

COMMUNITY TRUST ENDOWMENT FUND (CTEF) PROGRESS REPORT AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

APRIL 2022

1.0 OVERVIEW

1.1 WHAT IS CTEF?

Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Community Trust was established to oversee the planning and development of UniverCity, a sustainable master-planned community adjacent to SFU's Burnaby campus. Revenues from the development have been used to establish the Community Trust Endowment Fund (CTEF). Since 2006, CTEF has been used strategically to support research activities at the university, specifically to promote SFU's distinctiveness through interdisciplinary research programs, and to support distinguished faculty members and outstanding students undertaking world-class research.

In 2018, the Terms of Reference (ToR) for CTEF were updated to allow a greater flexibility to support SFU's diverse research community. The support was extended to both undergraduate and graduate students, in the form of research assistantships and fellowships, as well as funding for Postdoctoral Fellows. Furthermore, rather than using the funds exclusively toward large-scale interdisciplinary competitions, the updated ToR now allows support for strategic priorities and opportunities, including the ever-increasing request by governmental sponsors for participating institutions to provide matching funds for large-scale cross-institutional collaborations. The updated ToR also allows the funds to be used for support and operation of university research equipment and facilities, innovation activities, small-scale seed funds, and bridging grants, as well as support of community-engaged scholarship and knowledge mobilization, and international collaborations. The complete ToR are available via this web page:

www.sfu.ca/research/community-trust-endowment-fund

1.3 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document provides a report for the past fiscal year (FY 2022) and provides the expenditure plan for fiscal year 2023 & 2024.

2.0 CTEF EXPENDITURE REPORT

During fiscal year 2022, a total of **\$2.29 million** from CTEF has directly supported **eight** SFU research projects, while also directly supporting more than **60** SFU undergraduates, **50** graduate students, and **five** Postdoctoral Fellows through awards, fellowships and stipends. CTEF investment was also leveraged to

return almost **\$4 million** in sponsored research income from external sources to SFU through the provision of over **\$130,000** in matching funds to support strategic projects.

2.1 CTEF EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

Table 1. CTEF Expenditure by ToR Category, Fiscal 2019-2022.

Category	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Strategic Priorities and Opportunities	772,000	721,637	1,316,950	1,250,835
Student and Postdoctoral Support	635,946	1,143,250	947,874	903,500
Research Equipment and Facilities	3,316,037	85,964	299,340	67,372
Seed Funds for Research Projects	91,281	205,500	90,000	50,000
International Research Activities	223,750	173,748	60,000	-*
Community-Engaged Scholarship	80,000	100,000	115,250	15,250
Total	\$5,119,015	\$2,320,414	\$2,939,414	\$2,286,957

*Funding was not used for FY 2022.

2.2 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The largest expense category, Strategic Priorities and Opportunities, refers to the varied initiatives that advance SFU's Strategic Research Plan (SRP) and flexibly allows the university to respond to emerging opportunities. These projects are defined by their potential to lead to impactful research, raise the profile of the university, and help to position SFU competitively both nationally and internationally. These initiatives help attract top researchers and students to SFU, and align with federal and provincial government priorities. Strategic priorities also serve to build partnerships with external entities, including other academic institutions and industry. Furthermore, these opportunities have served to create meaningful relationships with local communities. Some notable examples include continued support of two Canada 150 Research Chairs (C150), the extraordinary success of the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) Innovation Fund projects, SFU's leadership of three new Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Grants, hosting the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute and the Kids Brain Health Network, and numerous high-profile projects through the Network Centres of Excellence, Genome Canada, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council—and most recently, the Public Health Agency of Canada.

In 2021-22, CTEF was also allocated to support the development of an over \$100 million Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) program application, Community-Centred Climate Innovation (C3I). The CFREF opportunity has over one billion dollars available for research projects that fit the federal governments' strategic priorities. C3I leverages SFU research strengths and leadership, and a partnership with the University of Waterloo, to propose an innovative community-centred interdisciplinary research program on adaptation, mitigation and sustainability in the face of the climate crisis.

Table 2. Strategic Priorities and Opportunities by subcategory, Fiscal 2021-2022.

	Faculty Awards	Startup Grants	Prior Commitments	Matching Grants	Other	Total
2020-2021	166,950	190,000	-*	160,000	800,000	\$1,316,950
2021-2022	238,827	398,334	303,412	130,263	180,000	\$1,250,835

*Prior commitments refer to funds that were given out based on the original terms of reference (TOR). Two projects funded by CTEF based on the original TOR were deferred in FY 2021 and committed to pay FY 2022 instead.

