



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Capilano University and District of Squamish  
formalize memorandum of understanding  
*Framework sets out collaborations that will benefit learners,  
employers and community***

Squamish, B.C. February 8, 2024 – Capilano University (CapU) and the District of Squamish formalized their partnership today, as leaders signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) that will guide existing and future collaborations.

Paul Dangerfield, president and vice-chancellor of Capilano University, and Armand Hurford, mayor of the District of Squamish, gathered for a signing ceremony at CapU's new Squamish campus, which will open in September 2024.

The MoU outlines District of Squamish and CapU's shared goals to increase opportunities for learners to access educational programs, work-integrated learning and funding for creative activity, research and scholarships, as well as professional development for faculty. The agreement also paves the way for a series of collaborations that are designed to support economic, social and cultural development in the region.

"The University's vision – *inspired by Imagination* – embodies our commitment to create a distinct experience at CapU Squamish, one that fosters innovation and invites learners to expand their sense of what is possible," Dangerfield explains. "Our commitment extends well beyond the campus, and the MoU sets out a number of projects that will positively contribute to the health and wellbeing of Sea-to-Sky communities."

The MoU was approved by the District of Squamish Council in October of 2023, and it features more than a dozen potential collaborations, from establishing a Squamish chapter of City Studio, to advancing the Squamish Childcare Action Plan, to identifying work-integrated learning opportunities.

"The District of Squamish is deeply committed to increasing opportunities for education and instilling a culture of lifelong learning to support the vitality of our community and environment," says District of Squamish Mayor Armand Hurford. "Our commitment represents our shared vision and goal to create

programs and projects that will deliver lasting economic and cultural benefits to learners and residents throughout the region.”

In addition to the agreement with the District of Squamish, the University signed an MoU with the Sea to Sky School District in January 2024 to further advance opportunities for learners.

In August, the University announced the purchase of its Squamish campus. It will welcome students for Fall 2024 in the following programs:

- [Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Interdisciplinary Studies](#) and [Associate of Arts Degree](#) (curated courses, focusing on the environment and sustainability)
- [Tourism Management Co-operative Education Diploma](#)
- [Bachelor of Early Childhood Care and Education Degree](#)
- [Early Childhood Care and Education Diploma](#)
- [Adult Basic Education - General Upgrading](#)

The university anticipates 120 students for the CapU Squamish Fall term and is in active conversations with Indigenous communities to discuss programming options specific for Indigenous learners.

### **About Capilano University**

Capilano University is a regional university based in North Vancouver, British Columbia, with additional programming serving the Sunshine Coast and the Sea-to-Sky corridor. With industry-leading instructors, small classes and over 100 programs across five distinctive faculties, CapU is a unique place where students are encouraged to make their mark, in and out of the classroom. Capilano University is named after Sa7plek (Chief Joe Capilano), an important leader of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation of the Coast Salish Peoples. We respectfully acknowledge that our campuses and learning centres are located on the territories of the Lílwat, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

### **About the District of Squamish**

Inspired by nature and hardwired for adventure, the District of Squamish is the local municipal government authority servicing a growing community with a population of 24,000+ inclusive of members of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) upon whose traditional unceded territory we live, work and play. Squamish is home to a vibrant arts and culture scene, a post-secondary education institution, a flourishing and diverse economy, and oceanfront projects in development. At the heart of it all is an entrepreneurial, passionate and welcoming community who strives to honour and protect the environment that defines the essence of the Squamish lifestyle.

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