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MEDIA RELEASE

Youth tackle BC's economy at #SFUPS forum

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Over 150 young people plan to attend **Simon Fraser University Public Square's** youth forum on Sept. 28 - and challenge the notion that youth are uninterested in shaping their collective future.

Entitled **Our Future, Our Voice**, SFU Public Square will host the youth forum at SFU's Surrey campus as part of its 2013 Community Summit: **Charting BC's Economic Future**, which runs from Sept. 28 until Oct. 4, 2013.

The day-long interactive forum begins at 10 a.m., and was designed specifically by youth for youth between the ages of 16 to 25.

"It's often said that youth are disconnected from and apathetic about the political process and politics, in general," says SFU student Japreet Lehal, who, like other participants, will share his views and ideas about the future of B.C.'s economy during the day-long event.

"Forums like these will, in fact, help to instil in students the importance of civic engagement, while giving them the opportunity to discuss their concerns. The reality is, it is our future. We need a voice."

Participants will join in interactive activities, meet community representatives and ask questions of decision makers. A panel discussion will feature federal, local and regional government representatives.

Kai Nagata, a local journalist and documentary filmmaker, will facilitate the event and moderate the panel.

Community representatives from health and business industries, academia, media and more will be available to casually discuss their careers and economic perspectives with participants over lunch.

During roundtable dialogues, the participants will come up with strategies for creating wealth, promoting social equity, and protecting the environment, to be shared at a public event Oct. 3.

Thoughts and questions will also be shared throughout the day via Twitter using the hashtag #OurVoiceBC. *Participation is free (including lunch) but registration is required at sfu2013youthforum.eventbrite.ca*

Visit www.sfu.ca/publicsquare for more information on SFU Public Square and the 2013 Community Summit, or follow the conversation on **Twitter** with the hashtag #SFUPS.

Simon Fraser University is Canada's top-ranked comprehensive university and one of the top 50 universities in the world under 50 years old. With campuses in Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey, B.C., SFU engages actively with the community in its research and teaching, delivers almost 150 programs to more than 30,000 students, and has more than 120,000 alumni in 130 countries.

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