2.2.1 FACULTY AWARDS

As a joint initiative between the Vice-President, Academic and Provost and Vice-President, Research & International, SFU has established the [Distinguished SFU Professor program](#) to recognize outstanding research faculty. In Fiscal Year 2022 over \$238,000 from CTEF was used for these five-year awards, to recognize seven new and 16 ongoing recipients, across all faculties. These professors are not only nationally or internationally accomplished in their respective research field, but they share their work with the public through lectures, panels and presentations. The SFU Distinguished Professors are faculty members of distinction who have achieved exceptional performance and distinguished accomplishments relative to their rank and years of service.

2.2.2 WHAT ARE MATCHING FUNDS?

Increasingly, governmental funding agencies provide large-scale funding envelopes for cross-institutional collaborations to advance breakthroughs in Canadian research. These programs often require ‘matching funds’, whereby participating institutions, or industry collaborators, are required to contribute cash and in-kind resources towards the research project. Over the past year, SFU has led several such network and partnership projects, and participated in many more as a collaborator. The primary source of cash contributions to these research projects has been CTEF, for a total of **\$130,263**—not including student support (see below). Significantly, these matching funds have been leveraged to generate research income of almost **\$4 million** from external sponsors, supporting six projects over a diverse range of disciplines across multiple faculties. These projects have established SFU researchers as leaders in their communities, enhanced SFU’s reputation internationally, and contributed significantly to knowledge mobilization and community engagement.

Table 3. Projects that received matching funds from CTEF, Fiscal 2022.

Project	Lead
Hybrid Thermal Electric Microgrid (HyTEM)	Majid Bahrami
The embedding project: a community of researchers and practitioners improving corporate sustainability	Stephanie Bertels
CFI IF 2023 Application - Digital Cultures: Co-Designing Technology for Cultural Heritage and Community Engagement	Michelle Levy
CFI IF 2023 Application - TNT: Transformative New Technologies, with Human-Centred Interactive and Visual Computing	Sheelagh Carpendale & Hao Zhang
SpokenWeb Project	SFU Library
International Research Mobility (IRM)	SFU International

2.3 STUDENT AND POSTDOCTORAL SUPPORT

Over the past year, over **\$900,000** from CTEF has provided direct support to more than **60** SFU undergraduates, **50** graduate students, and **five** Postdoctoral Fellows through awards, fellowships and stipends. A great share of this funding is distributed through the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, as Graduate Fellowships or Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA). This figure also includes support for students working under the rubric of **15** large-scale national research collaborations, which SFU researchers either led, or in which they participated as co-applicants.

Table 4. Direct research support for Students and Postdoctoral Fellows, Fiscal 2019-2022.

Research Support	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Graduate Students	285,946	459,750	389,374	354,500
Undergraduate Students	-*	384,500	328,500	420,000
Postdoctoral Fellows	210,000	234,000	230,000	129,000
Other Research Personnel	140,000	65,000	-**	-**
Total	\$635,946	\$1,143,250	\$947,874	\$903,500

*Note that in 2018-19, Undergraduate Student Research Awards were paid from the University Priority Fund (\$290,000) and other sources (\$113,000), which are no longer available.

**Other research personnel have been phased out, recategorized and paid out of other sources of funds

2.3.1 SELECTED STUDENT AND POSTDOCTORAL HIGHLIGHTS

Postdoctoral Researchers

Two of the five postdoctoral researchers that have been supported by CTEF funding are working within research labs our two C150 Research Chairs, Caroline Colijn and Wendy Chun.

The ‘Mathematics, Genomics and Prediction in Infection and Evolution’ (MAGPIE) group, led by Dr. Colijn, apply mathematical and statistical tools to answer questions in genomics, epidemiology, biology and other interdisciplinary fields. The group of postdoctoral researchers within this team have a diverse research background and are an integral part of the MAGPIE group conducting research and aiding in the activities of the graduate and undergraduate students.

Dr. Chun is the Director of the Digital Democracies Institute which integrates research in the humanities and data sciences to address questions of equality and social justice. The postdoctoral researchers in the institute conduct cross disciplinary research that links the digital environment to organizations and how machine learning can be used to influence events along with using machine learning to detect abuse in online platforms.

