



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SFU's RBC First Peoples Enterprise Accelerator Program (FPEAP) coming to S'ólh Téméxw

**Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017– Chilliwack, BC:** Today it was announced that Stó:lō Community Futures (SCF) has formalized a partnership between SCF and Simon Fraser University (SFU)'s Beedie School of Business, to collaborate on the growth and development of the rapidly expanding Indigenous economy in S'ólh Téméxw, the Stó:lō Traditional Territory. This is consistent with many of SCF's key business strategies and is an expression of SFU's mandate under its RBC First Peoples Enterprise Accelerator Program (FPEAP)

Colin Pennier, Chairman of the Board of Directors of SCF, indicated that "SCF is very pleased with its new partnership with SFU Beedie School of Business in anchoring the FPEAP in S'ólh Téméxw. We have a rapidly growing Indigenous entrepreneurial community and the joint programs will be profoundly beneficial in advancing **STÓ:LŌ MEANS BUSINESS™**. SCF has been receiving significant recognition for its award-winning **STÓ:LŌ STRATEGIC VISION**, which is focused upon developing a major Indigenous business center in S'ólh Téméxw and this announcement furthers that recognition", said Mr. Pennier.

Supported by the Royal Bank of Canada Foundation, the RBC First Peoples Enterprise Accelerator Program is managed and delivered by **RADIUS**, the Beedie School of Business' social innovation lab. The FPEAP is designed to provide support and services to Indigenous entrepreneurs who wish to become the next generation of leading innovators. In collaboration with local Indigenous partners, its incubation programming offers technical assistance as well as strong research and evaluation processes. Dr. Ali Dastmalchian, Dean of the SFU Beedie School of Business expressed, "We are very pleased with our partnership with Stó:lō Community Futures, and look forward to working with them to advance the Indigenous economy in S'ólh Téméxw."

Michael Watson, General Manager of SCF, indicated that the first intake of Indigenous pre-entrepreneurs for the first Trampoline Business Model Validation Program will begin in the Fall of 2017. Mr. Watson stated, "I am certainly very excited with the new partnership with SFU/RADIUS and the supports that SCF will be putting in place over the next three years in advancing Indigenous entrepreneurship in S'ólh Téméxw."

"SFU has been working with SCF for the last year, in finalizing the strategies for the RBC First People's Enterprise Accelerator Program in Stó:lō," explains Donovan Woollard, Co-Director of RADIUS. "We have recently completed a comprehensive survey of the local Indigenous business community and are very excited to be working with SCF to support Indigenous entrepreneurship S'ólh Téméxw."

Details on client applications can soon be found on the SCF website at [www.stolocf.ca](http://www.stolocf.ca).

For more information on the RBC First Peoples Enterprise Accelerator Program and other RADIUS initiatives, visit [www.radiussfu.com](http://www.radiussfu.com).



### **About SCF (Stó:lō Community Futures)**

SCF is a not-for-profit organization, with core funding provided by Western Economic Diversification, whose programs are directed by a diverse volunteer Board of Directors, who are a group of local Indigenous community leaders and business professionals. SCF is mandated to provide support in the process of community economic development to all Indigenous peoples living within S'ólh Téméxw, the Stó:lō Traditional Territory. Most of all, Stó:lō Community Futures embraces and celebrates Stó:lō cultural values and believes in creating and supporting the entrepreneurial spirit in our communities. **STÓ:LŌ MEANS BUSINESS™**

*The Vision of Stó:lō Community Futures is for the Stó:lō Traditional Territory to become a leading centre of Aboriginal business and entrepreneurial growth within British Columbia, within five years*

### **About RADIUS (RADical Ideas, Useful to Society)**

RADIUS is SFU's social innovation lab and venture incubator, supporting innovators to question old rules and push forward new ideas about how our economy and society might work. RADIUS develops social economy and society might work. RADIUS develops social economy leaders via its Fellowship program, builds innovation lab programs with communities to test new economic models and ideas delivers incubation and acceleration programs for social ventures, and runs experiential courses like the SFU Change Lab.

### **About the Beedie School of Business**

The Beedie School of Business ranks among the top ten business schools in Canada, offering internationally acclaimed research and teaching, preparing its students for **tomorrow's** business world. The School focuses on the growing economic importance of globalization, innovation, technology and sustainability, and is one of less than one percent of business schools worldwide with both AACSB and EQUIS accreditation. Across its campuses in Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey, Beedie's undergraduate, graduate and PhD programs demonstrate a spirit of innovation, flexibility and relevance.

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