

Members of Senate:

The SFSS is writing to request Senate cancel classes on Sept. 18th, 2013 and for Senate to formally recommend an all campus closure to the Board of Governors in recognition of the opening day ceremonies for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Vancouver event.

Since the publication of our open letter to the SFU community on May 23, 2013 the SFSS has received multiple letters of support from a variety of individuals and organizations. These letters have come from department chairs, other faculty members, well-recognized social justice constituency groups, and concerned students with all of them sending a similar message; SFU has a duty to stand behind the documents it has published and support the Aboriginal community in this historic moment of reconciliation.

There are ten pillars within the University's Aboriginal Strategic Plan (ASP), five of which are directly relevant to this initiative: Liaison and Engagement with the Aboriginal Community, Aboriginal Knowledge and Resource Development, Integration and Leadership Development, Communications Strategies, and Government and NGO Relationships.

The ASP's Liaison and Engagement pillar goal is to, "Strengthen and increase partnerships, collaborations, and engagement with Aboriginal peoples, communities, and organizations." The organizations surrounding the Truth and Reconciliation, such as Reconciliation Canada, present an opportunity for SFU to partner and collaborate with an Aboriginal organization and the Aboriginal community.

Aboriginal Knowledge and Resource Development pillar's goal to "Engage and promulgate an understanding and respect for Aboriginal communities, cultures, epistemologies, histories, languages, and traditions among non-Aboriginal members of the university and off-campus communities," is easily met by the TRC's purpose of educating the Canadian public about the history of Canadian Indian Residential Schools. Since one of the main purposes of the TRC is to gather statements from CIRS survivors, this event is a unique, once in a lifetime opportunity for non-aboriginal people to act as witnesses for survivors.

The Integration and Leadership Development pillar is aimed at the senior levels of the University's administration, faculty, and staff. SFU administration should take a leader's stance on this issue and close campuses to indicate their understanding of the pivotal role the TRC plays in the relations between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canada. The action of closing SFU campuses demonstrates that the Administration is truly committed to supporting the Aboriginal community.

The goal for the Communication Strategies pillar is to "affect information sharing and create awareness about Aboriginal initiatives, events, people and other potential items of interest at Simon Fraser University with communities and media." The announcement of an

all campus closure sends a loud and decisive message that SFU stands with the Aboriginal community.

The fifth point for consideration is the Government and NGO relationship pillar. While the purpose and relevance of this pillar is clear, it is worth noting the action item within this pillar which states SFU will work to, "Enhance socio-economic as well as educational and political awareness in the community as they concern government, NGOs, and Aboriginal peoples."

We are asking for one day, voluntarily given, to show the survivors who exist within the SFU community and beyond that the SFU community acknowledges the years that were taken from them. One day to work with the Aboriginal community on their path towards healing and reconciliation. One day to prove that SFU truly stands behind and believes in the value of its Aboriginal Strategic Plan and the Aboriginal community. I urge the Administration to not just cancel classes but close all campuses, by doing so SFU would make a very clear statement; we are a leader on Aboriginal issues.



Clay J. Gray
At-Large Representative
Simon Fraser Student Society
atlarge2@sfss.ca | www.sfss.ca
(778) 837 2800

Dear SFU Community:

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) will be gathering in Vancouver, from Sept. 18-21st, 2013 for one of its six national events. The TRC is mandated to seek the truth and play a part in the healing and reconciliation process for the Aboriginal people of Canada who suffered atrocities under the Canadian residential school system.

The Simon Fraser Student Society is asking you for letters of support for our proposed action, a closing of all three campuses on Sept. 18th. These letters will be taken to the June 10th Senate meeting for the purpose of showing the extent to which students support this initiative.

Although many may be aware of the existence of the residential school system within Canada, few are cognizant of the extent to which this government initiative damaged the Aboriginal community. **Over 3,000 child deaths occurred at institutions throughout the 150-year history of residential schools**, with the last residential school closing its doors in 1996. Accompanying the death toll is well documented and rampant physical, psychological, and sexual abuse.

