

MOVING IDEAS INTO ACTION

Simon Fraser University engages researchers, staff and students with our communities and partners to solve societal challenges through innovation and entrepreneurship.

An aerial photograph of the Simon Fraser University campus, showing various buildings, a sports field, and surrounding greenery. In the background, there are snow-capped mountains and a large body of water.

**WE ARE
CANADA'S ENGAGED
UNIVERSITY**

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SFU was founded in 1965 with a distinct west-coast spirit. While maintaining a spirit that challenges conventions, celebrates new ideas and embraces unconventional partnerships, we have grown into one of Canada's top research-intensive universities. SFU now hosts more than 35,000 students in eight faculties, spanning a broad range of fundamental, interdisciplinary and applied research topics and is consistently ranked as Canada's top comprehensive university. SFU has three vibrant campuses in British Columbia's largest municipalities—Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey—and deep roots in partner communities throughout the province and around the world.

WE ARE CANADA'S ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

We engage with communities, organizations and partners to create, share and embrace knowledge that improves life and generates real change. Our commitment to engagement informs how we mobilize knowledge and further our contributions to local communities, across Canada and around the world. By creating and mobilizing knowledge, nurturing partnerships, and harnessing the power of research and innovation, engagement at SFU becomes an instrument for change.

WHAT IS SFU INNOVATES?

SFU Innovates is the university's innovation strategy with a mission to engage SFU researchers, staff and students with our communities and partners to solve societal challenges through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Based on SFU's vision to be Canada's engaged university, SFU Innovates builds on our dynamic culture and seeks to strengthen SFU as Canada's academic leader in innovation.

SFU INNOVATES IS MOVING IDEAS INTO ACTION BY:

- Championing the pursuit of innovation.
- Creating a supportive environment that allows for innovation to thrive.
- Facilitating partnerships and relationship building.
- Providing multi-way paths to navigate innovation opportunities.

SFU Innovates brings together one of the world's most comprehensive continuums of programming and resources for entrepreneurs and changemakers—from interdisciplinary learning, early stage ideation and venture mentorship, to helping companies scale up. SFU offers programming at every stage of the innovation journey.

SFU INNOVATES IS BUILT ON FOUR INTERCONNECTED PILLARS



INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

- Bridging the gap to create innovations that benefit society.



INCUBATION AND ACCELERATION

- Transforming ideas made in the classroom, lab and community into ventures that scale.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Developing a mindset that applies creativity, adaptability and collaboration to solve problems that matter.



SOCIAL INNOVATION

- Developing emerging leaders and solutions for a sustainable, just and healthy community.

INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

**BRIDGING THE GAP TO CREATE
INNOVATIONS THAT BENEFIT SOCIETY.**

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AT SFU

SFU works with industry and community organizations to identify research and co-innovation partnerships. SFU engages with stakeholders across academia, industry, communities and government to disseminate transformative ideas for the benefit of society. SFU works with researchers to protect and commercialize their technologies and innovations. We connect external parties to IP licensing opportunities and research solutions.

DUGAN O'NEIL

**VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL,
PRO TEM, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

“SFU has a long-standing history of working with government, business and non-profit groups to contribute our innovations and big data capabilities for real-world impact. SFU’s industry partnerships exemplify our dedication to bridging the gap to create innovations that benefit society.”



DON ESTEP

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF CANSSI

“Simon Fraser University is working closely with the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute to support our unique model of building multi-disciplinary collaborations with statistical and data science leaders to facilitate new linkages among researchers in academia, industry and government. By working with SFU, we are furthering our goal of being Canada’s catalyst for discovery and innovation in the statistical and data sciences.”

BIG DATA AT SFU

SFU is building on a decade of leadership in the field of big data, investing in advanced research computing to accelerate scholarship and innovation by bringing new data tools and resources to all members of our campus community. SFU supports the growth of data-intensive research across all eight faculties to raise awareness of big data in every field of study and mobilize knowledge for real world impact. SFU’s academic programs and strategic partnerships harness the power of big data to contribute to a competitive economy and the development of skills and expertise in our work force.

