

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES:

THE SFU SURREY-TD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTRE





ANDREW PETTER

SFU PRESIDENT - MAY 2013

“When the team at SFU came to TD with the idea to create a Community Engagement Centre, it was an opportunity to support teaching, research and outreach in a way that strengthens ties between the university and the community that surrounds and sustains it... The centre will connect children, adults and local organizations with SFU students, faculty and staff in meaningful ways that will enhance the quality of life for residents of the community.”

FRANK MCKENNA

DEPUTY CHAIR, TD BANK GROUP - MAY 2013

“We are proud to open this new centre in Surrey, one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in Canada. At TD, it's important to us to give back to organizations that make a difference in the communities where our employees live and work.”

Thank you for partnering with SFU to create more connected communities in one of Canada's most diverse and fastest growing cities.

Through your investment, the SFU Surrey-TD Community Engagement Centre (SFU Surrey-TD CEC) plays a dynamic role in bringing citizens and organizations together to improve lives and strengthen neighbourhoods throughout Surrey, B.C. Together, TD Bank and SFU are fostering connections and generating ideas that contribute to the community's health, vibrancy and resilience.

We share your belief that good things happen when people come together. Since inception, the centre has teamed up with more than 100 partners to engage 14,000+ children, youth, families and newcomers in numerous educational initiatives and public programming.

From inspiring early learners to math-mentoring, from building pathways to education and employment to encouraging dialogue on how to become a more inclusive city, we empower people to thrive. That also includes more than 1,000 SFU students—the next generation of community-engaged

leaders—who have contributed more than 30,000 hours through experiential learning to support our activities.

TD's investment has enabled this important work to take place, and SFU is very grateful for the financial support. To achieve maximum impact, SFU has been thoughtful in its approach to expenses, ensuring that 97% of TD funding has been allocated to direct implementation of programs and knowledge sharing.

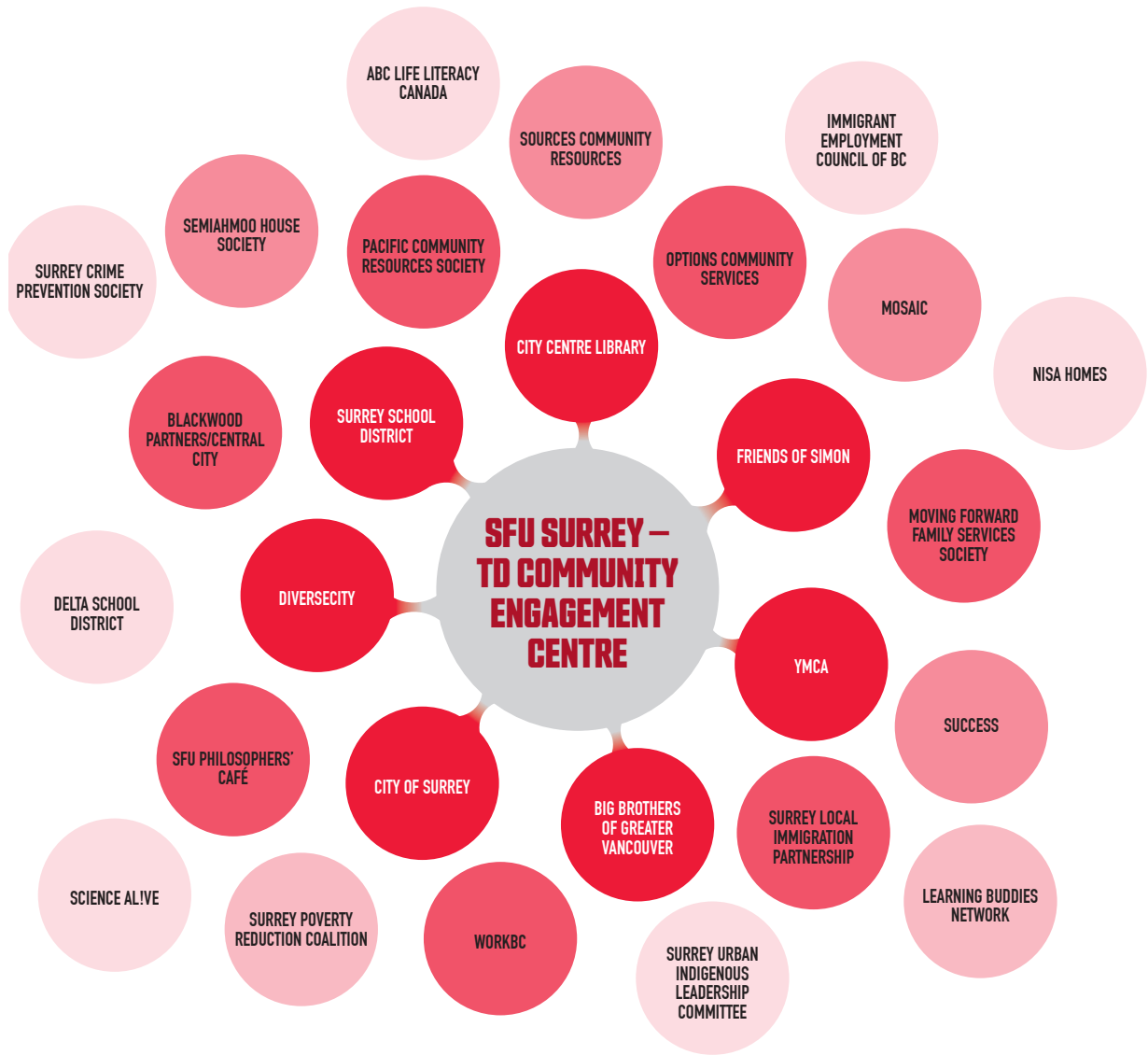
Together, through the power of learning and meaningful participation, we are growing further capacity for community members to address complex issues and shape a brighter future for Surrey and beyond.