Along with playing a part in the healing and reconciliation of the Aboriginal community, the TRC also seeks to create awareness among the Canadian public regarding this page in Canadian history. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is a crucial aspect in the process of recognizing the systematic disenfranchisement of Aboriginal communities across Canada.

Currently, the University of British Columbia has committed to suspending all classes on September 18th to allow students, staff, and faculty to attend the opening day ceremonies of the TRC. In its **Aboriginal Strategic Plan SFU states, "The University is committed to: Engaging the Aboriginal community in every way possible to contribute to their social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being"** (ASP 2013, p 2).

The Simon Fraser Student Society is requesting the University to stand behind its statement to be "the leading engaged university in Canada" (ASP 2013, p 2) by closing all three SFU campuses and formally inviting all SFU community members to participate in this historic event. At the very least, we believe as an expression of SFU's commitment to the Aboriginal community, all classes should be cancelled to match UBC's acknowledgement of this landmark event.

We are at a pivotal moment in Canadian history, if SFU is serious about establishing itself as an ally to the Aboriginal community; this is an opportunity to be exemplars for the rest of Canadian universities.

Yours in gratitude,



Clay J. Gray
At-Large Representative
On behalf of the SFSS Board of Directors
Simon Fraser Student Society
atlarge2@sfss.ca | www.sfss.ca
(778) 837 2800

西门菲沙大学的老师们、同学们、朋友们：

2013年9月18日到21日，加拿大真相与和解委员会（the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada）将会在温哥华召开六场全国听证会当中的一场。加拿大真相与和解委员会的宗旨，是为在原住民寄宿学校系统中受尽苦难的原住民幸存者寻求真相，并且为这些幸存者的疗伤，以及原住民社群的最终和解出一份力。

在此，西门菲沙学生会恳请各位写信支持学生会关于在**9月18日**关闭西门菲沙大学全部三个校区的倡议。西门菲沙学生会会在7月8日学校理事会会议上展示各位的支持信，以及各位对这项倡议的支持。

虽然许多人都知道加拿大曾经有过原住民寄宿学校系统，但是很少人真正了解这个由政府设立的寄宿学校系统对原住民社群造成伤害究竟有多大。到1996年最后一间原住民寄宿学校关闭为止，原住民寄宿学校系统已经存在了整整150年，导致超过3000名原住民儿童死亡，而在寄宿学校里发生的对原住民儿童的体罚、羞辱和性侵犯，更是猖獗得不计其数。

加拿大真相与和解委员会除了希望为原住民受害者疗伤，为与原住民的和解出力之外，更加希望让更多加拿大公众了解加拿大历史上这最不光彩的一页。正是因为真相与和解委员会的不懈努力，我们今天才终于认识到：加拿大曾经有计划地剥夺原住民的权利。

一方面，当前，卑诗大学（UBC）已经决定9月18日全面停课，让学生和教职工可以出席加拿大真相与和解委员会温哥华会议的开幕典礼。另一方面，西门菲沙大学在自己的《原住民战略计划》（*Aboriginal Strategic Plan*）里面写着：「本大学致力于以一切可行途径与原住民社群展开对话，以促进原住民之社会、经济、环境与文化福祉。」

因此，西门菲沙学生会恳请校方谨守「做加拿大领先的对话型大学」的承诺，以关闭全部三个校区的方式，正式邀请西门菲沙大学的全体成员见证这历史意义深远的时刻。我们相信，既然卑诗大学已经取消当天全部课程，作为对这次里程碑式的会议的尊重，那么，西门菲沙大学就不应该甘于人后，而更应该以关闭全部校区的方式，宣示我们对原住民社群的承诺。

我们正处于加拿大历史的关键时刻。这是一个可遇不可求的机遇，它能让西门菲沙大学展示与原住民结为盟友的诚意，让西门菲沙大学成为其他加拿大大学的楷模。

此致
感恩。

克雷顿·J·格雷
西门菲沙学生会理事会不分组学生代表
以西门菲沙学生会理事会的名义发出
电子邮箱：atlarge2@sfss.ca
网址：www.sfss.ca
电话：(778)-837-2800

西門菲沙大學的老師們、同學們、朋友們：

2013年9月18日到21日，加拿大真相與和解委員會（the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada）將會在溫哥華召開六場全國聽證會當中的一場。加拿大真相與和解委員會的宗旨，是為在原住民寄宿學校系統中受盡苦難的原住民幸存者尋求真相，並且為這些幸存者的療傷，以及與原住民社群的最終和解出一份力。

在此，西門菲沙學生會懇請各位寫信支持學生會關於在9月18日關閉西門菲沙大學全部三個校區的倡議。西門菲沙學生會會在7月8日學校理事會會議上展示各位的支持信，以及各位對這項倡議的支持。

雖然許多人都知道加拿大曾經有過原住民寄宿學校系統，但是很少人真正瞭解這個由政府設立的寄宿學校系統對原住民社群造成傷害究竟有多大。到1996年最後一間原住民寄宿學校關閉為止，原住民寄宿學校系統已經存在了整整150年，導致超過3000名原住民兒童死亡，而在寄宿學校裡發生的對原住民兒童的體罰、羞辱和性侵犯，更是猖獗得不計其數。

加拿大真相與和解委員會除了希望為原住民受害者療傷，為與原住民的和解出力之外，更加希望讓更多加拿大公眾瞭解加拿大歷史上這最不光彩的一頁。正是因為真相與和解委員會的不懈努力，我們今天才終於認識到：加拿大曾經有計劃地剝奪原住民的權利。

一方面，目前，卑詩大學（UBC）已經決定9月18日全面停課，讓學生和教職工可以出席加拿大真相與和解委員會溫哥華會議的開幕典禮。另一方面，西門菲沙大學在自己的《原住民戰略計劃》（*Aboriginal Strategic Plan*）裡面寫著：「本大學致力於以一切可行途徑與原住民社群展開對話，以促進原住民之社會、經濟、環境與文化福祉。」

因此，西門菲沙學生會懇請校方謹守「做加拿大領先的對話型大學」的承諾，以關閉全部三個校區的方式，正式邀請西門菲沙大學的全體成員見證這歷史意義深遠的時刻。我們相信，既然卑詩大學已經取消當天全部課程，作為對這次里程碑式的會議的尊重，那麼，西門菲沙大學就不應該甘於人後，而更應該以關閉全部校區的方式，宣示我們對原住民社群的承諾。

我們正處於加拿大歷史的關鍵時刻。這是一個可遇不可求的機遇，它能让西門菲沙大學展示與原住民結為盟友的誠意，讓西門菲沙大學成為其他加拿大大學的楷模。

此致
感恩。

克雷頓·J·格雷
西門菲沙學生會理事會不分組學生代表
以西門菲沙學生會理事會的名義發出
電子郵箱：atlarge2@sfss.ca
網址：www.sfss.ca
電話：(778)-837-2800



Jenna LaFrance MEd
Director
Indigenous Student Centre
Student Affairs
MBC 1500
8888 University Dr
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

Phone: 778-782-3555
Assistant: 778-782-6929
Fax: 778-782-5682

Email: jenna_lafrance@sfu.ca

June 13, 2013

Simon Fraser Student Society
Maggie Benston Centre 2220
8888 University Drive,
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

Dear Clay J. Gray,

The SFU Indigenous Student Centre welcomed the letter addressed to the SFU Community requesting a support letter for the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) proposed action, a closing of all three campuses on September 18, 2013 for the purpose of taking the lead with regard to acknowledging the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) who will be holding the last of seven National gatherings in Vancouver from September 18-21, 2013.

