilitate data sharing to empower governments, businesses and citizens to make better decisions?

How can we facilitate data sharing between the public and private spheres effectively and securely?

What role can collaboration, improved data literacy, governance or regulation play to benefit the stakeholders?

“By collaborating with SFU Public Square, we are elevating Simon Fraser University’s position as a leader in big data. We are able to build and extend relationships with valuable partners by leveraging SFU Public Square’s connections and bringing together decision makers in industry, government and academia. These partnerships further define SFU as Canada’s leading engaged university and supports our goal to use data for good and for impact.”

FRED POPOWICH
Scientific Director, SFU’s Big Data Initiative
City Conversations

One of the core pieces of our year-round programming is the City Conversations event series—a monthly, hour-long conversation about issues affecting our community. For our special Community Summit edition, When Facts Fail, we partnered with SFU Urban Studies program to engage in a conversation that explored the impacts of disinformation on the policymaking process and how policies based on misinformation can impact communities.

The event, hosted by Meg Holden, Professor and Director of SFU Urban Studies, reflected diverse perspectives from cultural communities across Vancouver.

June Francis, Director of the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement, discussed the links between internalized racism and misinformation, and how ethnic minorities face systemic discrimination.

Melody Ma, a civic and community activist, illustrated how disinformation has been used to justify large expenditures or unpopular decisions.

Gordon Price, Fellow at SFU’s Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, argued that it’s getting more difficult to distinguish truth from reality and that city staff are using their best instincts and judgment to make complex decisions.

After the presentations, the conversation opened up among the participants, touching on topics from the role that lying and disinformation play in municipal elections to public consultation processes, and our history of displacing communities of colour. The full event can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

Department of Philosophy

The event ideas, suggestions and partnerships with SFU faculty are vital to the success of each annual Community Summit. One such example from this year’s Summit came about when Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Associate Dean, Lisa Shapiro, brought the event, The Philosophy of Fake News, to our attention. A trio of universities—UVic, UBC and SFU—partnered with the American Philosophical Association (APA) for an intellectually rich discussion about fake news and disinformation from the perspective of philosophy.

The Philosophy of Fake News aimed to focus on how (dis)information is spread in society and the underlying mechanisms by which fake news leverages our rational belief-forming processes, which can lead it to be positively received. The event took place as a public session coinciding with the APA’s Pacific Division conference. Emceed by Lisa Shapiro, three academic philosophers, including a Canada Research Chair in Moral and Social Cognition, explored the topic and took questions from the audience.

Endre Begby of SFU spoke on epistemic vigilance, discussing whether fake news compromises the process by which people assess the veracity of news and its sources.

Jennifer Nagel, University of Toronto, suggested that to work out who to trust, we need in-person interactions that facilitate epistemic cooperation and to be willing to confront uncomfortable truths.

Regina Rini of York University engaged the audience with her breakdown of online discourse, suggesting ways to approach “wrong” people online, deal constructively with disagreement and accept responsibility for the news we share.
Galleries

This year, we partnered for the first time with SFU Galleries to host Fabricating Meaning, a discussion between Eldon Yellowhorn, Professor in the Department of Archaeology, and J. Stephen Dodge on how language and narratives can shape our perceptions, language being the principle means through which we form an understanding of the world and the foundation in which social and political relations are built. The robust conversation explored how mythology shapes and explains our history, knowledge-making process and inductive reasoning.

The event coincided with the launch of Ann and Carl Beam: Spaces for Reading, an SFU Galleries exhibit that explores the construction of history and knowledge through systems of classification and representation.

The conversation was recorded by CJSF 90.1FM and is available for online streaming.

Additionally, SFU Galleries created a list of current exhibits, installations and art pieces around the region that explored truth, trust and information to supplement the Community Summit program.

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<tr>
<th>Exhibit</th>
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<tr>
<td>There is Truth Here — Museum of Vancouver</td>
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<td>Krista Belle Stewart: Eye Eye — Teck Gallery, SFU Vancouver Campus</td>
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<td>Adad Hannah: The Decameron Retold — Richmond Art Gallery</td>
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<td>Kali Spitzer: An Exploration of Resilience — grunt gallery</td>
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<td>A Handful of Dust: From the Cosmic to the Domestic — Polygon Gallery Continuing Studies</td>
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Continuing Studies

Many have described what we call the ‘disinformation age’ as a ‘post-truth era’. If this is indeed the post-truth era, what does that mean? What did the preceding ‘truth’ era look like? To explore these questions, we continued our partnership with Continuing Studies and the Liberal Arts & 55+ program to host a special Community Summit edition of the Philosophers’ Café. This culminated in two concurrent dialogues for 40 community members about the history, nature and the philosophical existence of truth.