In this report, we are pleased to highlight the difference that TD's exceptional support has made to engage the energy of people of all ages to build stronger, more inclusive local communities.

Thank you for your inspiring commitment.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We believe that partnerships are at the heart of community-university engagement activities that result in meaningful outcomes for everyone involved. The below graphic showcases a select few of the partnerships we have developed over the years.



NUMBER OF YEARS OUR PARTNERS HAVE CONNECTED TO THE SFU SURREY - TD CEC



This infographic includes a selection of partnership examples. The SFU Surrey - TD CEC has worked with over 100 partners since 2012.

PARTNERING FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT



The SFU Surrey–TD CEC, as a place-based entity, provides an opportunity to engage with the local community in an authentic way, where we see ourselves as an integrated part of the community.

Through collaboration, sharing of resources and co-creation of ideas and solutions, we partner with people and organizations to navigate a complex, changing environment and build resilience.

These partnerships are at the heart of our activities. We have learned that healthy relationships provide the foundation for effective collaborations that make a positive difference towards a shared purpose. We believe that the approach taken in collaboration activities between community-university partners is directly connected to outcomes that are mutually beneficial, and these principles are core to our work with communities.

The values underpinning our process for partnership development has led to relationships that are reciprocal and sustainable over the long term. Over the past seven years, the SFU Surrey–TD CEC has worked with a diverse array of community organizations, with more than 50% of those partnerships continuing at least three years or more.

Building relationships, developing trust and being responsive to community need enables us to take advantage of short-term opportunities and maximize the impact of longer partnerships. As such, we have a wider reach and add more value in the community than if we were to focus solely on our own programming.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH: INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

The following programs reach children and youth in Surrey ages 0 to 30. These programs are lead or supported by the SFU Surrey –TD CEC, in partnership with community.

(A) EARLY LEARNING FOR FAMILIES (AGES 0-5)

Builds community connection, provides access to resources and reduces barriers to education through a drop-in play-based learning program.

