

## NEWS RELEASE

# SFU COMMUNITY TRUST LAUNCHES CANADA'S MOST SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

CEREMONY KICKS OFF THE COUNTRY'S FIRST "LIVING BUILDING"  
AT UNIVERCITY ON BURNABY MOUNTAIN

**Burnaby, BC, July 21, 2010** — This afternoon UniverCity, the innovative community adjacent to Simon Fraser University, is holding a groundbreaking ceremony for what will be Canada's greenest building. It aims to be the first building in the country to meet the Living Building Challenge—a new sustainable building standard launched by the Cascadia Region Green Building Council, which is the most advanced green building rating system in the world.

To meet the challenge the building will:

- generate more energy annually than it uses
- recycle or harvest from rainwater more water than it uses
- be free of toxic materials
- obtain the majority of its materials from within a 400 kilometre radius, and
- will cost less to construct than a conventional childcare facility.

Built to house a childcare program for 50 three-to-five-year-old residents of the UniverCity and surrounding communities, the building is being developed by the SFU Community Trust in partnership with the SFU Childcare Society and the SFU Faculty of Early Childhood education.

"This project will set a new standard for sustainable construction," says Gordon Harris, president and CEO of the SFU Community Trust. "Not only are we aiming for this to be Canada's first major building to fully meet the Living Building Challenge, it will also demonstrate that sustainable buildings can be very cost effective."

Construction costs will be in the range of \$100 to \$150 per square foot less than childcare projects built elsewhere in the region without this project's ambitious green elements.

The light-filled modern wood-and-concrete building is designed by Vancouver's Hughes Condon Marler Architects, whose award-winning sustainable projects include the Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre, West Vancouver Community Centre and Whistler Public Library. Exterior spaces have been designed to encourage imagination and inquiry by Vancouver-based landscape architects space2place design, who are responsible for the design of Garden City Park in Richmond and the redevelopment of Oppenheimer Park in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The building will be constructed by Ledcor Special Projects.

This project will join other initiatives at UniverCity such as a new LEED Gold elementary school facility opening September 2010, a first-in-North America green building bylaw for all new development and an award-winning stormwater management system, all of which support the goals of the SFU Community Trust in developing UniverCity as a world leader in sustainable community development.

Construction begins early August and will complete by summer 2011. For more information about the childcare centre and the Living Building Challenge, please visit [www.univercitychildcare.ca](http://www.univercitychildcare.ca) and [www.ilbi.org](http://www.ilbi.org).

**ABOUT UNIVERCITY:** The SFU Community Trust oversees development of UniverCity, the sustainable urban community adjacent to Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. UniverCity is an innovative mixed-use community founded on the four cornerstones of sustainability: equity, economy, environment and education. For more information on UniverCity, please visit [www.univercity.ca](http://www.univercity.ca).

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