Library

This year, we collaborated with the SFU Library on a public reading list for Summit attendees and the community at large to do their own research about the subject of disinformation in addition to our public events. To supplement the reading list from the Library, the SFU Public Square team produced a full resource page which includes suggested articles, documents, explainer videos and documentaries that provide further background for thinking critically about how disinformation is impacting society. A full list of resources can be found on our Community Summit resource page.

Community Ambassadors

Building strong and inclusive communities with opportunities for participation is an important way to counter the erosion of trust that is so pervasive in the disinformation age. As such, for the second year in a row, we worked with the SFU Community Ambassadors Program, guided by our SFU Surrey colleagues. This program creates opportunities for skill building and empowerment among individuals facing barriers to traditional employment.

Ambassadors from the program bolstered our staff and volunteer team at the keynote event at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. The ambassadors supported us in diverse roles including event hosting, engagement, photography and writing.
Sustainability Office
Since 2018, we have worked hard to ensure any and all SFU Public Square events are certified as ‘sustainable’ through the Sustainable Spaces program offered by the SFU Sustainability Office. This process includes ensuring each event makes an effort to reduce energy consumption, eliminate and divert unnecessary waste, refuse items with extraneous packaging and select low-impact, local, and sustainable food options. All Confronting the Disinformation Age events achieved gold certification.

Peer Ambassador Program
After many successful event-based collaborations with student groups throughout SFU, we wanted to find a way to work directly with a group of students over an extended period of time. We decided to take a new perspective in our approach and bring our student inclusion to the next level. As a result, this year was especially exciting for student engagement at SFU Public Square as we launched the pilot cohort of the Peer Ambassador Program. We adopted a ‘by students, for students’ approach that saw the Peer Ambassadors engage their peers in ways that more deeply resonated with them, including utilizing new non-SFU locations, a more casual format and peer-driven content.

Made possible by Student Services, the program saw five undergraduate students from diverse faculties come together for a semester-long program facilitated by our former Program Coordinator, Kady Wong.

During weekly sessions, the peers learned foundational knowledge about the tradition and history of community engagement at SFU, along with supplemental sessions to learn about disinformation and the Summit theme while also gaining practical expertise in event logistics and design, marketing and promotion, and evaluation.

Students worked within their assigned budget to produce an event designed to engage SFU students on the theme of disinformation and build awareness about the 2019 Community Summit. This culminated in Fake News, Real Talk, an event that encouraged discussion through provocative and insightful visual displays in a “misinformation gallery.”

The peers created and hosted exhibits that explored topics such as:

- The ways in which we’re all subject to fake news narratives in photography
- Modern deepfake technology and the danger of AI-generated faces
- Famous and obscure stories about disinformation throughout history
- The roots of the “pizzagate” conspiracy theory

“As an MA student in the Communications department and a practicing artist, I always employ a form of artwork to embody sophisticated theoretical frameworks. Fake News, Real Talk provided a space for me to question and investigate the overused images of vulnerability as the common representation of refugees.”

ELLY HABIBULLAH
CMNS 423
Nearly 100 students from SFU and other universities attended the event, generating dialogue about disinformation in society and empowering students to find ways to confront it, all while raising awareness about the Community Summit.

Classroom Partnerships
Encouraging opportunities for connections between the Community Summit with what is happening in SFU classrooms is critically important. Now in its third year, our classroom partnership program grew to include faculty members representing eight different undergraduate classes. Members of the SFU Public Square team conducted class visits to raise awareness about the topic and the Summit itself and worked with the respective faculty members to create for-credit opportunities for students to participate in the Summit.

We looked to faculty to find innovative and unique ways to integrate the Summit themes into the coursework and encourage students to write papers, do research projects, contribute to our blogs or even attend and participate in the events. An overview of the courses that participated and how their work contributed to the Community Summit can be found on our Disinformation Resources webpage. Several blog posts authored by students from these courses can be found on our Voices in the Square blog series.

2019 classroom partnerships included:

- **Introduction to Information Technology: The New Media** (CMNS253W) — Sun-ha Hong
- **Topics in Technology and Society** (CMNS353) — Sun-ha Hong
- **Documentary Media** (CMNS322) — Zoë Druick
- **News Discourse as Political Communication** (CMNS331) — Ahmed Al-Rawi
- **Globalization: Cultural Issues** (CMNS423) — Erin Goheen Glanville
- **Complexity of Health and Wellness** (DIAL390W) — Diane Finegood
- **Science Communication: An Introduction** (SCI301) — Eileen van der Flier-Keller
- **Event Planning & Management** (PUB456) — Trevor Battye
Semester in Dialogue
Strengthening our close connection with the SFU Semester in Dialogue, we worked with Professor Diane Finegood and the Spring 2019 class on projects and engagement ideas to raise awareness of the consequences of disinformation through the lens of health and wellness.