Graduate and Undergraduate Students

Through CTEF more than 60 undergraduate and 50 graduate students were supported over the past year. This funding has helped get undergraduate students used to working and contributing in a lab setting, to supporting the research work of masters and doctoral students to complete their degree. These students complete their research work across all faculties at the institution and work in a variety of labs, which are not limited to:

- Fuel Cell Research Laboratory (FCReL): led by Dr. Erik Kjeang in the School of Mechatronics Systems Engineering

- Silicon Quantum Technology Lab: led by Dr. Stephanie Simmons in the Department of Physics
- Molecular Cardiac Physiology Group: co-led by Dr. Glen Tibbits
- Science and Technology for Aging Research (STAR) Institute: led by Dr. Andrew Sixsmith

2.4 RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

CTEF is also used to strategically expand SFU's research infrastructure, and to enhance our research capacity through new or upgraded research equipment and facilities. In previous years larger sums of money were allocated to support initiatives such as SFU core facility, [WearTech Labs](#). During the 2022 fiscal year these funds were used to support electronic equipment and the strata fees for laboratory facilities at the Surrey City Centre research site.

2.5 SEED FUNDS FOR RESEARCH

CTEF has been the source of funds for supporting SFU researchers for bridging grants, **research personnel emergency grants**, and (non-international) travel grants. Over the past year, **\$50,000** of CTEF expenditures were made in this category—delivering small-scale critical funds to researchers 'just-in-time'. Prior to the revision of the CTEF ToR, these activities were supported through the University Priority Fund, the source of which is no longer available. These funds are also used to top up Institutional SSHRC grants to support **Social Sciences and Humanities** research proposals that have met the agency's threshold for funding but were not funded due to agency budget shortfalls.

2.6 COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Community-engaged scholarship and Knowledge Mobilization are critical to the process of the research life cycle, from curiosity to discovery, to ideation, creation and invention, and dissemination of research for impact in society. Over the last fiscal year, \$15,250 from CTEF was used to support the [Knowledge Mobilization](#) initiative hosted by the SFU Library.

3.0 CTEF EXPENDITURE PLAN

3.1. EXISTING COMMITMENTS AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY

The CTEF earned income for 2022/23 (FY 2023) is expected to be approximately \$3 million. In addition, there is approximately \$1.27 million carried-forward from previous years.

3.2. NEW PROJECTS OR PLANS

In FY 2023, there are continued plans to increase seed funds to support growth to SFU's research funding success rates, particularly in the Tri-Agency competitions. In addition, our strategic priorities and opportunities includes support for the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) as a new SFU core facility along with continued support for the Quantum Algorithms Institute. A suite of research awards is also planned, to promote and celebrate successful research faculty members and trainees.

The [next Strategic Research Plan](#) (SRP) is currently undergoing community consultation and will be launched in 2023. The SRP will have new goals and objectives which will change how CTEF is spent in the 2023-2024 and beyond. As a result, about 10% of CTEF capacity is unallocated in the plan below.

3.3. EXPENDITURE PLAN BY TOR CATEGORY

Table 5. Projected CTEF Spending

Category	2022-2023	2023-2024
Strategic Priorities and Opportunities	1,576,070	1,621,000
Student and Postdoctoral Support	902,795	872,795
Research Equipment and Facilities	84,625	85,417
Seed Funds for Research	155,000	90,000
Community-Engaged Scholarship	8,000	60,000
Total	\$2,726,490	\$2,729,212

3.3.1 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

This category includes: the Public Knowledge Project's transition to a university core facility, strategic startup grants (Quantum Algorithms renovations), the Distinguished University Professors program, innovation activities, and prior commitments.

3.3.2 STUDENT AND POSTDOCTORAL SUPPORT

Student support is budgeted at \$420,000 for undergraduate student research awards, \$353,795 for Graduate Fellowships, and \$129,000 for Postdoctoral Fellowships during the 2023 fiscal year.

3.3.3 RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

This category includes support for SFU's Core Facilities program, facilities and equipment upgrades, special equipment, new research institutes, and matching funds for Canada Foundation for Innovation and Western Economic Diversification grants.

3.3.4 SEED FUNDS FOR RESEARCH

This category includes funding for the partnership with the City of Burnaby to create the Civic Innovation Lab Society.

3.3.5 COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIPS AND KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

This category includes support for CIHR grant submission, An Indigenous Gathering at Dohad, led by Alexandra King.

VISIT WWW.SFU.CA/RESEARCH TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RESEARCH AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY