INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A FOCUS GROUP ON MAY 18, 2017 AT SFU’S BURNABY CAMPUS

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is seeking participants for a focus group on student and post-doctoral fellow research experiences.

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is interested in learning more about the research training experiences of students (undergraduate, masters and PhD) and post-doctoral fellows (PDFs) at Canadian universities, particularly about how CFI-funded infrastructure has had an impact on their training and career pursuits.

The CFI receives its funding from the Government of Canada and is expected to achieve certain results through its investments, one of which is to enhance the capacity of the institutions we fund to train the next generation of researchers.

Every year, we collect information from project leaders on the number and type of trainees (students and PDFs) using CFI-funded infrastructure. In an effort to better understand and demonstrate how we are doing in achieving this result, we would like to complement our data by collecting opinions and insights directly from trainees. In addition, the information we gather will help inform the development of communications material around the student research experience and how training using state-of-the-art equipment and facilities is shaping career prospects and ambitions.

We would like to invite 8-12 students and PDFs who are using CFI-funded infrastructure and are interested in sharing their experiences and views. Participation is entirely voluntary for this facilitated discussion. While there will be no attribution given to any comments made during the focus group, we may seek explicit permission from participants to use specific quotes for communications purposes.

Overview of the focus group
At SFU, this focus group will be held at the Burnaby Campus in the Big Data Hub (Visualization Lab, Room ASB 10940) from 10:30am until approximately 12:30pm. It will consist of a roundtable discussion where participants introduce themselves, mentioning their level, field and area of study, and primary research focus. During an open discussion, all participants will be encouraged to share their views and perspectives on:

- Benefits of infrastructure to training;
- Advantages of training in a state-of-the-art environment;
- Skills and knowledge gained and how are they contributing to career plans; and
- How training using state-of-the-art research infrastructure is shaping career ambitions.

Focus Group Agenda – Thursday May 18, 2017 in SFU’s BIG DATA HUB
10:30 am Welcome and coffee/pastry
10:45-noon Roundtable discussion
Noon-12:30pm Lunch

Contact Information
- If you need to park at the Burnaby campus on May 18, please contact us and we will provide you with a parking pass.
- For more information or to obtain a parking pass, please contact SFU’s Major Projects Office by emailing Sara Swenson (saras@sfu.ca) or Theresa Hughes (tburley@sfu.ca).