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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

### **SFU WELCOMES NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

BURNABY – The Province has signed an agreement with the Burnaby board of education to deliver a new elementary school near Simon Fraser University, which will be built using an existing building located at the heart of the UniverCity development on Burnaby Mountain, Burquitlam MLA Harry Bloy announced today.

“I’m pleased to be able to deliver this project agreement that will allow work to proceed on this new school,” said Bloy. “The province is contributing nearly \$8 million and partnering with Simon Fraser University, SFU Community Trust and board of education to create this school at the UniverCity development and ensure that it is fully integrated into our community.”

The school will feature a new gymnasium, and an existing building will be converted into classrooms. The SFU Community Trust will enter into a long-term lease arrangement with the school district to provide the building and adjacent site.

This renovated building will be given an extensive seismic upgrade and will be brought up to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold standard. This will be the Ministry of Education’s first LEED gold renovation site. The school will feature water-efficient landscaping and irrigation, and 75 per cent of the interior space will be exposed to natural light. As well, 75 per cent of the existing shell will be reused.

Construction of the new school, expected to begin in April 2009 and be completed September 2010, will create 65 jobs for B.C. There will be space for 40 Kindergarten and 275 elementary students with full capacity expected to be reached in 2012.

“We are delighted to see an elementary school will become part of the Burnaby Mountain community,” Burnaby board of education chair Diana Mumford said. “When completed, SFU’s UniverCity development could see more than 10,000 residents, and this timely addition will benefit the community now and in the future.”

The school will be a partnership between the Provincial government, which is providing \$7,897,809; the Burnaby School District, which is providing \$1,250,000; and the SFU Community Trust, which is contributing not only the building and the land but also \$1,250,000 to the project.

“In the current economic climate, we are looking for creative partnering arrangements that are cost-effective, that can start within weeks, and that will support jobs in B.C.” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “This project is an outstanding example of an innovative approach and I commend all those who came together to make this new school possible.”

“We are delighted to partner in creating a new school on Burnaby Mountain,” said Gordon Harris, President and CEO of the SFU Community Trust. “This investment strongly supports UniverCity’s sustainability goals by fostering an educational environment for our younger residents that is supported by and benefits university-level learning opportunities at SFU.”

Since 2001 the Province has invested more than \$65 million in capital projects for Burnaby. During that same time the Province has spent over \$1.4 billion to complete 73 new and replacement schools, 147 additions, 25 renovation projects and 20 site acquisitions across B.C. All new and replacement schools have been constructed to meet the latest seismic standards. By the end of 2008/09, the Province will have committed more than \$3.1 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across the province. As outlined by Premier Campbell, all new school construction projects will include B.C. wood in their construction whenever possible.

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