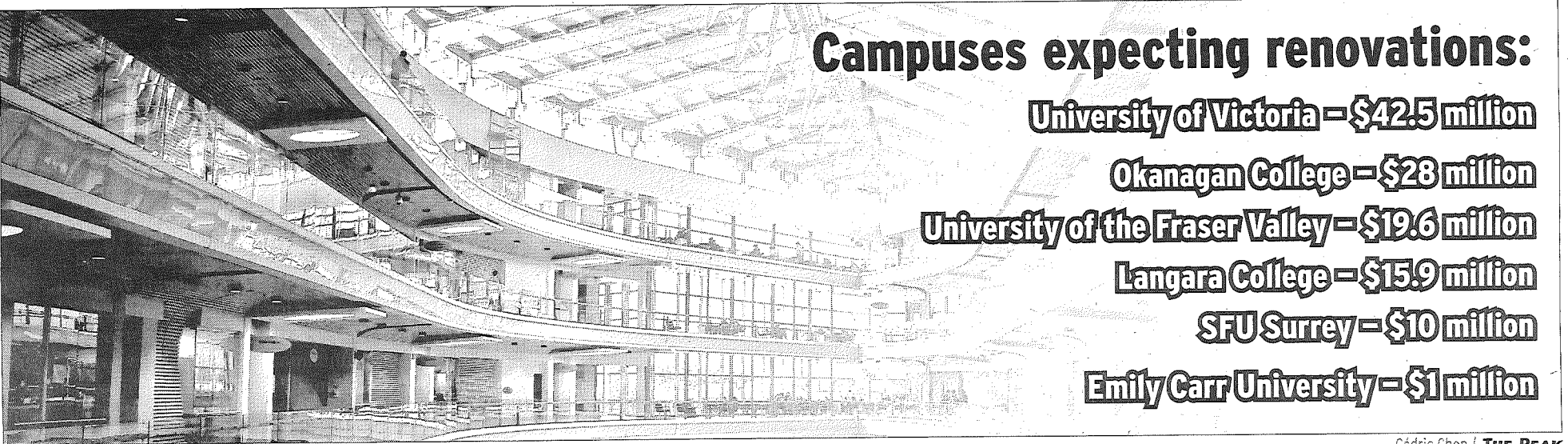


NATIONAL NEWS

Million-dollar Economic Action Plan snubs SFU Burnaby, Vancouver



Campuses expecting renovations:

University of Victoria – \$42.5 million

Okanagan College – \$28 million

University of the Fraser Valley – \$19.6 million

Langara College – \$15.9 million

SFU Surrey – \$10 million

Emily Carr University – \$1 million

Cédric Chen / THE PEAK

SFU's older campuses are left off the province's radar regarding upgrades and renovations

Carime Boehr
Student Contributor

The province of B.C., in tandem with the federal government, is showing its support for post-secondary students by injecting money into various post-secondary educational facilities within B.C.

The post-secondary developments, which mainly consist of upgrades, maintenance, repairs, and expansions to existing buildings, are a part of Canada's \$12-billion Economic Action Plan, of which \$2 billion will be set aside for the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, that specifically targets the physical state of post-secondary institutions.

SFU Surrey and UVic are two of the 40 post-secondary institutions that will receive money allocated to post-secondary education.

Following the construction and expansion of numerous post-secondary institutions, including the University of British Columbia, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and Langara College, the most recent projects are going to affect the University of Victoria, and SFU's own Surrey campus.

According to a January 11 press release from the Ministry

of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, UVic has begun construction with a budget of \$42.5 million, which they plan to use to enhance six already existing buildings on campus.

Fire alarms, sprinkler systems, and seismic upgrading will further enhance the safety features of the buildings while other renovations included in the plan will also increase energy efficiency. It is estimated that UVic's energy costs will be reduced by \$180,000 annually as a result of these upgrades.

In December of last year, it was announced that construction had also commenced at the SFU Surrey campus, the only SFU campus to receive funding through the program. With their allotment of \$10 million, they will be expanding Podium 2 by adding over 5,000 square metres to the already existing buildings. Central City will gain over 300 square meters as well.

SFU Surrey is also excited to be building cutting edge biology and chemistry labs which will provide technology such as visual analytics, mechatronics, and cybercrime. These new labs will be an important part of the Surrey campus, as they will allow students to participate in labs closer to their city.

Additional support for Venture Connection, a program which helps students with their marketing skills, is also a part of the revitalization project at the Surrey campus. "The Knowledge Infrastructure Program provides an opportunity for effective partnerships between the provincial and the federal government during this time of economic crisis," said Dona Cadman, MP for Surrey North, in a recent press release. "The solid co-operative

efforts to deepen support for post-secondary education will bring lasting benefits for all Canadians."

According to Canada's Economic Action Plan website, the post-secondary institutions that will receive funding are those with projects that are easy to complete, have the ability to generate economic benefit by way of job creation in the coming years, and will enhance the quality of research and development at the institution, or deliver advanced knowledge and skills training. All schools that are authorized under provincial or territorial statutes to

"The solid co-operative efforts to deepen support for post-secondary education will bring lasting benefits for all Canadians."

Dona Cadman, MP for Surrey North

deliver post-secondary courses or programs are eligible to be considered for the program.

SFU Surrey and UVic are only two of the 40 post-secondary institutions that will receive a portion of the \$2 billion the government has allotted to post-secondary education. "Our government recognizes the importance of post-secondary education in securing future prosperity," claimed Moira Stilwell, the minister of advanced education and labour market development, in a recent press release. "That's why we are investing in campus infrastructure as part of our economic stimulus plan."