



OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND PROVOST

8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC  
Canada V5A 1S6TEL: 778.782.3925  
FAX: 778.782.5876vpacad@sfu.ca  
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic**MEMORANDUM**

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|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>ATTENTION</b> | Senate                                                            | <b>DATE</b>  | June 16, 2015 |
| <b>FROM</b>      | Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP | <b>PAGES</b> | 1/1           |
| <b>RE:</b>       | Chair in Avalanche Risk Management (SCUP 15-22)                   |              |               |

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At its June 3, 2015 meeting, SCUP reviewed the documentation for the Chair in Avalanche Risk Management and approved the Terms of Reference.

**Motion:**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Terms of Reference for the Chair in Avalanche Risk Management.

c: I. Stefanovic



INGRID LEMAN STEFANOVIC, DEAN  
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT

TASC2 8800  
8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC  
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL 778.782.8797  
FAX 778.782.8788

[www.fenv.sfu.ca/](http://www.fenv.sfu.ca/)

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**MEMORANDUM**

**ATTENTION** Jon Driver  
**FROM** Ingrid Leman Stefanovic, Dean  
**RE:** University Chair in Avalanche Risk Management

**DATE** May 25, 2015

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**Background**

The avalanche community, including Canadian Pacific Railway, Helicat Canada, the Avalanche Foundation, Avalanche Canada, and the Canadian Avalanche Association, has agreed to co-fund a University Chair in Avalanche Risk Management. The proposed Chair is consistent with the strategic direction of the Faculty of Environment and will establish SFU as a leader in avalanche research.

The five organizations have collectively contributed \$775K over the next five years, and SFU has committed a further \$250K for a five-year funding total of \$1,025M.

In recognition of these contributions we propose the creation of the Chair in Avalanche Risk Management.

I request that you submit the Terms of Reference for the Chair in Avalanche Risk Management to SCUP and Senate for approval and creation.

**Motion**

**That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the Terms of Reference for the Chair in Avalanche Risk Management.**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Stefanovic', is written over a horizontal line.

Ingrid Leman Stefanovic  
Dean

Attachments: Terms of Reference for Chair, Gift Agreements

cc: Cathy Daminato, VP, Advancement and Alumni Engagement  
Anita Stepan, Director, Finance and Budget, VPA  
Erin Geary, Director, Advancement Services and Donor Relations

## Terms of Reference Chair in Avalanche Risk Management

Snow avalanches are a significant natural hazard to private and commercial recreation, transportation, resource industries and property in Canada. Between 2006 and 2015, an average of twelve individuals died in avalanche every winter and many more only narrowly escaped accidents that could have easily resulted in fatalities. The vast majority of these victims are recreationists enjoying the great Canadian outdoors on skis, snowboards and snowmobiles. Over the last decade, these activities have experienced a tremendous increase in popularity as more Canadians are venturing into the backcountry.

Canada has a long tradition of collaborative avalanche research between academics and practitioners. This close relationship has provided the foundation for excellent applied research programs that are highly regarded around the world. However, the avalanche research programs at the University British Columbia and the University of Calgary concluded in 2008 and 2014 without a succession plan. Simon Fraser University's Chair in Avalanche Risk Management offers a unique opportunity to build on this tradition and ensure the continuation of world-class avalanche research in Canada. The Chair aims to use an interdisciplinary approach to examine today's avalanche safety challenges and produce applied results that provide the necessary evidence-based foundation for the improvement of existing avalanche safety programs and the development innovative new solutions. In addition, the Chair will offer training opportunities for graduate students in avalanche research and therefore produce trained personnel in areas relevant to the Canadian avalanche community.

### 1. Name of Chair

The Chair will be known as the "Chair in Avalanche Risk Management".

### 2. Purpose of the Chair

The Chair in Avalanche Risk Management will pursue research to improve avalanche safety in Canada by building on existing partnerships with commercial and public avalanche safety operations and using an interdisciplinary approach to examine today's avalanche safety challenges. The results of this research will offer benefits for commercial and public avalanche safety operations as well as private recreationists travelling in avalanche terrain.

### 3. Avalanche Chair Funding

The initial term of the Chair in Avalanche Risk Management is five years. Subject to confirmation and receipt of funds from the contributors the Chair may be renewed for two terms or a total of another ten years in accordance with the re-appointment procedures set out in A10.06. The Chair's first five-year term is to be funded as follows:

- 3.1 Canadian Pacific Railway will contribute \$250,000, to be paid in instalments of \$50,000 per year over five years.
- 3.2 Helicat Canada Association will contribute \$200,000, to be paid in instalments of \$40,000 per year over five years.
- 3.3 The Avalanche Canada Foundation (formerly known as the Canadian Avalanche Foundation) will contribute \$200,000, to be paid in instalments of \$40,000 per year over five years.
- 3.4 Avalanche Canada (formerly known as the Canadian Avalanche Centre) will contribute \$75,000, to be paid in instalments of \$15,000 per year over five years.
- 3.5 The Canadian Avalanche Association will contribute \$50,000, to be paid in instalments of \$10,000 per year over five years.



## Terms of Reference Chair in Avalanche Risk Management

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- 3.6 SFU will contribute \$250,000, to be paid in instalments of \$50,000 per year over five years. SFU will also provide laboratory and office space to the Chairholder in the School of Resource and Environmental Management at SFU.

### 4. Use of Funds

The contributions to establish the Chair may be used to:

- 4.1 Pay the salary and benefits of the Chairholder;
- 4.2 Develop and disseminate new Research initiatives;
- 4.3 Support graduate students, undergraduate students, post-doctoral trainee(s), technicians and other Research personnel working under the direction of the Chairholder and performing Eligible Research; and
- 4.4 Defray the reasonable travel and conference and other eligible (material, supplies, etc.) expenses of the Chairholder and his/her Research personnel in accordance with SFU policies.

### 5. Additional Funding

The Chairholder will be expected to seek additional funding from national and international sources during the Term (as hereinafter defined) to support relevant research projects.

### 6. Reporting

The Chairholder will report to the Director of the School of Resource and Environmental Management.

### 7. Appointment

- 7.1 As required by SFU policy (A 10.06), Appointment of Specially Funded University Chairs, University Professors and Research Fellows, the person engaged to perform the duties of the Chairholder will be appointed by the Simon Fraser University Board of Governors.
- 7.2 The appointment of the Chairholder will initially be for a five year term (the "Term") as required by SFU policy (A 10.06), Appointment of Specially Funded University Chairs, University Professors and Research Fellows. The Chairholder may be reappointed by SFU after a review process.
- 7.3 The Chairholder will be subject to SFU's policies and procedures concerning Ethics in Eligible Research concerning humans and animals.

### 8. Fund Administration

The funding for the Chair in Avalanche Risk Management will be administered by the office of the Vice-President, Academic.

Terms of Reference  
Chair in Avalanche Risk Management

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Approved By:

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Jon Driver,  
Vice-President, Academic  
Simon Fraser University

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Date

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Cathy Daminato,  
Vice-President, Advancement & Alumni Engagement,  
Simon Fraser University

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
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Ingrid Stefanovic  
Dean  
Faculty of Environment  
Simon Fraser University

\_\_\_\_\_  
May 25, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date