



Announcement of Simon Fraser University Surrey Campus

**Premier Gordon Campbell
March 5, 2004**

Check Against Delivery

As we reflect on this announcement, I want to take a moment to think of what this means for Surrey.

Surrey takes second place to no city in the province and no city in the country. Think of what's happening here in Surrey: in 2003, there was almost a billion dollars in building permits issued in this community. In 2004, I predict you're going to break through the billion-dollar barrier in Surrey because of the commitments that each of you make to the long-term future of the community you live in.

What an incredible future Surrey has. This is one of the fastest-growing communities in the country. You're growing because people want to live here and because people recognize the quality of life available to them here.

We're sitting in a building where J.P. Morgan Chase is going to locate and create 1,000 jobs right here in Surrey. Do you know why they came? Because they love the community, they love its diversity; they love what Surrey has to offer.

This is a great city and a great community, but it's been missing one thing that's needed to allow Surrey to really take off. You needed a great university right here in Surrey.

So today I'm pleased to announce that Surrey is about to become home of one of Canada's, and the world's, great learning institutions. We will be investing \$70 million to launch a brand new campus for Simon Fraser University right here in the Central City development in the heart of your community.

For the first time ever Surrey is going to have its own university - with brand new student spaces, brand new research facilities, brand new technology programs, brand new business opportunities to grow Surrey's economy and to grow jobs here, right in your community.

Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the future of the great city of Surrey in British Columbia.

As we stand here today, we should reflect on this institution that is building a second campus here in Surrey: Simon Fraser University. SFU opened in 1965 as a low-rise university on a mountaintop to the north of the Fraser River. I am pleased to say that in 2005 there will be a brand new campus opened in a high-rise building in the Fraser Valley to the south of the Fraser River.

There's no better way to celebrate Simon Fraser's 40th birthday than this exceptional project. I want to congratulate SFU president Michael Stevenson for the work that he's done. And I want to congratulate his colleagues in advanced education who are here and with us today: Skip Bassford from the University College of the Fraser Valley, Skip Triplett from Kwantlen University College, and Susan Witter from Douglas College. These four educational leaders have been working together to make sure that we put students first in British Columbia, especially south of the Fraser so that local students can build the kind of future they deserve.

As well as the \$70-million capital commitment, we will be adding 3,000 new student spaces to Simon Fraser University. A number of those will be on Burnaby Mountain, but there will be 1,850 new student spaces right here in Surrey. That's quadrupling the number of SFU students at the current Surrey campus.

We committed to create 25,000 new spaces across British Columbia by 2010 because we know how important education is. We know that every student that's going through high school wants and deserves an opportunity to advance their education. We want to provide not just more access to our educational facilities but more access closer to where people live.

So what do those 3,000 new spaces mean in Surrey? There'll be about 125 faculty members at the new facility. That's almost a hundred more than what we have today. There'll be 370 graduate students. Twenty per cent of Simon Fraser's graduate students will be right here in the Surrey campus.

That will increase opportunities for the kinds of co-op programs that Simon Fraser's been working on with global leaders like Electronic Arts. That increases opportunities for young people to build their futures.

It's estimated that this campus will generate about \$100 million per year in economic spin-offs and benefits, including student services and research.

There'll be 30,000 square metres of learning campus with state-of-the-art classrooms and labs and office space.

We're going to start adding spaces right away at the current campus, starting with about 210 additional spaces this fall, and by 2010 there will be 1,850 new spaces here in Surrey.

These new opportunities are opportunities for students. They're opportunities for students south of Fraser River. They're opportunities that cut down their commuter time, that cut down on their costs, that cut down on a number of the challenges that young people face as they reach to the future.

All five of Simon Fraser's faculties - business, education, arts, science, and applied arts and sciences - will have programs available right here at the Surrey campus. That's more accessibility.

You know, when I went to university, it wasn't really very difficult for us to get in. I don't think I would have been able to get through that 90 per cent barrier that some programs have today.

So we want young people to know that if you focus your attention, if you get a B or better in British Columbia, you can go on in advanced education. That's exactly what we're delivering with this first step of the program in Surrey.

Simon Fraser has one of the most successful capitalization rates in Canada for creating spin-off companies who move their technology and their research into the real world. There are 63 private-sector companies that have spun off from Simon Fraser's programs and research. Those companies now will have an opportunity to grow in Surrey.

Today's announcement is part of a broader South Fraser educational initiative. I do want to congratulate Kwantlen University College, the University College of the Fraser Valley, and Douglas College for working in concert with Simon Fraser to provide better opportunities for the students you serve. Over the next number of weeks, there will be 5,000 additional spaces that will be made available to people living south of the Fraser River and up the Fraser Valley.

I want to close today with just some comments from Mayor Doug McCallum. Doug said that the Central City Building symbolizes Surrey's coming of age. He said it was a sign of great things to come. He said it inspired confidence in the great city of Surrey.

I want you to know, Your Worship, that we share your confidence. We share your excitement about Surrey and its future. And we share your excitement about the contribution that Surrey makes to the province of British Columbia.

Great cities need great universities. Surrey's a great city. Simon Fraser is a great university. Working together, I hope that you will create even greater dreams. Just imagine what we can accomplish with these kinds of opportunities in front of us.

Thank you very much.



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