



Surrey School Board, Simon Fraser University to expand partnership

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November 12, 2003

Initiatives such as summer computer camps and high school bridging programs will continue and grow thanks to an agreement between Simon Fraser University and the Surrey School Board to identify and pursue collaborative activities.

The agreement, which takes the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), will be signed by SFU vice-president academic and provost John Waterhouse and Surrey School Board chairperson Mary Polak at the November 13 school board meeting.



Mary Polak and John Waterhouse signing the MOU at the November 13 school board meeting.

SFU and School District 36 (Surrey) have cooperated in the past, most notably in teacher education activities. The cooperation has increased since SFU established a campus in north Surrey in 2002. Earlier this year, the SFU Surrey campus and the school board jointly ran two summer camps. The new agreement will formalize these programs and allow for cooperation in other areas including planning, teacher professional development and research.

Waterhouse says the agreement follows naturally from previous programs and is recognition that the university and the school board can both benefit from cooperation in supporting the success of Surrey students and their families.

“This is one of the first agreements we have entered into since opening our Surrey campus last year and it is an outgrowth of SFU’s plans to be fully involved in the local community,” he said. “SFU Surrey has a range of other community outreach activities, such as university/industry research partnerships, and is an active member of a number of South Fraser organizations.”

Polak is also enthusiastic about the arrangement. “We’ve cooperated with SFU in the past, to the benefit of both parties, particularly our school district’s students and teachers, and we look forward to an expanded cooperative arrangement with SFU.”

School District 36 (Surrey) is the largest and fastest growing school district in British Columbia. It offers a range of activities in addition to the development and delivery of Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum, including work experience programs for students, adult education programs, teacher professional development and community initiatives.

Simon Fraser University Surrey is home to SFU’s School of Interactive Arts and Technology, which offers graduate and undergraduate programs in interactive arts and information technology to 600 undergraduate and 80 graduate students. Other programs, such as computing sciences, continuing education and business, are also planned for the campus in Fall, 2004.