This year, a group of four Semester in Dialogue students worked with SFU Public Square staff to develop and implement an engagement pop-up called Dr. Google, an interactive booth aimed at increasing healthcare literacy by raising awareness about what makes an accurate and reliable source for online health diagnosis.

Understanding that you can’t prevent people from googling their symptoms and self-diagnosing, they decided that an approach that focused on fostering health literacy was best. At two Summit events, Innovations in Research and Fake News, Real Talk, these students illuminated pathways for evaluating health websites and provided tangible instructions and exercises that encourage careful evaluation of health-related misinformation.

This partnership provided a tangible experiential learning opportunity for these students to learn how to work with partners, develop educational content and gain leadership, presentation and facilitation skills.

Volunteer Program
The contributions of SFU student volunteers to the Community Summit are immeasurable, bringing powerful positive energy to our programming. The students’ diverse experiences and areas of study bring broad perspectives to all of the Community Summit work. More than 50 volunteers helped ensure an efficient and positive event experience and seven in-office volunteers assisted with research, writing, and marketing. We could not have put on the Community Summit without them.
Work Study Program
Additionally, SFU Public Square relies on four work-study students per semester to support the program. During the planning and execution of the Community Summit, the students become fully-integrated members of the team and make invaluable contributions to the program. As much as we benefit from their ideas and energy, they also grow from our professional development program: they gain project-based experience, receive one-on-one support and mentorship from a supervisor, become more confident and feel a sense of belonging.

“Joining SFU Public Square has truly helped me grow as a person. I get to work with the most supportive team I have been a part of. Everyone always makes sure that I enjoy what I do and help me work towards my professional development goals in communications and marketing. Working here provided me with skills that I know will be helpful for years to come.”

ZOEY LE
Work-Study Student

International Internships
Each year, we bring aboard international interns from around the globe to become members of the SFU Public Square team. Our interns from Germany made enormous contributions to the Summit by supporting research projects, conducting data analysis and taking the lead on student engagement projects. They also supported event volunteer management and led on the Glass Room project, our on-site engagement pop-up.
Each Community Summit serves as a unique opportunity for us to bring partners together, to have them share their ideas and activities with the public and each other, and gather new insights. This year was no different. It is a point of pride for us to form new connections and build out the SFU ecosystem, encourage new collaborations and to deepen our existing relationships.

We intentionally partner with people and organizations that are already doing important work in relation to our Summit theme and who are well-suited to continue after the conclusion of the Summit. This year, we partnered with 21 external organizations including trusted institutions, advocacy groups, technology companies, media outlets, other universities, and more.

As always, we were astounded by our partners’ generosity of expertise, energy, and willingness to share their networks and provide support.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Vancity
We were excited to work yet again with our longtime partner Vancity to present our signature event, Confronting the Disinformation Age with David Frum, Sue Gardner, and Christopher Wylie. The partnership between our organizations is rooted in a common interest in ensuring the integrity of our civic institutions, political processes and community life. Their commitment to community-building, civic discourse and engagement on our community’s most pressing issues makes the partnership a natural fit.

With their generous support, thought leadership and collaboration, we were able to present Frum, Gardner, and Wylie before a sold-out Queen Elizabeth Theatre audience of 2700 people. In a conversation moderated by the CBC’s Ian Hanomansing, these three Canadians shared their perspectives on the causes, consequences and current state of disinformation.
The event began with Chepximiya Siyam’ Chief Janice George welcoming the full house of attendees to the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations. Her Honour, Janet Austin, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia then took the stage to talk about the breakdown of civil discourse and lack of shared reality in society and the urgency with which we need to act. Andrew Petter, President of Simon Fraser University, spoke to the role that universities play in combating disinformation, and Tamara Vrooman, President and CEO of Vancity, welcomed attendees to the event, pointing out that accessing reliable information is a necessary part of making change in society. For example, without access to information about real people in their communities, Vancity could not have addressed the injustice that women were denied access to a loan without having a male cosignator before 1967.

“I have become increasingly concerned about the fragility of democracy in the current global context, about the erosion of respect for our democratic conventions and the public institutions that support them, about the decline of civility in public and political discourse.

I’m concerned about the online echo chambers we now inhabit, that insulate us from views that differ from our own, that create a breeding ground for disinformation and contribute to a culture that is less open minded and more fearful of difference and new ideas.

I’m concerned that people are increasingly disengaged from systems that require too much political management, too much inflexible and combative rhetoric, and not enough thoughtful and nuanced discussion. All factors that breed cynicism and all that goes along with it.”

THE HONOURABLE JANET AUSTIN,
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

“One of the most sinister things we see as a trend in disinformation is that it exploits small gaps and makes them wider. Difference of gender, ethnic background, age, political affiliation. It pushes us apart at a time when the planet needs us to come together,” said Tamara Vrooman.

Over the course of the evening, the conversation between Frum, Wylie and Gardner — expats who live abroad but also spend time in Canada — explored global examples of disinformation, this new era of cyber warfare and threats to democracy in Canada and around the world.

David Frum, Senior Editor at The Atlantic, posited that it is Canada’s economic resiliency and relatively strong middle class that have made it more resistant to the state and non-state actors that sow disinformation to create disorder in other developed countries around the world.
“The Russians do not care if we trust them so long as we distrust each other,” said Frum. “That is the method of this kind of disinformation: to foment distrust, animosity, and to split the chords of citizenship so that people disaffiliate from political participation.”

Sue Gardner, Executive Director of The Markup, drew on her experience in Silicon Valley to explain the role that disruptive communication technologies, like social media, play in the proliferation of disinformation. She contends that the attention economy is largely responsible for the disinformation age.

“They need to keep you using the product... what drives that is emotion, the emotion that drives that is anger and outrage, and that’s how we end up with so much angry, outrageous content shared on the internet that is algorithmically fed to us,” said Gardner. “Because it keeps us there. It’s the business model of the platforms that is the heart of the problem.”

Christopher Wylie, the Cambridge Analytica whistleblower and current Director of Research at H&M, echoed Gardner’s position of the odds being stacked against us, casting doubt on the ability of the individual to challenge systems of power. He questioned how we can instill stronger ethics in tech companies, right down to the individual programmers.

“We need to start thinking about not just regulation of companies themselves but also how do we internalize a culture of ethics within them,” Wylie said. “We should try to prevent these problems before they occur, which happens at the ideation phase of building a piece of technology, rather than waiting to see what happens.”

The discussion wrapped up with each speaker identifying a few solutions for individuals to take, leaving the audience with actions and strategies to confront disinformation in their lives, including:

- Talking to MPs
- Putting pressure on Facebook
- Paying for quality journalism
- Being mindful and responsible about our power and ability to be content producers and publishers on social media
- Being self-reflective and critical about our worldviews and opinions, asking ourselves how we know the things that we know

Christine Boyle, Deputy Mayor of the City of Vancouver, closed the event with some final reflections that touched on how the technology may be new, but that misinformation and propaganda from governments is an age old story. She asserted that her task is to tell the truth, to strengthen the public institutions through which we counter disinformation, and to address growing and social inequality to build an equitable and just society.

After the panel wrapped up, the conversation continued in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre mezzanine. SFU and Vancity facilitators guided attendees through discussions in conversation circles to explore their perceptions from the event. These conversations dug into the impacts and solutions to disinformation and allowed attendees to meet other members of their community, who may even have opposing points of view.

You can watch a video of the keynote event on our YouTube page.
City of Vancouver

The disinformation age is impacting citizens’ trust in public institutions and their participation in democratic systems, which is why we were so pleased to have the continued support of the City of Vancouver for this year’s Summit. Their ongoing support of our programming is vital, and representative of how this municipal government creates and supports spaces where responses to global issues with local consequences can be created and tested to foster community resilience.

We were pleased to welcome City Councillor and Deputy Mayor Christine Boyle to speak at two events: the keynote, Confronting the Disinformation Age at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre and Youth Take Action: Digital Citizenship Day at the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre. Mayor Kennedy Stewart also provided a welcome message in our program.

The Community Summit included a partnership with the Vancouver Public Library (VPL). Christina de Castell, Chief Librarian played an integral role in this year’s Summit, providing both intellectual and infrastructure support. De Castell penned an op-ed for our annual series in the Vancouver Sun on the role that libraries and access to information play in fighting disinformation. De Castell also participated in Working Towards an Inclusive Digital Society, hosting a roundtable on advocating for equity and attended our Data Visionary Roundtable featuring Sue Gardner. Two librarians, Nichole DeMichelis and Jean Broughton, delivered a content module at the Youth Take Action event. Additionally, the VPL’s central branch played host to several Community Summit events.

Museum of Vancouver

The week prior to the 2019 Community Summit, the Museum of Vancouver (MOV) launched their latest exhibit, There is Truth Here: Creativity and Resilience in Children’s Art from Indian Residential and Day Schools. The exhibit focuses on rare surviving artworks created by children who attended the Inkameep Day School (Okanagan), St Michael’s Indian Residential School (Alert Bay), the Alberni Indian Residential School (Vancouver Island) and Mackay Indian Residential School (Manitoba). The focus of the exhibition is not on the schools themselves, but upon witnessing the experiences of the survivors as conveyed through their childhood artworks — for some the only surviving material from their childhoods.

There is Truth Here brings a new line to bear on the role of art as part of children’s knowledge, identity and experiences of Indian Residential and Day Schools. Through paintings, drawings, sewing, beading, drumming, singing and drama produced by children and youth who attended schools in British Columbia and Manitoba the exhibition seeks to contribute in vital and new ways to dialogues and initiatives about truth telling, reconciliation and redress in Canada.

