



PATHWAYS
EXECUTIVE SEARCH



Chair, Indigenous Arts Practices and Pedagogies



**SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY**

The Organization

Simon Fraser University (SFU) is located on unceded and traditional Coast Salish territories, including those of the x^wməθk^wəy^əm (Musqueam), S^kw^xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), sə́lilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wə́l^əm (Kwkwetlem), qíćəy (Katzie), Kwantlen, qəqəyt (Qayqayt), SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) and s^ćəwaθən məsteyəx^w (Tsawwassen) Nations. SFU has a long history of engaging with Indigenous communities and Indigenous issues. Prompted in part by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and by the Final Report and Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015), SFU has created the **Office of Aboriginal Peoples**, the **Aboriginal Strategic Plan**, a university-wide **Steering Committee**, and the **Aboriginal Reconciliation Council (ARC)**. The ARC report, Walk This Path with Us (2017), identifies a broad range of commitments based on partnerships with Indigenous peoples and communities, provincially, nationally and globally.

Implicit in this process is the need for a much more profound and systemic engagement with the implications for Canadian society of Indigenous knowledges, practices, governance and justice models, and approaches to health and well-being. Like other universities across the country, SFU is re-examining its structures, knowledge systems and ways of working in order to create more welcoming and supportive spaces for Indigenous students, faculty and staff, to honour and embody Indigenous knowledges and their implications for governance, and to strengthen and empower Indigenous peoples and communities. These commitments are explicitly stated in SFU's Strategic Vision.

Simon Fraser University (SFU) is acknowledged as one of Canada's foremost comprehensive research universities with a mission to be Canada's most community-engaged research university through innovative education, cutting-edge research and community partnerships. The SFU community includes 35,000 students, 2,700 faculty and staff, and 130,000 alumni; its activities take place across three vibrant campuses in British Columbia's largest municipalities - Vancouver, Burnaby, and Surrey - as well as in many smaller communities throughout British Columbia and in a variety of locations across Canada and around the world. For further information about SFU, please visit www.sfu.ca.

Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education is an internationally noted centre of research and scholarly inquiry, with a long and extensive history of innovative programming grounded in commitments to improving the practice of teaching and responding to community needs and aspirations. The Faculty is non-departmentalized and has a distinctive presence and array of activities at all three SFU campuses (Burnaby, Surrey, Vancouver), united in a shared commitment to the core values of Equity, Indigeneity and a Culture of Inquiry.

In the Faculty's current 5-Year Academic Plan, Indigeneity is described as "a set of philosophies and values... central to knowing and understanding the diversities of Indigenous worldviews. These core values are best understood as interconnected relationships and the 4Rs of respecting Indigenous ways of knowing and being: responsible relationships, relevance, invitation to the work, and reciprocity." It commits the Faculty to working to "understand the complexity and nuances of Aboriginal ways of knowing and being that are directly informed by the lands, histories, cultures, languages, and experiences of being Indigenous," and to having this developing understanding inform "the work across the Faculty (e.g., learning, teaching, research, service, community engagement, policy and program development, admissions, and other administrative activities)."

The Faculty has a long tradition of working in partnership with communities across British Columbia and elsewhere, including many Indigenous communities. This work takes the form of innovative programs in undergraduate education, initial teacher education and graduate education, co-designed and co-led with community educators and knowledge holders. Indigenous graduates have made substantial contributions to communities and schools, and have played key roles in developing the field of Indigenous educational scholarship in British Columbia and Canada. The Faculty is also currently home to a number of active and well-regarded Indigenous scholars who are involved in a wide range of community partnerships and interdisciplinary and Indigenous research projects.

Vision, Mission & Values

Vision

The Simon Fraser University Faculty of Education promotes a broad spectrum of scholarly and professional inquiry to advance theory, pedagogy and the practice of education. We look beyond precedents and categories to honour inquiry and imagination. The Faculty is committed to a culture that develops the individual and fosters social renewal. Our scope extends throughout the lifespan and celebrates human differences. A spirit of hope inspires our work.

Mission

Simon Fraser University's Faculty of Education is committed to scholarly excellence, leading-edge pedagogy, innovative curriculum, engagement with teachers, differentiated staffing and a participatory democratic culture. A global leader in educational research and a pathfinder in Canada's teacher education, the Faculty of Education is committed to ethical practice, equity, social justice and diversity.