4D LABS

4D LABS is SFU’s state-of-the-art Core Facility for materials science and engineering. This open-access facility offers fully customized research and development programs for researchers, startups and industry. 4D LABS offers over 28,000 square feet of research space, a class 100 clean room and over 100 characterization and fabrication tools—all under one roof. 4D LABS works with industry clients from a wide range of sectors, including alternative energy, clean technology and biomedical. The interaction between industry, researchers and 4D LABS’ material experts has fostered an environment that has successfully transformed research into world-class companies like Nanotech Security Corp., SWITCH Materials and Ionomr Innovations Inc.

CLINT LANDROCK

CLINT LANDROCK, CTO, NANOTECH SECURITY

“4D LABS is a leader in the research and development of nano-fabrication and advanced nano-structures. The presence of this advanced facility in British Columbia allows innovative companies like us to achieve global success while still maintaining local research and development in cutting-edge technology.”

INCUBATION AND ACCELERATION

TRANSFORMING IDEAS MADE IN THE CLASSROOM, LAB AND COMMUNITY INTO VENTURES THAT SCALE.

COAST CAPITAL SAVINGS VENTURE CONNECTION®

The Venture Connection innovation hub and incubator supports early stage entrepreneurship—from food trucks to fuel cells—cultivating entrepreneurs throughout the SFU community. Venture Connection engages with students, faculty, staff and recent alumni through a continuum of programs—from ideas to growth. Just some of these programs include:

Mentor Meet

A flagship program at all SFU campuses where entrepreneurs can sign up for time and guidance with seasoned mentors from diverse sectors and backgrounds.

SPARK

A self-guided validation process for ideas and ventures.

Ignite

A customized later-stage incubation program with a dedicated mentor helping develop both the business and the entrepreneur.

Refuel

A program for SFU alumni and serial entrepreneurs to receive support and opportunities to re-engage and thrive in the SFU community.

SFU VENTURELABS®

SFU VentureLabs is a world class science and technology accelerator based in Vancouver, B.C. Its mission is to scale up technology companies by connecting them with the talent, research capacity, entrepreneurial expertise, capital and international expansion opportunities needed to accelerate growth. VentureLabs' partners include leading universities, government, international industry and investment sector partners who collaborate in supporting innovation acceleration and scale up of world class Canadian technology businesses.

VIRGINIA BALCOM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SFU VENTURELABS®

“SFU VentureLabs helps technology innovators and entrepreneurs bring new solutions to market. Scaling up their businesses is critical to British Columbia’s and Canada’s economic growth. VentureLabs supports the pipeline of companies, from creating ideas to developing business plans and building products, to scaling revenue and expanding to international markets.”

VentureLabs has been awarded as the Top North American Challenger in 2017-18 by UBI Global, the world's most extensive benchmark study of university-linked business incubators and accelerators. In 2019, VentureLabs received \$3 million in funding from Western Economic Diversification Canada to establish a scale-up and soft-landing centre.

VentureLabs collaborates with our community of award-winning technology startups and partners for the creation of world-class companies through programs such as:

Incubate Innovate Network of Canada (I-INC)

An innovation and business acceleration network founded by SFU, Ryerson University and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. This pan-Canadian business accelerator network connects partner universities' strengths in technology research, innovation and commercialization in a nationally and internationally linked accelerator network that drives science and technology-based innovation, productivity and job creation.

China Canada Commercialization & Acceleration Network (C2-CAN)

A network that supports commercialization of advanced technologies originating from China and Canada. C2-CAN connects technology innovators and entrepreneurial leaders with the people, programs and resources needed to accelerate commercialization and venture growth in both countries.

ZONE STARTUPS INDIA

Zone Startups India is a collaboration between BSE Institute Ltd. (a subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange), SFU, Ryerson University and Ryerson Futures Inc., to create the first Canadian-led international incubator and accelerator in India. Zone Startups India is located in the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai, and offers state-of-the-art workspace, mentorship and market development.

CHRISTINA TOLKAMP

FOUNDER, CARECREW

“There are a lot of different entrepreneurship programs, but what sets Venture Connection apart is the welcoming and collaborative SFU community. With the help of Venture Connection, we were able to turn an idea into reality, thanks to their mentors, workshops and partner organizations.”



INNOVATION FOR GOOD

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DEVELOPING A MINDSET THAT APPLIES CREATIVITY, ADAPTABILITY AND COLLABORATION TO SOLVE PROBLEMS THAT MATTER.

CHARLES CHANG CERTIFICATE IN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Open to students in any faculty at SFU, the Charles Chang Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship develops future entrepreneurs using the power of learning by doing. As students taking the certificate learn and apply market-based approaches to innovation and venture development, they also cultivate connections between peers, faculty members and experienced entrepreneurs. Equipped with the skills and acumen to create, collaborate and adapt, students will be ready to navigate a world that is rapidly changing.

At the heart of the certificate is the interplay between new ideas and different perspectives. SFU's Beedie School of Business delivers this certificate in collaboration with the university's other faculties, including applied sciences; communication, art and technology; environment; science; health sciences; and the political science department. RADIUS SFU and Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection also provide support.

INVENTION TO INNOVATION PROGRAM

The Invention to Innovation (i2I) program provides frameworks and skills for research scientists to commercialize their inventions. It also prepares research scientists to contribute to new product development and commercialization in industry. This entrepreneurship program is designed to help scientists and engineers think about the complex commercialization challenge around their invention in the marketplace.

Taught by leading faculty from SFU's Beedie School of Business, the program is for students whose research could contribute to high-potential economic impact and social innovation. The program is open to graduate students, post-doctoral students, faculty and recent alumni of SFU and the University of British Columbia graduate programs in science, engineering, health and environmental sciences.

Scientists and engineers who are advancing platform technologies in sectors such as nanotech, biotech, cleantech and advanced materials, will particularly benefit from this program. Students will learn skills such as opportunity assessment, market prioritization, innovation management, profiting from uncertainty, finance, leadership and how to develop and validate a business model.

ELICIA MAINE

**PROFESSOR IN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, SFU BEEDIE
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMERCIALIZATION AT SFU BEEDIE
SPECIAL ADVISOR ON INNOVATION TO SFU'S VICE-PRESIDENT,
RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL**

"80% of PhD students in science and engineering in Canada won't go into a career in academia. However, small and medium-sized enterprises would employ our scientists, but require them to know something about new product development. That's what we aim to do with this program."

SARAH LUBIK

DIRECTOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

"SFU's radical history and culture of coming together across disciplines for social change has allowed us to create the most inclusive and comprehensive continuum of entrepreneurship support in the country. This 'for every faculty by every faculty' approach helps us unleash the entrepreneurial mindset within everyone and create the interdisciplinary teams required to address the world's most pressing issues and opportunities."

SHAWN SMITH

DIRECTOR, RADIUS SFU

“We call RADIUS SFU ‘a place for radical doers’, and while helping students become better innovators we are exploring how business can—and should—be leveraged for social impact. In many ways, the students already get it. We are just the conduit.”



SOCIAL INNOVATION

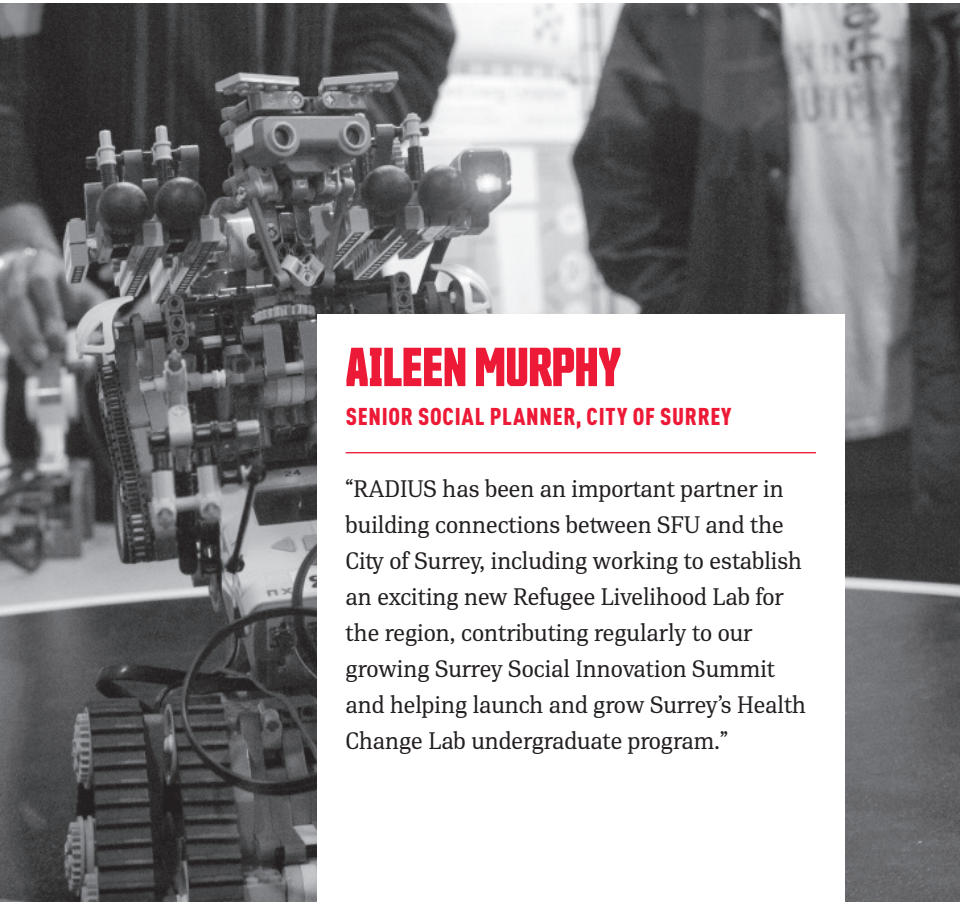
**DEVELOPING EMERGING LEADERS
AND SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE,
JUST AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY.**

ASHOKA U CHANGEMAKER CAMPUS DESIGNATION

The Ashoka U Changemaker Campus designation is the world's leading designation for social innovation in higher education. As the first institution to be designated in B.C., SFU is committed to empowering our students—and all university stakeholders—to be changemakers. By firmly embedding changemaking into our culture and operations, SFU has become an internationally recognized leader and force for social impact, building strategic partnerships to propel this work both locally and globally.

RADIUS (RADical Ideas, Useful to Society) SFU

RADIUS SFU is a social innovation hub based out of SFU's Beedie School of Business, and located in the heart of Vancouver at the Charles Chang Innovation Centre. At RADIUS, students, social innovators and entrepreneurs are collectively working towards a transformed economy that is just, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.



AILEEN MURPHY

SENIOR SOCIAL PLANNER, CITY OF SURREY

“RADIUS has been an important partner in building connections between SFU and the City of Surrey, including working to establish an exciting new Refugee Livelihood Lab for the region, contributing regularly to our growing Surrey Social Innovation Summit and helping launch and grow Surrey’s Health Change Lab undergraduate program.”

All of RADIUS' programming drives toward building an economy that is more just, dynamic, sustainable and resilient. The variety of programming includes:

SFU Student Opportunities

RADIUS helps SFU students engage in social entrepreneurship and innovation through programs such as SFU Change Lab; the Social Innovation Seed Fund in partnership with Embark Sustainability; paid internship opportunities, competitions, events and workshops.

Social Innovation Labs and Ventures

RADIUS provides social innovation lab and venture incubation programming in four thematic areas: Refugee Livelihood Lab, Health Promotion Lab, First Peoples Enterprise Accelerator Program, and Future of Work Lab.

Professional Development

The RADIUS Fellowship is Metro Vancouver's preeminent professional development opportunity for top emerging social innovators from across the region. Fellows build relationships with their peers, develop personally and professionally and tap into the broader social innovation and social entrepreneurship ecosystem. RADIUS offers customized workshops and training for professionals and institutions to develop new ways of thinking and working in service of positive social change. The RADIUS Hub is a shared workspace in the Charles Chang Innovation Centre where social innovators and entrepreneurs can rent space, participate in learning opportunities and grow their network.

ENGAGE WITH SFU INNOVATES

INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Are you interested in learning more about SFU's areas of expertise and facilities that support innovation and research?
- Can SFU's expertise in research and innovation help solve your problems?
- Are you a startup that would like to take your venture to the next level?

RESEARCHERS

- Are you looking for funding opportunities?
- Are you interested in co-innovation with industry and community partners?

STUDENTS

- Are you interested in entrepreneurship or social changemaking?
- Do you have an idea or venture that you would like to build or explore?

CONNECT WITH US AT
WWW.SFU.CA/RESEARCH/SFU-INNOVATES



THINK. ENGAGE. CHANGE.

SFU
INNOVATES

CANADA'S ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

Find out more at www.sfu.ca