To complement the Summit program, the MOV was pleased to offer discounted access to the museum, including this exhibit, for Summit attendees.
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

This Community Summit served as a unique opportunity to partner with The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Since her appointment as lieutenant-governor she has used her role to promote constructive participation in democracy, encourage civil discourse between those with differing opinions and promote the exchange of ideas with the goal to strengthen democracy and create more connected and resilient communities in B.C.

To help bring this important work to audiences in Vancouver, we invited Her Honour to provide opening words at our keynote event as well as pen an op-ed which ran in the *Vancouver Sun*. The Lieutenant Governor’s insights set the tone for the Summit, articulating the multitude of societal problems we face in the disinformation age, from the erosion of respect for democratic institutions, to the decline of civility in public discourse, to the echo chambers that insulate us from differing views that leads to political disengagement and increased polarization.

Her Honour offered two thoughts on ways that we as citizens can enter into deep and constructive public engagement to mend the growing fractures in the public sphere.

The first was to enter into conversations with the primary goal to listen, not to convince or win the argument, and be willing to change positions if confronted by a convincing, well-supported argument.

The second was to engage actively in civil society and promote the active engagement of others. Her Honour argued that a thriving civil society is the mark of a healthy democracy, which can enhance economic and political literacy as well as build trust, resilience and genuine connection among citizens.

Microsoft

Building upon a relationship that formed in the lead-up to the 2018 Community Summit: Brave New Work and a co-presented pre-event of the BCTECH Summit The Future is Cascadia: Building Regional Competitiveness Cross-Border Workshop, Microsoft joined us for the first time as a Community Summit supporter.

Microsoft is deeply committed to creating and supporting opportunities for discussions that advance our understanding of the world around us and are long-standing innovators in the technology sector. Microsoft penned an op-ed for our *Vancouver Sun* series about their awareness of the responsibility they have to contribute to the protection of democracy in Canada and to promote cyber-diplomacy around the world.

In addition to the op-ed, Microsoft joined SFU Public Square and SFU’s Big Data Initiative to co-host a Data Visionaries Series roundtable featuring Sue Gardner. This conversation explored the benefits and trade-offs of data sharing while discussing the associated challenges.

Members of Microsoft’s Corporate Affairs and Digital Diplomacy team contributed to this important conversation along with representatives from Mozilla, ICBC, UBC, Vancouver Public Library, Statistics Canada, Digital Justice Lab, Vancouver Police Department and others. As mentioned earlier, a report from these proceedings will be publicly available.
Check Your Head

The importance of educating young people about how to navigate our increasingly complex information ecosystem, including educating them about their rights and responsibilities as digital citizens, is a critical part of confronting disinformation.

In a workshop designed to supplement B.C.’s K-12 digital literacy curriculum, we partnered with Check Your Head (CYH) to present Youth Take Action: Digital Citizenship Day, a workshop for high school students from across the lower mainland. Students heard from a wide-range of speakers who spoke about the many facets of digital citizenship, including growing up in a digital world, online privacy, surveillance, how to access fact-based journalism and so much more.

Nasma Ahmed, director of the Digital Justice Lab, who participated in a number of the Community Summit events, kicked off our day with an incredible interdisciplinary keynote on the way youth experience the Internet.

Next, we were joined by Nichole DeMichelis and Jean Broughton from the Vancouver Public Library who spoke about digital privacy, highlighting the lawlessness of companies protecting our data.

The final speaker was Dimitri Pavlounis, the News Literacy Education Coordinator at CIVIX, who presented on access to information and challenged our understanding about personalized news feeds and algorithms filtering our news sources.

We wanted Digital Citizenship Day to be an interactive, generative process. After each speaker, students worked in teams at tables with CYH Youth Peer Facilitators to discuss, unpack and reflect on what they heard. Students were encouraged to combine their personal experiences with their learning and curiosity to ask questions, imagine alternatives and brainstorm the digital rights they would like to see protected under law.

Toward the end of the day, students voted on their top 10 digital rights using the collective decision-making tool Ethelo to create a Digital Rights Manifesto. Ethelo helped to rank and prioritize ideas in small groups led by youth facilitators, and then crowdsourced these ideas into a consolidated list of digital rights which were then voted on by the larger group of students. The intention behind the manifesto was to produce an actionable document that students could take with them which would live beyond the scope of the event.

“It is rare to have a large organization, such as SFU Public Square, really embody the value of equity when partnering with a small organization, such as Check Your Head. SFU Public Square worked hard to reduce barriers that can often exist in partnerships - they made it easy for us to thrive in the partnership through a process of trust and collaboration.”

EMILY GORHAM
Education Program Coordinator, Check Your Head
DIGITAL RIGHTS MANIFESTO

ACCESS RIGHTS
The right to access verified sources.

The right for online sources to be transparent: Online sources should clearly indicate their position and biases, and whether or not they are advertisements.

The right to access information which is professionally written and easily accessible to all.

The right to access information which does not force false opinions or incite hatred, or attempt to indoctrinate or brainwash.

The right to choose what content one consumes on the Internet.

PRIVACY RIGHTS
The right to accessible online spaces: Terms and Conditions that are in different languages, audio options for people with visual impairments, and simplified versions of web pages.

The right to an international set of standards and guidelines for companies and governments with respect to information storage and management.

The right to know where our data is going to and for what uses: product advertisement, data analysis, government/company surveillance, and if this is for compensation.

The right to protection over our personal photos: greater protection regarding third party sharing, more rights to our photos and protection around catfishing, etc.

The right to know if the content created was saved/tracked/screenshotted by other users or companies.
To build on the critical thinking engagement throughout the day, the event concluded with a discussion of action: how the participants can use the Manifesto going forward, and how they can apply their thinking to the issues of the day.

The impact of the day was evident in the reflections of student participants:

“Today I learned the complexity of having social media, and being a digital citizen, and the importance of being aware of my rights on the Internet. I also learned that I can be a part of making the Internet a better place for everyone,” said one student.

**The Discourse**

Understanding the role of media and journalism and how it can fight or contribute to disinformation was one of the most important aspects of the Summit programming, and we were excited to find a willing and values-aligned partner to support in this work.

We partnered with The Discourse, a community driven, award-winning, investigative journalism organization driven by the pursuit of truth and desire to create positive change in underrepresented communities. Building on their proven model of community journalism workshops, we brought together 29 journalists, students, industry professionals and community members for *Media, Misinformation, and What Can Be Done About It*.

Over the course of the afternoon workshop, participants worked together to identify how disinformation fuels polarization and hate. To begin, they collectively defined the problem and identified the following themes as being most pressing and most actionable:

- Anonymity encourages hate
- Information overload distracts from real issues and problems
- Trust in institutions is deteriorating
- Misinformation targets values and emotions, not facts
- People don’t seek diverse information experiences
- Niche groups are being targeted around harmful ideas
- Tech business models and algorithms reinforce biases

Then, working in groups, participants developed pitches for how journalists could contribute to solving this problem. The pitches ranged from a new set of journalistic standards that aim to prevent rigid dichotomous reporting, to campaigns that educate consumers about how to cast a critical eye on reporting, to exploring new ways to manage online discourse and nudge constructive commenting.

**PROBLEM:** Information overload

**SOLUTION:** You might not have known...
A public engagement journalism project that helps people get out of their echo chambers.

**STEP ONE:** Create a way for people to identify what information is being targeted to them during the election by creating profiles that people can match with.

**STEP TWO:** Provide them with reporting that they might not have seen. Make space for people to ask questions and get answers based on what they learn and what they want to know more about.
“SFU Public Square was one of the best partners The Discourse has ever worked with. Collaborating on our workshop at the Community Summit made the event more organized, engaging and impactful…

The workshop enabled us to create the foundation for a large reporting project that has the potential to change the way that journalism is approached to better serve the public leading up to the election.”

LINDSAY SAMPLE
Managing Editor,
The Discourse
“I’m taking away the value of collaborating and being inclusive in the group. We tumbled through ideas really easily, remembering that having diversity and diverse ideas can help move things in a way that you can’t come up with on your own,” said a workshop participant.

The Discourse has continued to build upon this work by hosting a second workshop at the Canadian Association of Journalists conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, narrowing in on the top four issues that journalists could play a part in tackling disinformation. They are continuing to solicit pitches, explore ideas and make decisions about which solutions are the most implementable.

Mozilla

In the planning process, we took advantage of Vancouver’s flourishing tech sector and leveraged the expertise of companies involved in using data for good. One leader in this space is Mozilla, who provided us with valuable thought leadership, which included contributing to the roundtable as part of SFU’s Big Data Initiative Data Visionary Series.

We also partnered with Mozilla to bring their Glass Room exhibit to Vancouver to raise awareness about big data collection and usage. The interactive installation featured several hands-on stations that explored the current era of digital privacy, the implications of Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things, links between selfies and facial recognition software, and a game to determine whether new technologies were fake or real.

We featured the exhibit at several Community Summit events, creating other pathways for participants to understanding the disinformation age.

Public Policy Forum

During the lead up to the Summit, we partnered with the Public Policy Forum on their Digital Democracy 101 project to present the Vancouver edition of a pan-Canadian lecture series aimed at raising awareness about the ways that digital technology is impacting Canadian democracy.

The Vancouver lecture, which focused on ‘the attention economy,’ featured Carl Miller, Social Media Researcher at Demos in conversation with SFU’s Canada 150 Research Chair in the School of New Media and Communication, Wendy Hui Kyong Chun. Miller explained how the global marketplace for our time and attention allows for the proliferation of junk news, crowding the information ecosystem and distracting us from the stories that really matter.
A healthy media ecosystem is a vital part of the public sphere. This is becoming apparent more than ever in the disinformation age, where traditional news agencies grapple with digital disruption, echo chambers divide us and unscrupulous actors derive profit from appropriating our attention.

Despite the threats and decline, traditional media is still the primary platform for Canadians to access information and engage with ideas. Therefore, it was crucial that SFU Public Square partner with trusted, reputable media organizations like the Vancouver Sun and CBC Vancouver. Because it is not enough to convene an audience, no matter how large. Our goal was to engage the broader public in this discussion, presenting diverse ideas, information and arguments. This can only be done by working with and within the media.

MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS

Vancouver Sun
In 2019 we continued our annual partnership with the Vancouver Sun, culminating in a series of op-eds on the disinformation age.

This year, we featured eleven global thought leaders from the SFU community and beyond to share their expertise on topics ranging from the role of education, cybersecurity and data regulation, the need for civil discourse, the erosion of trust in society, health and wellness, and citizen connections.
April 5  “SFU public square community summit: Confronting the disinformation age”  
— Andrew Petter, President, Simon Fraser University

April 10 “Fake News — our worry is real” — Ian Noble, Vice President,  
Edelman Vancouver

April 11 “Citizen action needed to clean up pollution of our public square”  
— Yasir Naqvi, CEO, Institute for Canadian Citizenship

April 12 “Disinformation is raising the stakes” — Adanna Shallowe,  
Senior Global Manager, Royal Society of Arts

April 13 “Defending Canadian democracy from cyber threats” — Jan Neutze,  
Senior Director of Digital Diplomacy and Head of the Cybersecurity and  
Democracy team, Microsoft

April 15 “Are we enabling harmful wellness woo?” — Timothy Caulfield,  
Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy at the University of Alberta

April 16 “We need constructive participation in our democracy”  
— The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

April 17 “Without a national data strategy, Canada’s prosperity is at risk”  
— Benjamin Bergen, Executive Director of the Council of Canadian Innovators

April 18 “Libraries can help people connect and learn how to cut  
through misinformation” — Christina de Castell, Chief Librarian,  
Vancouver Public Library

April 19 “Can citizen connection fight misinformation and strengthen democracy?”  
— Daniel Savas and Robin Prest, SFU’s Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue

April 19 “The Internet of things requires secure fences to protect privacy”  
— Dan Mathers, President and CEO, eleven-x

A full media reach of  
19,289,707

INCLUDING 15,183,323

from our op-ed series  
with Vancouver Sun
The Discourse

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Building on their proven model of community journalism workshops, we brought together 29 journalists, students, industry professionals and community members for Media, Misinformation, and What Can Be Done About It. Participants worked together to identify how disinformation fuels polarization and hate and developed pitches for how journalists could contribute to solving this problem. The Discourse built upon this work with a second workshop at the Canadian Association of Journalists conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

CBC

In addition to promoting the Community Summit to their extensive community, CBC Vancouver lent us two seasoned journalists to host two events.

Stephen Quinn, host of The Early Edition on CBC Radio One, moderated the debate Is Social Media Destroying Democracy? while Anita Bathe conducted an interview and moderated a conversation with Christopher Wylie at the student event, Face to Facebook. Their journalistic rigour and professionalism elevated the conversations, and having their names and the CBC brand attached to our events communicated to Canadians a sense of quality and trust.

EARNED MEDIA COVERAGE

Earned media coverage was a highpoint of this year’s Community Summit. The relevance and timeliness of the content and speakers in the leadup to the 2019 Canadian federal election made the Summit particularly newsworthy. By convening our Summit speakers in Vancouver around this topic, we created opportunities for local media to leverage their expertise and bring their ideas and perspectives to a much broader audience. In all, earned media coverage reached more than 19.3 million people, bringing diverse perspectives and insights into the Canadian public arena.

The National

This coverage is highlighted by an interview with Christopher Wylie on CBC’s The National. CBC was able to leverage our bringing Wylie to Vancouver for the keynote event to conduct a long-form interview between Wylie and Ian Hanomansing on CBC’s flagship news program. This interview centered Wylie’s expertise and raised national awareness about how elections are manipulated using social media data in the lead-up to the 2019 Canadian federal election.

In addition, the entire keynote event was recorded for rebroadcast on the program and podcast CBC’s Ideas with Paul Kennedy. To reach French-speaking Canadians, Radio-Canada recorded the keynote event to be translated for French audiences.
The Community Summit received coverage and promotion from the Canadian Public Affairs Channel (CPAC) as part of their Democracy Project, a multi-platform initiative designed to help Canadians access thought-provoking and original takes on democracy. CPAC conducted an interview with Christopher Wylie in Vancouver that discussed how AI can manipulate political discourse, the effect of online advertising on democracy and the need for stricter social media regulation. CPAC also used its Democracy Project platform to amplify webcasts of Community Summit events, reaching new audiences across Canada.

The National Observer covered the keynote event, using its subject, themes and content as the basis for a campaign known as the Election Integrity Reporting Project. The project will be a key focus for the National Observer not just through the election, but for at least one year afterward, aimed at exposing manipulation and the people behind it.

Local
In the weeks leading up to the Community Summit, SFU Public Square received significant media attention. The Vancouver Sun ran a cover story on disinformation featuring an interview with David Frum and in-depth reporting on several concrete examples of how disinformation is impacting life in Canada.

The Georgia Straight ran two articles covering the Community Summit, including a cover story featuring an interview with Christopher Wylie that explored the dangers of algorithmic echo chambers. The Georgia Straight also published an interview with SFU President Andrew Petter about the urgency of confronting disinformation.

The Tyee ran three stories on three Summit event:

A long form recap of our debate event Is Social Media Destroying Democracy?

A pre-event story for Youth Take Action covering digital citizenship and youth education featuring Check Your Head peer facilitator Noni Nabors

An interview between Christopher Wylie and independent reporter Zoë Ducklow

Up-and-coming Canadian politics podcast Politicoast focused two episodes on our debate Is Social Media Destroying Democracy?, featuring a rebroadcast of the event itself as well as an exclusive conversation with the four debaters.

All earned media, op-eds, and coverage associated with Confronting the Disinformation Age can be found in the Media Room section of the SFU Public Square website.

Social Media Numbers

Keynote event
trended in Vancouver

616,634 impressions

9,350 engagements on social media

2,600 views of keynote webcast
THE WORK CONTINUES

When hosting this Community Summit, our goal was to convene participants that bring a diverse range of backgrounds, expertise and lived experience to foster collaboration and build solutions that confront the root causes of disinformation. We also intended to mobilize knowledge and design a Community Summit that is valuable to the general public and raise awareness of the challenges and solutions to disinformation. Although Confronting Disinformation has come to a close, the work continues. There is still significant opportunity to gain insight, explore further collaboration, experimentation, and action.

Many of our partners, collaborators and attendees foster ongoing work within their own organizations and in partnership with others. Below are some of the ways that the legacy of Confronting the Disinformation Age continues to live:

Following the event Media, Misinformation, and What Can Be Done About It? which gathered 29 journalists, students, industry professionals and community members to discuss how disinformation fuels polarization. The Discourse hosted a second workshop at the Canadian Association of Journalists conference in Winnipeg, identifying four top issues in which journalists could play a part in tackling. They continue to solicit pitches and explore ideas. Read more about it in our Media Room page on our website.

The organizers of Working Towards an Inclusive Digital Society have produced a report on how frontline literacy and social service agencies, university researchers, librarians and non-profit social rights and anti-poverty groups can work together to provide more equitable digital access to the communities they serve. They will be collaborating further for collective action toward this goal.

The Data Visionary Series Roundtable, co-hosted by SFU’s Big Data Initiative, Microsoft and SFU Public Square identified benefits and trade-offs of data sharing, defined key actions items for stakeholders to address these challenges and provided a summary report to stakeholders and the public.

To help expand on some of the key ideas discussed throughout the 2019 Community Summit, we produced a living resources page on our website in collaboration with SFU Library. The page includes explanations of key terms, informative videos, articles, and resources for students and educators.

Our SFU Public Square YouTube channel hosts the video content of many of our events, including much of this year’s Community Summit. The content is still extremely relevant and worth a watch.

We all have a role to play in confronting disinformation in our society. We hope that the work of the 2019 Community Summit has provided some inspiration and a starting place for you to get informed and take action.
STAY INFORMED ABOUT OUR 2020 COMMUNITY SUMMIT

We are already hard at work researching and planning for the 2020 Community Summit, which will confront the increasing economic and social inequalities in our communities and the systems that sustain and perpetuate them, with the goal to galvanize action towards a more just and equitable society.

Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter and follow us on social media to keep in touch as we research and develop programming around this crucial conversation.

We welcome any ideas, suggestions and questions you might have. The Community Summit could not happen without the input of diverse communities.
REPORT CREDITS
Kevin Cherney is the primary author of this report, with contributions from Landon Hoyt, Janet Webber, Kady Wong and Doug Hamilton-Evans. Kat Moyou designed the report. All photographs by Greg Ehlers and Dale Northey unless otherwise credited.

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#confrontingdisinformation