“The national events will engage the Canadian public and provide education about the history of the residential schools system, the experience of former students and their families and the ongoing legacies of the institutions within communities. The national events will also be opportunities to celebrate regional diversity and honour those touched by residential schools.” Quote from <http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=92>

“For over 100 years....more than 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were forced to attend these schools some of which were hundreds of miles from their home. The cumulative impact of residential schools is a legacy of unresolved trauma passed from generation to generation and has had a profound effect on the relationship between Aboriginal peoples... Collective efforts from all peoples are necessary to revitalize the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and Canadian society – reconciliation is the goal... that will take the commitment of multiple generations but when it is achieved, when we have reconciliation - it will make for a better, stronger Canada.” Quote: <http://www.trc.ca/websites/reconciliation/index.php?p=312>

The Indigenous Student Centre supports this SFSS initiative and opportunity to raise awareness, with SFU students, staff and faculty, of the history and legacy of Canada's Residential School System's devastating effect.

With regard


Jenna LaFrance



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

AQ 6129
8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL 778.782.3136
FAX 778.782.5737

www.english.sfu.ca

29 May 2013

Dear Members of Senate:

I write to express my strong support for the proposal by the Simon Fraser Student Society requesting an official closure of all three campuses of the university on September 18th in order to allow students, faculty, and staff to attend the historic opening of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) meetings in Vancouver on September 18, 2013.

Such a proposal is consistent with the strategic vision of the university, including its commitment to be a leader in community engagement and on Aboriginal affairs. On this day, in this region, the most important teaching and learning moments available to our students—and ourselves—will not be found in our respective classrooms. Rather, they will occur as part of the collective public witnessing and education that is such a fundamental part of the TRC mandate.

I urge my colleagues on Senate to follow the example of UBC, and to take inspiration from our own student leaders, by officially cancelling classes on this day and leading the push for a strong and visible SFU presence at the commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Dickinson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Dickinson
Professor



FACULTY OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Dr Manfred Trummer
Professor and
Department Chair
SFU MATHEMATICS

June 8, 2013

MAILING ADDRESS

Dept. of Mathematics
8888 University Drive
Burnaby BC Canada
V5A 1S6

CONTACT

tel +1 (778) 782-3378
fax +1 (778) 782-4947
trummer@sfu.ca
www.math.sfu.ca

SFU Senate

Re: Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Sep 18, 2013 – Campus Closure

Dear Members of the Senate,

I am writing this letter in support of the SFSS initiative to cancel classes at SFU on the first day of the TRC's visit to Vancouver in September.

I understand that a decision to cancel classes cannot be taken lightly. This is, however, one of the most important historical issues facing this country. SFU has made great strides in supporting issues important to the aboriginal community; acknowledging the TRC visit by allowing, and indeed encouraging, members of the SFU community to attend the opening ceremonies would be a wonderful gesture.

Sincerely

Manfred Trummer



Simon Fraser University
Administrative & Professional Staff Association

June 19, 2013

Dear Members of SFU Senate,

One June 10, 2013 the APSA Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the Simon Fraser Student Society's campaign to close all three SFU campuses on September 18, 2013 in honour of the opening of the Truce and Reconciliation Commission's gathering in Vancouver.

The members of the APSA Board believe this historic occasion is a valuable opportunity for SFU to promote one of the goals of the SFU Aboriginal Strategic Plan 2013-2018 to "Engage and promulgate an understanding and respect for Aboriginal communities, cultures, epistemologies, histories, languages and traditions among non-Aboriginal members of the university and off-campus communities".

The closure of the campuses will provide the most encouragement for staff to participate in the opening ceremonies to learn firsthand about the atrocities suffered under the Canadian residential school system and to understand the long lasting impact the system continues to have on multiple generations of Aboriginal people.

Sincerely,

SFU Administrative and Professional Staff Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neal Baldwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Neal" and last name "Baldwin" clearly distinguishable.

Neal Baldwin
President



The Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University

June 14, 2013

Dear SFU Senate,

On May 29th 2013, the Council of the Graduate Student Society (GSS) at Simon Fraser University (SFU) voted unanimously in favour of supporting the Simon Fraser Student Society's (SFSS) campaign to close all of SFU's three campuses and suspend classes on Sept. 18th, 2013. This date marks the opening ceremonies of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) gathering in Vancouver, BC and would allow students, staff, and faculty to attend this historic event.

The GSS Council is a body made up of representatives from every graduate Faculty, Department, and Program at SFU. This vote therefore indicates the solidarity that SFU graduate students feel towards the work of the TRC and their commitment to reconciliation processes for the Aboriginal people of Canada.

By closing all three SFU campuses in recognition of this landmark event and its impact on Aboriginal communities and the Canadian public, SFU will stand behind its statement to be "the leading engaged university in Canada" (ASP 2013, p 2). We stand in strong support of the TRC's mandate to work towards reconciliation for the Aboriginal people of Canada and to create awareness among the Canadian public regarding the atrocities suffered under the Canadian residential school system.

We believe that SFU as a leading Canadian university has a responsibility to engage and support this work. Therefore, we strongly urge SFU to abide by its commitment to engage students, research, and communities by closing all three SFU campuses and formally inviting all SFU community members to participate in this significant historical event.

Sincerely,

Julia Lane
Coordinating and External Relations Officer

Eleonora Joensuu
Member and Community Relations Officer

Frieda Werden, Spoken Word Coordinator
CJSF Radio
TC-216 Simon Fraser University
Burnaby BC V5A 1S6, Canada
(778)782-4423 phone
e-mail: cjsfpa@sfu.ca
90.1 FM www.cjsf.bc.ca - streaming on the web
Departmental Blog: <http://cjsfpa.blogspot.com/>

May 22, 2013

To the SFU Community:

CJSF radio is pleased to support the recommendation of the Simon Fraser Student Society, calling for SFU campuses to be closed on September 18, 2013, in order to encourage members of the SFU community to attend the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada gathering taking place that day.

The significance of the Truth and Reconciliation process for Canada can hardly be overstated. It is addressing a grievous wound in Canadian society, and it's of the utmost importance that as many Canadians as possible take part in the process of societal change and healing.

CJSF has been following this process ever since the Prime Minister's apology on June 11, 2008, and we will be covering the event on September 18. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is doing a huge job with limited resources, and Vancouver is very lucky to be the site of one of the six national events they are holding. I think that for those who participate it will be unforgettable in its symbolic resonance for their lives.

We ask the university please to mark the importance of the process and the event with a campus closing, as UBC and other campuses will be doing.

Yours sincerely,

Frieda Werden
Spoken Word/Public Affairs Coordinator
CJSF Radio 90.1FM



Out On Campus
Simon Fraser University
Rotunda, TC 314-N
8888 University Drive, Burnaby, B.C.
Canada V5A 1S6

May 29th, 2013

Letter of Support

Dear SFU Senate,

Out On Campus strongly supports the request made by **Mr. Clay Gray** and the **Simon Fraser Student Society** to suspend all activities at **SFU** campuses on **September 18th, 2013**, as a meaningful way of supporting, encouraging and inviting students, staff and faculty to participate in the **Opening Ceremonies** of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's National Event in Vancouver**.

We feel that, by allowing the members of our **SFU** community who have been affected by the **Canadian Residential School** system to attend at least the **Opening Ceremonies** of the **TRC**, **SFU** will be meaningfully supporting and contributing to their processes of healing and reconciliation.

We also feel that, because the **Canadian Residential School** system was a government-run system of oppression and abuse, it is important for **Canadian** institutions to actively acknowledge and educate the **Canadian** public about the past events, how those among us have been affected, and the current efforts being made to help create a positive future.

We believe it is important for us, as a **Canadian** community, to face and acknowledge that our government was responsible for running a program that forcibly abducted children from their families, and put them in boarding schools that subjected many of them to emotional, psychological, physical and sexual abuse. The children were also punished for using their own language and practicing their own culture, and they were forced to adopt Christianity.

As a student service whose constituency comprises individuals from oppressed groups, **Out on Campus** recognizes the need for conscious and substantial actions to be taken to address the ongoing effects of oppression in our society. **Out On Campus** recognizes that active and practical support for those affected by oppression, and education aimed at the broader public are important, and that these things are also the goals of the **TRC**.

The **TRC's** National Event in Vancouver **September 18th** is a rare, valuable and important resource for those who have suffered from, and continue to suffer from the effects of the **Canadian Residential School** system. In addition to helping to create a more positive future for those affected, it is also an admirable effort by those affected to offering their experiences as an contribution to **Canadian** society. We feel that **SFU** has an important opportunity at this time to acknowledge that members of the **SFU** community have been affected by the **Canadian Residential School** system, and participate in educating the broader public about the ongoing effects.

We join with **Mr. Gray** and the **SFSS** in respectfully requesting that **SFU** support those in the **SFU** community affected by the **Canadian Residential School** system and take a leadership role in educating the broader public by suspending school activity on **September 18th** and formally inviting all student, staff and faculty to attend the **Opening Ceremonies** of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's National Event in Vancouver**.

Sincerely,

Out On Campus

Susan Cho (OOC Asst per OOC Collective)



SIMON FRASER PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

~ engaging students in social and environmental justice since 1981 ~

To the Senate of Simon Fraser University,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the SFPIRG Board of Directors. The Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group (SFPIRG) is a student-funded and student-directed resource centre dedicated to social and environmental justice. Our mission is to engage students in social and environmental justice through education, action, research and community-building. We have been based on the Burnaby campus for over 30 years.

We would like to wholeheartedly express our support for the SFSS's campaign, lead by Clay Gray, to close SFU on September 18th, 2013, in order for SFU students and staff to participate in the Truth and Reconciliation Ceremonies.

One of the values that guides SFPIRG's work is the recognition of and support for Indigenous sovereignty and the process of decolonization globally. One part of this process includes the opportunity for Indigenous people to tell their stories and the opportunity for settler Canadians to hear them. The vast majority of settler Canadians have no idea about the realities that Indigenous people have experienced and continue to experience in Canada. We believe that these opportunities for increased understanding are a vital part of decolonizing ourselves and our society.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada has a mandate to learn the truth about what happened in the residential schools and to inform all Canadians about what happened in the schools. There are currently estimated to be 80,000 residential school survivors in Canada. Arguably, their children are also inter-generational survivors, and in fact, more native children are in foster care today than were ever in the residential school system. This just goes to show that although residential schools have formally ended in Canada, their impact has not.

SFU has the opportunity to truly lead its students, staff and communities in demonstrating what it means to be an engaged university. In closing all SFU campuses for the TRC Ceremonies, SFU will clearly demonstrate its respect and support for Indigenous communities, rights and cultures. It will be a powerful step towards creating a campus and community that is actively compassionate and caring towards all people.

If you have any further questions for us, please feel free to contact us at board@sfpirg.ca.

Sincerely and in solidarity,

Kevin Estrada
SFPIRG Director
On behalf of the SFPIRG Board of Directors

June 5th 2013

Dear SFU Senate,

My name is Julia Lane and I am a third-year PhD Candidate in Arts Education at SFU. I am writing today in support of the Simon Fraser Student Society's (SFSS) campaign to close all of SFU's three campuses and suspend classes on September 18th, 2013. This date marks the opening ceremonies of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's gathering in Vancouver, BC. The University of British Columbia has committed to suspending classes on this date; however, I urge SFU to take this one step further. Closing all three campuses will allow all SFU students, staff, and faculty to attend this historic event. I hope that SFU will see this as an opportunity to encourage all community members to become actively involved in the TRC opening ceremonies.

Before beginning my studies at SFU I completed a master's degree in Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies at Trent University. It was during this time that I adopted that strong position that reconciliation actions taken in Canada are the responsibility and concern of all Canadians. It is often easy to see these issues as only relevant to Indigenous peoples; however, it is clear that the devastating tragedies of the residential school system were perpetrated cross-culturally, that the impacts of these tragedies continue to be felt cross-culturally, and that the path to reconciliation must be taken in truly collaborative cross-cultural ways in order to facilitate healing. As a non-Indigenous Canadian I take my responsibility to be an ally and become actively involved in reconciliation very seriously. For these reasons, I consider it both a moral and a civic duty for me to be present at the opening ceremonies, as well as other public events, of the TRC. I stand in solidarity with the TRC mandate to work towards reconciliation for the Aboriginal people of Canada and to create awareness among the Canadian public regarding the atrocities suffered under the Canadian residential school system.

Closing SFU campuses will demonstrate our community's recognition of this landmark event and its impact on both Aboriginal communities and the Canadian public. Furthermore, this action will allow SFU to enact its stated intention to be "the leading engaged university in Canada" (ASP 2013, p. 2). I believe that SFU -- as a leading Canadian university -- has a responsibility to engage with and support the work of the TRC in whatever ways possible, beginning with closing all SFU campuses on September 18th 2013 and urging all SFU community members to participate in the opening ceremonies on this date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Lane". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Julia Lane

Urban Native Youth Association

1618 East Hastings St., Vancouver, BC, V5L 1S6 Ph: 604.254.7732 Fax: 604.254.7811 info@unya.bc.ca www.unya.bc.ca



June 3, 2013

To whom it may concern,

The Urban Native Youth Association fully supports the efforts of the Simon Fraser Student Society's to have Simon Fraser University join the University of British Columbia in its commitment to suspend all classes on Wednesday September 18, 2013 so that students and faculty can attend, volunteer for, and support the work of the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in its efforts to bring about true reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

This once in a lifetime opportunity must be recognized as a great opportunity for SFU to work on projects and initiatives that will help students to prepare for and participate in this public event. A true understanding about the ongoing effects of the residential school system, as well as the opportunities to foster true reconciliation on both individual and community levels will be very beneficial to all students and faculty who participate.

Thank you for considering this very important opportunity. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to call me at 604-254-7732.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynda Gray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lynda" being more prominent than the last name "Gray".

Lynda Gray
Executive Director

Training the Leaders of Tomorrow

Stockwell Day <stockwellday@stockwellday.com>

Jun 15
(2 days
ago)

Clayton, thank you for your participation in the event today and for our discussion after the session. I am encouraged to see your support for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the potential it brings. We share in common the aspirations of many that the lofty but necessary goals of the Commission will be realized. Regards always, Stockwell Day

Hon. Stockwell Day P.C.

Good afternoon,

I am a first generation residential school survivor and I support the closure of SFU.

In the Spirit,

Darcy

SLC Assistant
Tel: [778.782.4648](tel:778.782.4648)
Email: dwolf@sfu.ca

Dear Mr. Gray.

I'm writing to indicate my support for your proposal to close SFU campuses on September 18, 2013, in order to allow SFU community members to attend the TRC event in Vancouver. I think this would send a strong message of support for the importance of this event and is in keeping with SFU's stated commitment to engagement with the Aboriginal community. If classes are cancelled on September 18, I will encourage my students to attend by offering an extra credit assignment based on the events.

Best,

Ronda Arab
Associate Professor of English
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

ronda_arab@sfu.ca
778.782.8506 (Burnaby)
778.782.5164 (Surrey)

John Bannister

Jun 4
(13 days
ago)

Clay:

The CUPE 3338 Executive Board will provide a letter of support mirroring what UBC has committed to in regards to the TRC.

John

To Whom It May Concern:

I support the SFSS and others calling on SFU to cancel classes on September 18, 2013 to encourage SFU students and faculty to attend the TRC hearings.

--

Dara Culhane, PhD
Associate Professor, Anthropology
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Simon Fraser University