



SFU PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PROFESSOR ANDREW PETER
PRESIDENT, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

This has been a productive year for Aboriginal strategic initiatives at Simon Fraser University, as is evident from the pages of this special Aboriginal Peoples edition of *SFU News*.

Many individuals and groups have worked with the support of the Office for Aboriginal Peoples to make further progress in implementing the University's Aboriginal Strategic Plan. At the same time, alliances with First Nations and other off-campus Aboriginal groups continue to strengthen and grow.

Among this year's highlights was the opening of a new Indigenous Student Centre on the Burnaby campus. This excellent facility provides a welcoming gathering space, and houses knowledgeable staff able to support, guide and mentor Indigenous students—who now number over 600, including an increasing number of graduate students. Staff are also available to support Indigenous programs and activities throughout the University.

The centre is one example of the progress we are making toward meeting the commitments of SFU's strategic vision to "honour the history, culture and presence of Aboriginal peoples" and to "welcome and nurture Aboriginal students."

Other examples include:

- the Indigenous Research Institute has expanded in both its membership and its activities, which now include an annual speaker series on Aboriginal initiatives
- the Executive MBA in Aboriginal Business and Leadership admitted its second cohort and continues to gain recognition and respect nationally and internationally
- two Aboriginal summer camps were held at the Burnaby campus, including a new month-long Math Camp for Aboriginal Youth and
- our Elders' Program is a growing source of strength for Aboriginal students and the University community

SFU recognizes our special responsibility to raise awareness and understanding of the residential school legacy, and is working with Aboriginal communities to promote reconciliation. To this end, we have continued to participate in Reconciliation Canada and to undertake educational activities, including reconciliation-themed workshops.

These developments were made possible due to the dedication and commitment of many SFU staff, faculty and students. Thanks to their efforts, we have made significant progress over the past year. Much remains to be done but, with your support, I am confident that we can achieve still further success in the years ahead.

SFU museum hosts resident carver



First Nations artist Jackie Timothy, of the Tla'amin First Nation near Powell River, B.C., spent the fall semester serving as the "resident carver" in SFU's Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. He demonstrated his skills while carving a bumblebee mask and answered visitors' questions about First Nations art and culture. His carvings stand throughout the U.S. and Canada.



President's Dream Colloquium explores protection of Indigenous cultural heritage

Issues surrounding Indigenous cultural heritage take centre stage this spring during the SFU "President's Dream Colloquium on Protecting Indigenous Cultural Heritage."

Six internationally renowned researchers will discuss different perspectives on various Indigenous cultural heritage challenges. The speakers are all associated with the SFU-led Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage (IPinCH) research group, funded through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

The President's Dream Colloquium is a multidisciplinary forum for intellectual engagement that offers free public lectures, as well as credit for graduate students who participate in the colloquium and attend seminar discussions of assigned readings prior to attending the colloquium talks.

The first lecture, on Jan. 8, featured Catherine Bell, a University of Alberta law professor who discussed the intricacies of creating and implementing respectful, ethical and effective policies for protecting Indigenous cultural heritage, especially when fundamental differences exist between western and Indigenous societies over the definition of heritage.

At the second lecture, on Jan. 22, Ian Lilley, a University of Queensland professor who studies the archaeology of Aboriginal Australia, discussed issues of ownership relating to native culture.

Don't miss the remainder of the series:

- **Feb. 5** — Larry Zimmerman, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis: "Protecting Indigenous cultural heritage: ethics, policy and practice." SFU Burnaby, 3:30 p.m., room WMC 3260
- **Feb. 26** — Rosia Worl, Tlingit, Sealaska Heritage Institute, U.S.: "Heritage and community values, benefits and sustainability." SFU Burnaby, 3:30 p.m., room WMC 3260
- **Mar. 12** — Grand Chief Edward John (Akile Ch'oh), Tl'azt'en Nation; United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: "Heritage and politics: sovereignty, jurisdiction and the protection of Indigenous culture." SFU Burnaby, 3:30 p.m., room WMC 3260
- **Mar. 25** — Linda Tuhiwai Smith, University of Waikato, from the Ngati Awa and Ngati Porou iwi, New Zealand: "Heritage and knowledge: decolonizing the research process." Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue, SFU's Vancouver campus, 7:00 p.m.

The colloquium has been organized by the SFU Department of Archaeology and is sponsored by the SFU President's Office, the Office of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Fellows, the Munro Lecture Fund, and the IPinCH Project.

For more information: www.sfu.ca/indigenousheritage. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended.