



BC INITIATIVE FOR INCLUSIVE POST SECONDARY
EDUCATION

March 6, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Letter of support for SFPIRG

STEPS Forward is a non-profit provincial initiative that works in collaboration with universities and colleges around the province. Currently, inclusive post-secondary education is an option at the University of Victoria, UBC, UBC-O, Emily Carr, SFU and the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. Our mandate is to support adults with developmental disabilities to be fully included in all aspects of a post-secondary student experience. Students and graduates are also supported to develop a career path and find meaningful student employment placements in their field of study.

STEPS Forward (BC-IPSE) has been in cooperation with SFU, the Registrar, teaching faculty, and an active initiative here for the past six years. Over this time, SFPIRG offered us the use of their space in the SFU rotunda in support of our initiative. For us, this space has functioned as an office and workspace, a space to meet with prospective students and families, and a safe space for the SFU students we currently support on campus.

The Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group has been an independent student organization on campus since 1981. The purpose of Public Interest Research Groups is to have an independent space to advocate for social change. SFPIRG brings together a diverse range of people and their work is centered on a commitment to inclusive and accessible space, intersectional anti-oppression, decolonization and indigenous sovereignty; self-representation, self-determination, and empowering student and community leadership; accountability, integrity, wholeness and healing; sustainability; and respectful communication.

We believe that these are values SFU should continue to support, and encourage SFU to demonstrate active support, by continuing to provide SFPIRG with an accessible space on campus.

Sincerely,
Lauren Matthews