

# QUARTERLY REPORT

## Reconciliation at SFU

SFU

SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD



Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales speaking at the SFU Reconciliation Breakfast

SUMMER 2018

## Background

The SFU Aboriginal Reconciliation Council (SFU-ARC) engaged in discussions about how the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will be addressed at the University. The final report, *Walk This Path With Us*, was presented during a ceremonial event on October 16, 2017 at SFU's Burnaby campus. The ceremony, rooted in Coast Salish Indigenous tradition, celebrated and witnessed the work of everyone who contributed. SFU has committed \$9M toward projects to promote reconciliation within the SFU community. The real work begins now as the University begins implementing the report's 34 calls to action.

In addition to the important reconciliation and decolonization work being done at SFU by various individuals and departments, this Quarterly Report summarizes the progress on the report's 34 calls to action specifically from April – July 2018. The SFU Reconciliation Working Group\* will continue to report out on a quarterly basis and will also produce an annual report.

*"The process of reconciliation is one of the great national undertakings of our time, and affords us an opportunity to be part of a generation that helps to right the wrongs of the past and to produce a brighter future for all Canadians."*

— SFU President, Andrew Petter



# QUARTERLY REPORT

## ARC Clusters

SUMMER 2018



Marcia Guno, Director, at the opening of the ISC which is now being expanded.

### CLUSTER 1

#### Safe and Welcoming Indigenous Spaces

##### INDIGENOUS STUDENT CENTRE EXPANSION PROJECT\*\*

To support the expansion of the Indigenous Student Centre (ISC), work is underway to design the space. Meetings were held in May and June with Bill Nelson, Project Services Manager, Campus Planning and Development; Ian Abercrombie, Director, Campus Planning and Development; Eugenie Ko, Director Administration, Student Services; Marcia Guno, Director, ISC; and Gail Hirsch, Associate Director, ISC.

Indigenous student needs, such as a quiet study area, a common room suitable to accommodate cultural activities for large groups and continued safe access to the space, were prioritized. Preliminary drawings were reviewed and discussed to confirm modifications to better fit the needs identified by ISC staff. This is a preliminary planning process. The planning group will continue to meet to draft a preliminary ISC expansion floorplan. Once a suitable space expansion is agreed upon, the ISC will host a town hall meeting with ISC students to present the expanded floorplan to Indigenous students for their input and recommendations.

CONTACT: Marcia Guno > [marcia\\_guno@sfu.ca](mailto:marcia_guno@sfu.ca)

##### ART CLUSTER GROUP

In support of cluster 1, a group of experts and those passionate about art, have come together to work towards examining current Indigenous art work and changes that can be made to SFU spaces across its three campuses. The group is currently working on a terms of reference. The group includes the following faculty/staff:

- Melanie O'Brian, Director of SFU Galleries
- June Scudeler, Shadbolt Fellow and Professor in First Nations Studies & SFU Galleries, Tenure Track in First Nations Studies and Gender Studies
- Deanna Reder, Chair of First Nations Studies (FNS)
- Elizabeth Starr, Campus Planner
- Sophie McCall, English Professor
- Bryan Myles, Director of Bill Reid Centre and MA SIAT Student
- Gerald Gongos, Campus Architect
- Jessica McMann, MFA Student
- Karrmen Crey, Communications Professor

For more information and to get involved

CONTACT: Melanie O'Brian > [melanie\\_obrian@sfu.ca](mailto:melanie_obrian@sfu.ca)



A wall hanging by Indigenous artist, Mia Hunt, with William Lindsay.  
PHOTO: Duane Woods

### CLUSTER 2

#### Curriculum Innovation and Indigenization

##### TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTRE UPDATE

The Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) supports faculty members in their teaching practice and their efforts to foster cultural awareness and sensitivity. They are in the midst of their own journey of exploration, decolonization, and reconciliation. TLC spaces now include artwork by and of Indigenous peoples along with maps showing Indigenous lands in Canada, and all TLC staff now acknowledge First Nations traditional territories in emails and correspondence. In weekly learning circles they explore what decolonization and reconciliation means. They are also learning the importance of ceremony and the changes it brings to the way they work together and with others. TLC staff participated in the National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations at SFU on June 21, and Gary George from the OAP office recently provided TLC staff with a tour of Burnaby Mountain to share Indigenous history and traditional knowledge. Next up is a drum-making workshop for TLC staff.

As an initiative that will support faculty, the TLC will be rolling out a grant program that a) focuses on Indigeneity, collaboration, and the sharing of knowledge, and b) supports Indigenous and non-Indigenous faculty members with their initiatives towards decolonizing and Indigenizing the curriculum. The planning for this grant program, including establishing a representative advisory committee and hiring an Associate Director for Indigenous Initiatives, is in progress. The TLC will be announcing calls for proposals in September.

CONTACT: Brad Johnson, Director, TLC, > [bfjohnso@sfu.ca](mailto:bfjohnso@sfu.ca)

*"Throughout our work we continue to consult with members of SFU's Indigenous community. Each and every person we have worked with has been incredibly supportive and generous in helping us on our journey. Thank you!"*

—Brad Johnson

Director, Teaching and Learning Centre



Gary George, community relations officer with the Office for Aboriginal Peoples, leads members of the TLC on a forest walk.

##### **DECOLONIZING TEACHING: An Integrated Seminar Series and Grant Program (DTSS) Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines (ISTLD)\*\***

This grant program is focused on faculty development for decolonizing teaching. Faculty members participating in the DTSS: are introduced to/or deepen their knowledge base of the colonial underpinnings of Canada's history, discuss the implications for teaching, including their intersection with disciplinary knowledge, and facilitating student discussion related to them; craft a project proposal for implementing and evaluating the changes they wish to make to their teaching; and receive feedback from fellow seminar participants and facilitators on their designs. The first iteration of this pilot program ran from February to June 2018.

Feedback from participants has been positive. All have requested that the program be extended so that particular topics may be explored more deeply and so they can continue to support one another as they progress on their projects. Before the facilitation team can plan a possible second cohort, they will need to finish unpacking the data collected from the initial pilot as well as the proposed extension. What is clear from an initial review of the data collected so far is that making the kind of transformative change entailed by decolonizing teaching requires considerable and sustained effort on the part of faculty. Both time and support—from one another and the facilitation team—are necessary in order to deepen their knowledge base, develop their capacity to see evidence of colonialism within their practice and institutional structures, and redesign their courses and programs to push back against that colonialism.

CONTACT: Sheri Fabian > [sfabian@sfu.ca](mailto:sfabian@sfu.ca)



# QUARTERLY REPORT

## ARC Clusters

SUMMER 2018



### CROSS-CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

To support the Indigenization of curriculum, cross-cultural training, prepared by William G. Lindsay (Cree-Stoney), is available to SFU staff, faculty, and students.

Work on other workshops dealing with Indigenous Awareness and other forms of cross-cultural training is underway. William is working with the TLC to make some of these workshops available online. The first workshop entitled, "In the Context of Colonialism: The Indian Act, the Residential School System, and Reconciliation - A Primer," a 2.5 hour presentation, was facilitated by William at SFU Vancouver.

The presentation was well attended and well received. William provided a compelling and comprehensive overview of the colonial history of Canada and the implications over time for Indigenous peoples.

CONTACT: William Lindsay › [wlindsay@sfu.ca](mailto:wlindsay@sfu.ca)

*"It is a great pleasure facilitating these workshops for my university colleagues. It takes me back to my long ago full-time teaching days. The workshop on residential schools can be quite draining as my family went to these schools. But it is getting easier. And the appreciation expressed by workshop attendees is always good for the spirit and soul."*

—William Lindsay, Special Advisor on Aboriginal Affairs

*"There was unanimous agreement that we all have a better sense of what reconciliation is about and how we may be able to contribute."*

—Laurie Anderson, Executive Director, SFU Vancouver

### SAN'YAS: INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SAFETY TRAINING

Human Resources has received very positive feedback about the San'Yas: Indigenous Cultural Safety Training program that they have made available to all SFU staff. The training is provided through the Provincial Health

Services Authority and is a unique online program designed to increase knowledge, enhance self-awareness, and strengthen the skills of those who work directly and indirectly with Aboriginal people. The online modules are dynamic, interactive and self-paced over a 6-week period. To date, 180 SFU employees have registered for or completed the program in 2018. HR requested and received ARC funding to support the training for 500 SFU employees. See more information [here](#).

CONTACT: Tara Black, Director, People Development › [tara\\_black@sfu.ca](mailto:tara_black@sfu.ca)

*"We're delighted with the interest staff have shown in the course and with the feedback of those that have taken it. We're hearing people say that it has laid an excellent foundation into the history and culture of Indigenous people, has opened their eyes to the needs and challenges going forward, and that they are interested in furthering their awareness and understanding. Because of the demand we've been working directly with the folks at PHSA to expand the number of offerings in order to extend the invitation to those faculty and students that are also interested."*

—Sandi de Domenico

Associate Vice-President, Human Resources

### PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Nicole M. Muir, M.A., B.Ed. has developed and will be teaching a new course in the department of Psychology entitled, "Indigenous Peoples and Psychology. This course will be offered in the Fall 2018 at SFU Harbour Centre and Spring 2019 at SFU Burnaby. It features a range of topics

such as Indigenous research methods, colonialism (past and present), Historical Trauma, discrimination and the justice system. Nicole has over 15 years of experience as a

frontline worker for organizations such as Anishnawbe Health Toronto and Native Child and Family Services of Toronto. Nicole identifies as Métis/Anishnawbe and is currently a PhD student in Forensic Psychology at SFU. The ARC Working Group\* co-facilitators are working with the Psychology Department to continue to explore ways to enhance Indigenization (curriculum, teaching, space etc).

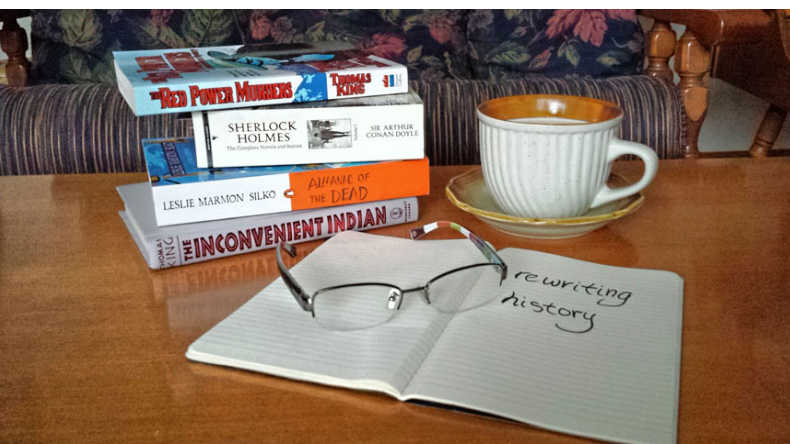


Nicole M. Muir, M.A., B.Ed

### GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES – INDIGENOUS THEMED PHOTO CONTEST

Over the summer Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) put a call out for photo submissions for their Epic Summer Photo Contest. The photo contest accepted submissions under three different themes, *Show Us Your Research*, *Decolonizing the Academy* and *Show Us Your Home*. Graduate and Postdoctoral students were eligible to submit under all three themes. As this goes to publication, submissions for [Photo Contest #2: Decolonizing the Academy](#) have recently been accepted.

As SFU continues a dialogue and participates in on-going acts of reconciliation under ARC's recommendations, the Graduate and Postdoctoral studies department have themed their second photo contest as, *Decolonizing the Academy*. They invite participation from all current and future self-identified Indigenous graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and allies to submit photos. Indigenous or Aboriginal as defined by the constitution of Canada includes First Nations (status or non-status), Métis or Inuit. The theme provides an opportunity for Indigenous visual storytellers across all three campuses to be recognized for their talent. This can be inspired by research interests, art, activism, relationship to the land, ceremony, community, everyday life, music and cultural practices. The SFU Reconciliation Working Group\* has supported this group and will provide further opportunities for engagement in this contest by sharing the images on [SFU's Reconciliation website](#) as well as the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website.



Previous contest entry, entitled "Decolonizing Power"

PHOTO: Ashley Morford, Department of English



SFU's Information Booth at Surrey's National Indigenous Peoples Day.

### SFU CEREMONIES & EVENTS AWARDED WITH THE 2018 PRIX D'EXCELLENCE AWARD

We are pleased to share that SFU Ceremonies & Events was recently honoured with the 2018 Prix D'Excellence silver award in the Best Special Event category for its reconciliation witnessing ceremony last fall. The event was organized by the Ceremonies & Events team together with participation from ARC Committee Members, the Office for Aboriginal Peoples (OAP), and community partners from the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. Congratulations!

### PARTNERSHIP

#### THE SURREY URBAN INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (SUILC)

[SUILC](#) made a presentation to the SFU Surrey Community Advisory Committee (a group of Surrey government, business and community leaders co-chaired by SFU's President) on the need and interest to develop programs and partnerships with SFU. The presentation laid the groundwork for SFU and SUILC to explore collaborative opportunities. On June 21st, SFU's Office of Aboriginal Peoples, SFU Surrey faculty, staff and student volunteers activated an information booth at Surrey's National Indigenous Peoples Day event in Holland Park. SFU was honoured to be invited to participate in this annual celebration.



# QUARTERLY REPORT

## ARC Clusters

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### CLUSTER 3

#### Student Pathways and Supports

##### ABORIGINAL PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

An Aboriginal Pathways Committee has been struck in response to the ARC Report & Calls to Action and has been tasked with envisioning a process that will articulate an institutional framework that interconnects Indigenous Pathways through SFU.

Committee members include 3 Deans, Indigenous scholars, staff, and student participation. They are tasked to develop a recommendation on how to make progress on 3 primary foci: 1) reviewing the previous Aboriginal University Transition Program (AUTP), 2) exploring best or promising practices from elsewhere, and 3) developing a renewed program and pathways for Indigenous learners at SFU.

Dr. Michelle Pidgeon has been identified as the potential project lead on this exciting initiative and more information will be shared in the next Reconciliation Quarterly Report.

##### INTERIM ABORIGINAL UNIVERSITY PREPARATION PROGRAM (IAUPP)

SFU's IAUPP helps Aboriginal students pave the way for a successful transition to undergraduate studies. This program offers first-year academic credit courses that integrate humanities and social sciences with Indigenous perspectives. The IAUPP also offer literacy and quantitative classes (non-academic credit). Upon successful completion, students are granted admission to SFU. The first cohort will finish the program in Summer 2018; a second cohort of 18 students start in Fall 2018.

CONTACT: [iaupp@sfu.ca](mailto:iaupp@sfu.ca)

### CLUSTER 4

#### Administration, Hiring and Project Implementation

##### ARC IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT MANAGER

The hiring process is underway for the ARC Implementation Project Manager.







Congratulations to the Indigenous graduates who celebrated at the 2018 Honouring Feast.

## INDIGENOUS HONOURING FEAST—SPRING CONVOCATION

SFU is committed to conducting ceremonies and events respecting Indigenous protocols and practices. On June 13th, the ISC, supported by the President's Office, External Relations and Ceremonies and Events, hosted an Honouring Feast for Indigenous graduates and their families to celebrate their achievements. This event occurs annually during the Spring Convocation for all Indigenous graduates from the past year, with this year including a record-number of participants. Due to increased support for the event, a larger space was able to be utilized to accommodate the increased attendance.



ABOVE: Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales welcoming SFU staff/faculty/students.

RIGHT: Andrew Petter, President and Peter Keller, VP Academic & Provost.



## SFU RECONCILIATION BREAKFAST

On June 13th, the SFU Reconciliation Working group hosted a breakfast to celebrate SFU's commitment to reconciliation and welcome all Indigenous staff/faculty. The breakfast invited faculty, staff and students to learn about initiatives and progress. Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales, an elder from Squamish nation welcomed over 100 staff, faculty and students.



### NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY AT SFU BURNABY

The Office of Aboriginal Peoples hosted a 100 drums event at SFU's Burnaby campus on National Indigenous Peoples Day. Participants learned a basic welcome song and the event was open to anyone who wanted to try their hand at drumming.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Gary George and 100 drums event participants.

Much more is happening with Reconciliation at SFU. To stay up to date with the latest news, events, and programs, please visit us at [www.sfu.ca/reconciliation](http://www.sfu.ca/reconciliation)

If you or your department is engaged in Reconciliation work, send us your stories and pictures, to: [sfuarc@sfu.ca](mailto:sfuarc@sfu.ca)



LEFT TO RIGHT: Richard Vedan, Ron Johnston, and Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales at the SFU Reconciliation Breakfast.

#### \* SFU RECONCILIATION WORKING GROUP:

Ron Johnston  
Pro-Tem (Acting Director)  
Office of Aboriginal Peoples  
ARC Co-Facilitator

Sobhana Jaya-Madhavan  
Associate Vice-President  
External Relations  
ARC Co-Facilitator

Joanne Curry  
Vice-President  
External Relations

Peter Keller  
Vice-President  
Academic and Provost

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