(B) LEARNING BUDDIES (AGES 6-8)

Develops literacy and numeracy skills for children in grades 1-3 through one-on-one tutoring and mentoring.

(C) RACING READERS (AGES 6-10)

Builds literacy, numeracy and physical activity skills among children in grades 2-5 through an interactive tiered-mentorship environment.

(D) HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT (AGES 5-13)

Reduces perceived barriers to higher education by providing a fun and safe trick-or-treating experience for elementary school students in a university setting.

(E) MENTORING WITH MATH (AGES 7-13)

Increases math skills for struggling students in grades 3-7 through a fun and accessible learning environment.

(F) SCIENCE ALIVE (AGES 10-13)

Summer camp for youth to explore science beyond the textbooks through hands-on, interactive discovery.

(G) MEDIA MINDS (AGES 11-13)

Facilitates an easier transition to high-school through film-education and mentorship.

(G) GAME ON! (AGES 11-13)

Develops confidence, health and nutrition skills for school-aged boys.

(H) TUTORING, HOMEWORK AND ENGLISH SUPPORT PROGRAM (AGES 10-14)

Increases academic confidence and facilitates successful settlement and integration for newcomer children in grades 5-9.

(I) YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (AGES 10-18)

Builds the potential of young people so that they have the skills to positively impact the community as a young professional.

(I) CONNECT THROUGH HOMEWORK AND READING (AGES 10-18)

Mentoring and homework support for young English Language learners.

(J) PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION (AGES 13-18)

Helps students graduate from high school and successfully transition into post-secondary education, training or employment.

(J) SOAR SUMMIT (AGES 13-18)

Leadership event to inspire, motivate and encourage youth to live up to their potential.

(J, K) YOUTH INTEGRATION PROGRAM (AGES 13-18 AND 19-24)

Drop-in space for newcomer youth to build relationships, confidence, communication, leadership and employment skills.

(L) RISE YOUTH SETTLEMENT WORKSHOPS (AGES 13-24)

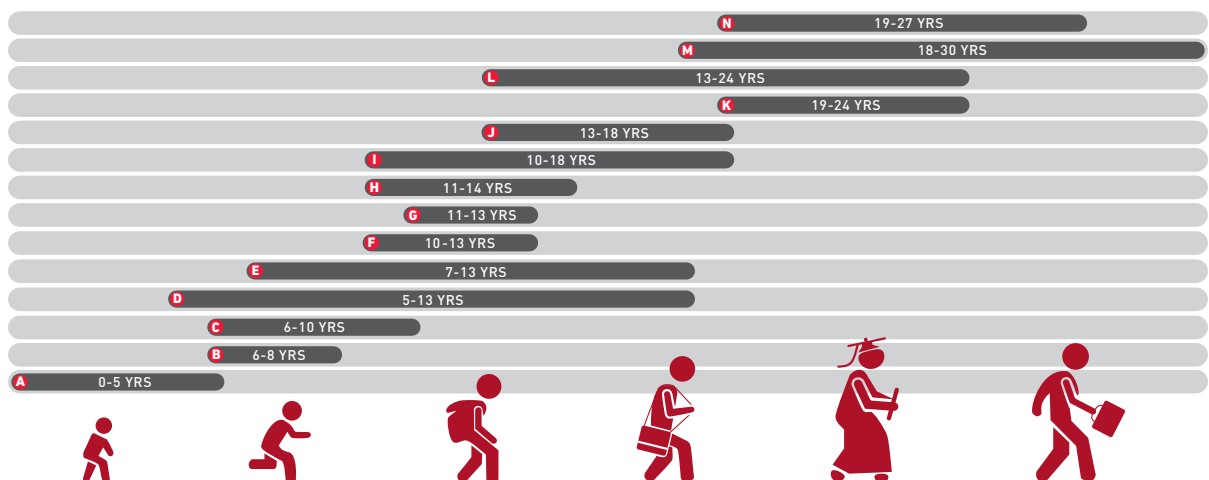
In-depth workshops for newcomer youth to assist them in their settlement journey.

(M) YOUTH MINDFULNESS PROGRAM (AGES 18-30)

Reduces stress, anxiety and depression through psychosocial education and mindfulness techniques.

(N) PLENTY OF THREADS (AGES 19-27)

Connects youth from care with supportive adults in the community for encouraging one-on-one coffee meetings about careers, education, and the future.



AGE RANGE



PREPARING CHILDREN AND YOUTH FOR A BOLD FUTURE

The City of Surrey is a young, diverse municipality growing at a rapid rate. The city settles close to 10,000 new residents each year and is home to more refugees than any other city in British Columbia. According to the 2016 census, 43% of Surrey's population are immigrants and 46% of its residents have a mother tongue language other than English. Over 40% of the population is 19 or under, and Surrey has the largest school district in B.C.

To reflect the strengths, assets and needs of the community through our programming and partnerships, the SFU Surrey-TD CEC focuses on supporting children, youth and newcomers to Canada.

Your investment empowers young lives from ages 0 to 30. By delivering diverse educational, recreational, leadership and arts-based programming, SFU can better connect these individuals to their communities and invigorate their positive social-emotional and academic growth.

Findings from the Human Early Learning Partnership, a collaborative, interdisciplinary research network addressing complex early child development issues, indicate that out-of-school initiatives are proven to further self-esteem and higher academic achievement. In turn, unsupervised after-school time is associated with risky behaviour including violence, substance abuse, injuries and juvenile crime.

TD's gift has enabled the SFU Surrey-TD CEC to deliver impactful out-of-school programming to inspire learning and leadership.

BRETT CAMERON

TEACHER, OLD YALE ROAD ELEMENTARY

"We participate in the SFU Trick or Treating so our students become exposed to higher learning in a friendly and local environment. It is important for our students to see that this level of education is accessible and available in their backyard. Each department we visit helps open the eyes of our students to the diverse opportunities available to them when they graduate high school."

WORKING FOR A HEALTHIER, MORE INCLUSIVE TOMORROW



TD's Ready Commitment provides an inspiring platform to build healthier communities. At the SFU Surrey-TD CEC, we deliver programs and activities aligned with TD's four commitment areas: Financial Security, Connected Communities, Vibrant Planet and Better Health.



FINANCIAL SECURITY

TD has identified that early learning is an important factor in building financial confidence in communities and bridging the education gap between students from different socio-economic backgrounds. At the SFU Surrey–TD CEC, many of our activities focus on early learning, and we reach thousands of children and youth each year in educational after-school programming. SFU's Racing Readers program engages children in grades 2-5 with fun activities that build physical, literacy and numeracy skills, improve social connectedness and decrease perceived barriers to higher education. SFU student staff and volunteers act as mentors and foster companionship, support and learning. Racing Readers operates at two local elementary schools, Newton and Betty Huff Elementary, and reaches approximately 150 participants each year.



JODI KENNETT

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

“Any opportunity we have as a school to introduce something and give our kids an enriching experience, we’re all about, and quite often we’re looking for programs after school to keep our kids here...what we find is that they don’t get involved in a lot of after school activities or extracurricular things...and so that enrichment doesn’t really happen at home or out in the community for most students.”

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

We create opportunities to help people get more involved in local initiatives and, in turn, inspire diversity, equity and inclusion. Since the inception of the centre's Community Ambassador Program, more than 100 people facing barriers to employment have been trained and hired in a variety of roles to support events and conferences at SFU and in the community. The Inclusive City Cafes, meanwhile, are held monthly at the City Centre Library and provide a safe and welcoming space for community members to discuss challenges and opportunities of living in a diverse community.

VIBRANT PLANET

We understand the importance of improving the environment so people and economies can thrive. The Central City Learning Garden is a community-centred learning, social and event space operated by Embark Sustainability Society in conjunction with SFU Surrey, SFU Surrey-TD Community Engagement Centre and Central City. Gardening participants learn how to grow, eat and share food grown in the garden. The initiative also fosters dialogue around food production and security in our rapidly urbanizing community.

BETTER HEALTH

Innovative research, solutions and technology can create more equitable health outcomes for all. This year, the SFU Surrey-TD CEC is supporting the SFU – Fraser Health Research Pitch Day, which aims to build new research collaborations between Fraser Health, SFU and the community. The day features “pitches” related to research, policy and practice, with a priority on patient-oriented project ideas.



VALERIE MALLA

**INCLUSIVE CITY CAFÉ MODERATOR AND
SFU STUDENT**

“It is important to have ‘safe’ places for sympathetic and constructive dialogue about social issues where people know they will not be judged based on their perspectives...we need to allow opposing views to be aired, and to allow for enquiry rather than conclusions.”

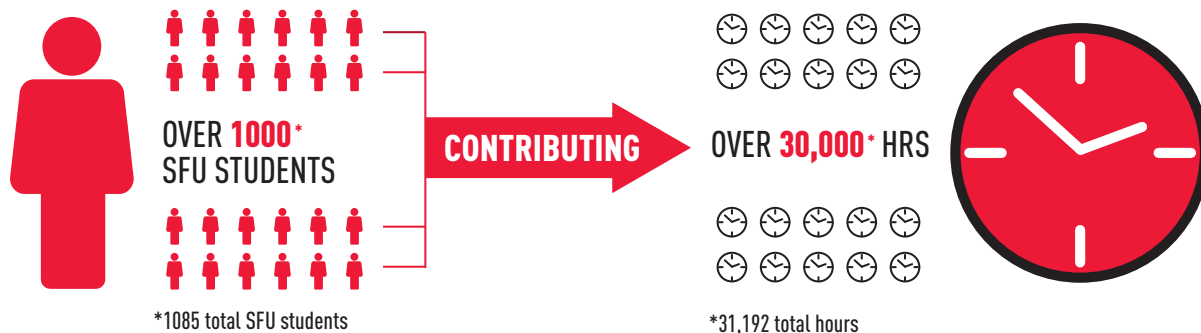
INSPIRING ENGAGED CITIZENS

University students who are involved in community-engaged learning experiences show an increased interest and motivation for future civic participation and action, a greater understanding of social justice issues, higher esteem of their own skills and abilities to make a difference, as well as higher levels of learning.

Through TD's investment in the centre, SFU students can participate in a variety of community-based learning initiatives, from low-barrier one-time volunteer opportunities to year-long paid positions supervising other volunteers. To date, more than 1,000 SFU students have contributed over 30,000 hours to build capacity in the community.

This year, we have added an online training course for students interested in volunteering in the community, set to launch in fall 2019, and received approval of SFU Surrey-TD CEC opportunities for inclusion on the SFU co-curricular record (CCR). The CCR is a university sanctioned document—like a transcript—that tracks, describes and recognizes a student's involvement and contribution in extra-curricular activities that have a connection to their learning and development.

DEVELOPING ENGAGED CITIZENS





CREATING A



KIMMY

RACING READERS VOLUNTEER

“I think seeing the impact that you have on the students in the program...I think that motivated me to get involved and start volunteering in the schools and in classrooms in Surrey.”

BALROOP

RACING READERS COORDINATOR

“I didn’t do much volunteering with SFU before Racing Readers – after joining Racing Readers I’ve volunteered with Fusion Festival, Halloween Tours, and I’ve branched off and done classroom volunteering...it has made me want to volunteer more and reach out to different parts of the community and see what I can give back.”

Sharing our stories and learnings with others is an essential component of SFU Surrey–TD CEC’s mission. TD’s support of the centre has resulted in many partnerships, programs, activities, events and volunteerism, all of which have generated meaningful exposure for TD Bank and its important community work.

RECOGNIZING OUR PARTNERSHIP

With your support, the SFU Surrey–TD CEC reaches 2,500 to 3,000 people annually through programming and events. Each year, we work with approximately 30 to 50 community partners and 200 SFU student volunteers, with expressions of interest from several more. Through positive engagement with the centre, these individuals and organizations are building a relationship with the TD brand as well as with the university.

SHOWCASING OUR EFFORTS

The SFU Surrey–TD CEC has been pleased to present its programs and key learnings at a number of local and global conferences and gatherings in the last three years. These include the International Partnership Network (IPN) Conference in Norway (where we received a Global Best Award), Ashoka Exchange Conference 2018 in Boston, and Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Annual Conference in Chicago as well as the 2019 Youth Transitions Conference in Surrey and C2U Expo 2017 at SFU. The centre also helped plan a 2017 visit to Surrey by Barbara Holland, an internationally renowned community-university engagement scholar.

A CULTURE OF SHARING AND ENGAGEMENT

The SFU Surrey–TD Community Engagement Centre name is associated with all programming supported through the centre, and the SFU Surrey–TD CEC logo is included on all promotional materials for our activities.

TD receives additional exposure through permanent signage on the 4th floor of the City Centre Library, where most of our programming is delivered. This recognition is seen by participants of the centre’s programs as well as library patrons who frequent rooms and opens spaces there.

For a sample of the exciting media coverage we have garnered, please see Appendix 1.



LOOKING AHEAD

As our society faces increasing social, environmental and economic challenges, community-university partnerships like the one embodied in the collaboration between the TD Bank and SFU play an important role in contributing to the development, vibrancy and sustainability of the local communities where they are situated.

Through SFU's partnership with TD, the SFU Surrey–TD CEC has become a robust hub of activity in the heart of Surrey. This youthful and rapidly growing municipality has endless potential and opportunities as well as critical challenges that come with a

significant low-income population. With its grounding and strong connections in the Surrey community, the SFU Surrey–TD CEC provides a unique opportunity for SFU and the TD Bank Group to connect with people and organizations in a meaningful way.

Moving forward, we are committed to build more and deeper relationships, create new learning opportunities for students, support more community-based research opportunities and find additional ways to connect SFU resources to support collaborative community efforts.

WITH GRATITUDE

TD's generous support of the SFU Surrey–TD Community Engagement Centre has helped improve the well-being of children, youth, families and newcomers and has enhanced the social fabric of the South Fraser community.

Together, and in collaboration with our community partners, we are engaging and empowering thousands of residents from a range of cultural backgrounds and a variety of ages. Through our activities, we are inspiring the next generation of engaged citizens working to create positive change.

With shared values in engagement and reciprocity, the TD-SFU relationship is one that is multifaceted, integrated and mutually beneficial. This is exemplified by Bill Cunningham, district vice-president of the TD

Bank in Surrey. Bill served as chair of the SFU Board, and in August 2019, SFU was pleased to present him with the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award.

Thank you for your commitment over the past seven years to help us build capacity and community connections. The future for the SFU Surrey–TD CEC is bright and we look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with you to create a better, more inclusive tomorrow.

For more information, please contact:

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APPENDIX 1: MEDIA COVERAGE

- Early Learning for Families SFU Research Story
- Youth Mindfulness Program SFU News Story
- Surrey Schools Partnerships – Executive Directors blog
- Central City Learning Garden Launch
- Inclusive City Café – SFU President’s Blog
- Racing Readers Surrey School District News Story
- Rachel Nelson was interviewed on 107.7 the Pulse FM about the Racing Readers Program on January 24th, 2018.
- Rachel Nelson was interviewed on 107.7 the Pulse FM about the Money Matters workshops on November 15th, 2017.
- Alumni profile for Linda Chang who worked with the SFU Surrey–TD CEC on Art and Mindfulness event
- Global Best Awards SFU News Article
- Racing Readers SFU Student Volunteer Blog Posts – collectively received over 15,000 reads
- Mentoring with Math Vancouver Sun Article
- Early Learning for Families Surrey NOW article
- Media Minds SFU News Article
- Youth Engagement Conference SFU News Article

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