Values

Equity

We commit to promoting the rights and interests of all students, staff and faculty connected to the Faculty of Education, striving to model social justice and ethical practice throughout our teaching, research and day-to-day practice.

Indigeneity

We commit to fostering Reconciliation through collaboration and consultation with Indigenous communities and by opening our teaching, research and day-to-day practice to Indigenous worldviews, fostering wholistic and relational ways of knowing and doing that connect individuals to their communities, land, waters, and nationhood.

Culture of Inquiry

We commit to the use of inquiry practices to inform faculty-wide planning, decision-making, including: (1) questioning and investigating our current approaches, (2) collecting data through traditional and nontraditional ways of knowing to inform and reflect on changes, and (3) consulting theory and research to inform our practices.

To learn more about Simon Fraser University, please [click here](#).

The Opportunity

The Salish Weave Endowment Fund at SFU supporting the Chair, Indigenous Arts Practices and Pedagogies in the Faculty of Education was established by Christiane and George Smyth, who are activist collectors of **Salish art**. This position was created in cooperation between the Smyths and the Faculty of Education with the aim of supporting the resurgence, and ongoing thriving, of Salish arts (such as performances, installations, exhibits and a variety of writing genres such as poetry, novel, creative nonfiction, memoir, and/or other forms that further and promote our understanding of arts scholarship) through education and the enactment of Indigenous arts as knowledge practices. This is intended to be achieved through an Indigenous knowledge transmission process that is intergenerational and inherently an aspect of enacting Indigenous pedagogies and practices.

The work is envisioned as grounded in the integrity, revitalization, and resurgence of Indigenous cultures, languages, and knowledge traditions that are resonant with the teachings of the land and cultivate “good hands, strong minds, and strong hearts.” This Chair is expected to uplift, honour, and educate about the artistic practices and traditions of the Salish peoples as a central tenet of their research and scholarship, and further programming and educational activities for and/or in collaboration with community partners (including K-12 schools), faculty, staff, students, and trainees that build upon the Salish Weave art collection that is held at SFU.



The Position

In the context of its core value of Indigeneity, the Faculty of Education wishes to cultivate scholarship that honours and embodies the values inherent in Salish arts practices with a focus on Indigenous knowledges and processes of education through art-making ecologies. For the inaugural Chair, Indigenous Arts Practices and Pedagogies, it is strongly encouraged for Indigenous scholars with a history and practice of immersion in and engagement with Indigenous arts, education, cultures, and communities to apply. The successful candidate will have a deep understanding of Indigenous inquiry and of the potential of transformation through the enactment of Indigenous arts and education practices in supporting the resurgence and continued thriving of Salish knowledge practices.

The initial term of the Chair will be for a minimum period of 5 years and may be renewed once. The successful candidate will also be appointed as a tenure-track faculty at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education.

Key Responsibilities

Relationship Building and Connections

- Being aware of and sensitive to traditional protocols in order to build and sustain reciprocal relationships with local Indigenous communities (e.g., artists, Elders, youth) to support the visioning and enactment of educational and research partnerships that support knowledge mobilization and transmission related to Salish arts practices. Such partnerships would further support those communities' goals with respect to self-determination, knowledge transmission, and sovereignty.
- Helping the Faculty cultivate and deepen reciprocal recognition and respectful relationships with Indigenous communities and contributing to the strengthening of responsible and relevant relationships and understandings across the Faculty.
- Involving academic colleagues from a diversity of disciplines (including teacher education and SFU Galleries), along with Indigenous community and K-12 school partners, in developing and sustaining mutually beneficial research and educational collaborations focusing around Salish arts practices, including the Salish Weave collection held at SFU Galleries.
- Communicating academic and community knowledge in ways that contribute to provincial, national, and global dialogues on Indigenous resurgence through Indigenous arts practices and pedagogies.
- Participating in the Salish Weave Board—Welcome to the Salish Weave Collection - Salish Weave

Key Responsibilities

Research and Scholarly activity

- Deepening the understanding of Indigeneity and Indigenous (including Salish) knowledges, and their implications for educational processes, in ways that contribute to transformative reconciliation and Indigenous resurgence related to Indigenous arts practices and pedagogies.
- Securing a range of external research funding in support of these forms of scholarship.
- Creating places and spaces for dialogue and knowledge sharing across communities, university, and other settings.

Teaching

- Enacting (or uplifting) and exploring Salish arts practices grounded in Indigenous knowledges and Indigeneity.
- Mentoring colleagues, graduate and undergraduate students, teacher education candidates, and in-service teachers through Professional Development programming in Indigenous arts practices in respectful, responsible, relevant, and reciprocal partnership with Indigenous knowledge holders, scholars, and communities. Please note, the expectation of graduate supervision occurs post-tenure.
- Cultivating the capacities in undergraduate and graduate students to make significant contributions to Indigenous arts (and/or arts education) practices, scholarship, programming and activities that enact and empower ongoing Indigenous resurgence across university and K-12 contexts.
- Enacting Indigenous arts (and/or arts education) practices in courses and programs (e.g., undergraduate, graduate, and teacher professional development) across the Faculty of Education.



The Candidate

The successful candidate will have demonstrated strength and practice in Indigenous arts, education, and knowledges; Indigeneity and Indigenous community engagement, and a scholarly track record of research excellence. As well, this person will have demonstrated their potential for creating strong collaborations with Salish artists, their families and communities within the term of the Chair to further an innovative and high-quality research program, including the translation, activation and animation of knowledge in dialogue with Indigenous communities and knowledge holders.

Experience

The search committee acknowledges that no single individual is likely to meet all of the following criteria in equal measure; nevertheless, the successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate:

- Strong, respectful, reciprocal relationships and engagement with Indigenous artists and communities.
- An extensive network of colleagues and organizations engaged in collaborative efforts related to Indigenous knowledges, education, and Indigenous arts practices. Experience with intergenerational artist development and commissioning of new works is considered an asset.
- The capacity to build sustainable partnerships and secure external research grant funding.
- Success in working collaboratively with colleagues, students, and staff in academic, research, artistic, K-12, and community contexts.
- Participation in research collaborations across diverse disciplines and forms of knowledge creation related to Indigenous arts practices.
- Contributions to knowledge exchange, integration, and mobilization with Indigenous communities, specifically Indigenous arts practices.



The Candidate continued

Interpersonal Skills

- The ability to foster respectful and reciprocal relationships across disciplinary, cultural and community differences, both within academia and with external partners.
- The ability to cultivate a sense of respect, trust, and leadership among research collaborators, community partners (including K-12 schools), faculty, staff, students, and trainees.
- The ability to communicate Indigenous and academic approaches to reflecting on complex and sensitive issues in ways that promote dialogue, understanding, and the building of consensus within the academy, with Indigenous communities and among wider audiences.

Personal Characteristics

- The highest standards of ethics and integrity according to both academic and Indigenous traditions of right action and ethical relationality.
- A respectful and open approach informed by Indigenous values and traditions and a commitment to the building and sharing of advanced knowledge in academic and public institutions honouring relational accountability.
- A willingness to think creatively and ability to innovate, including ongoing engagement with a diversity of approaches to knowledge creation.
- Demonstrated vision, resilience and perseverance.

Education

- A PhD in a relevant field. Candidates who are currently close to completing their doctorates are encouraged to apply if their area of scholarship and arts (or arts education) practices align with the position.





The City of Burnaby, British Columbia

Burnaby, British Columbia, is a vibrant city nestled between the bustling metropolis of Vancouver and the natural beauty of the Coast Mountains. With a population of approximately 250,000 people, Burnaby is a diverse and welcoming community.

Located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh nations, Burnaby offers a unique blend of urban and natural environments. The city is home to numerous parks, including the expansive Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area and Central Park, providing residents and visitors with ample opportunities for outdoor activities year-round. From hiking, biking, and paddling in the summer to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter, Burnaby caters to outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds.

Burnaby's vibrant waterfront, modern town centers, and thriving local food, arts, and cultural scenes make it a lively place to live and visit. The city is renowned for its festivals, markets, and community events that bring people together throughout the year. During the summer months, Burnaby's streets come alive with outdoor patios, live music, and cultural festivals, creating a festive and welcoming atmosphere.

Known for its affordability and lower cost of living compared to nearby Vancouver, Burnaby offers an attractive option for those seeking a high quality of life without the high price tag. The city's well-developed public transportation system and proximity to major highways make it an accessible and convenient place to call home.

Whether exploring the lush trails of Deer Lake Park, enjoying the cultural offerings at the Burnaby Village Museum, or shopping at Metropolis at Metrotown, Burnaby provides a rich and fulfilling lifestyle for its residents and visitors alike.

To Apply

Applicants are asked to email separate files (Word or PDF) to

Applications@pathwaysexecutivesearch.ca:

- A signed application letter that includes a description of the applicant's scholarly interests and achievements to date, teaching experience, and potential contributions to the faculty as they align with the role of the Chair, Indigenous Arts Practices and Pedagogies set out above;
- A proposed program of research (2-6 pages single spaced), including the following:
 - an explanation of how the proposed research supports engagement with and/or resurgence of Salish arts practices;
 - an explanation of how the proposed research is grounded in a particular understanding of Indigenous knowledges and Indigeneity;
 - an explanation of how the proposed research responds to the ethical framework outlined in Chapter 9 of the Government of Canada Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (2014);
 - an explanation of how the proposed research aligns with and advances SFU's 2023-2028 Strategic Research Plan – <https://www.sfu.ca/research/strategic-research-plan>;
 - a description of how this Chair would strengthen graduate and teacher training in the Faculty of Education;
- A current curriculum vitae; and
- Four examples of refereed published scholarly work, and/or other forms of scholarship that reflect originality and high quality.

The Faculty of Education recognizes and values scholarship in the fine and performing arts and its multiple forms of inquiry, research creation and making, including (but not limited to) performances, installations, exhibits and a variety of writing genres such as poetry, novel, creative nonfiction, memoir, and/or other forms that further and promote our understanding of arts scholarship.

Faculty salaries at SFU are based on the salary scales bargained between the University and the SFU Faculty Association. A reasonable estimate of the salary range for a tenure-track faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor is \$89,652.00 to \$114,866.00. Candidates with experience commensurate with higher ranks may also be considered for appointment at the associate professor rank. A reasonable estimate of the salary range for a faculty position at the rank of Associate Professor is \$112,065.00 to \$134,478.00. The University and the SFU Faculty Association have recently reached a new agreement. New salary scales will be released as soon as possible. To access the most up-to-date salary scales, please refer to the Faculty Relations website [here](#).

To Apply continued

Simon Fraser University is an institution whose strength is based on our shared commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion. Diversity is an underlying principle of our Strategic Vision, which pledges SFU to “foster a culture of inclusion and mutual respect, celebrating the diversity reflected among its students, faculty, staff and our community.” SFU is committed to ensuring no individual is denied access to employment opportunities for reasons unrelated to ability or qualifications. Consistent with this principle, SFU will advance the interests of underrepresented members of the work force, including Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, racialized persons and women; embrace gender and sexual diversity; ensure that equal opportunity is afforded to all who seek employment at the University; and treat all employees equitably.

In accordance with Section 42 of the BC Human Rights Code, this opportunity is limited to applicants who self-identify as Indigenous or have Indigenous ancestry. Candidates are invited to submit a self-identification narrative/story of their Indigenous lived experience and a letter of support from Indigenous community to be considered for this position. We understand and acknowledge the deleterious effects of colonial and ongoing systems and structures such as residential schools, the 60s scoop and “status” cards on Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit or Métis) identity. This process is therefore intended to be interpreted in a broad understanding of Indigenous lived experiences and Indigenous community. Support letters for example, include letters from urban-based organizations, respected community elders outside place-based family/Nations for those in the process of reclaiming place-based connections and similar expressions of support. We acknowledge the potential emotional labour and/or (re)traumatizing impacts of sharing personal narratives in this context and encourage applicants to consider this fully in their decision-making to apply

For more details or to further explore this important strategic leadership opportunity, please contact:

Mike Eager • Partner

Pathways Executive Search

Telephone: 613-619-8686

MikeE@PathwaysExecutiveSearch.com

Meaghen Fillion • Consultant

Pathways Executive Search

Telephone: 204-292-8937

MeaghenF@PathwaysExecutiveSearch.com

Pathways Executive Search is a national recruitment firm offering Indigenous-focused professional services. With a mission to make recruitment and career journeys less challenging and more equitable, Pathways is guided by Indigenous values and principles of Indigenous inclusion, which underscore the capacity to build an inclusive process for all racialized and equity-deserving professionals.