



June 2021

RADIUS Newsletter



Leadership Team Message

We know future systems will draw on the new and the old.

The above is one of [six principles](#) that the RADIUS team has developed to guide our work. It asks us to pay attention to the ways social innovation fixates on the “new” and prioritizes credentialed experts who decide which ideas and knowledge matter. It reminds us that community leadership and Elder and ancestral wisdom are often ignored or repackaged as novel insight by people, like me, who hold positions of power but often have limited perspectives on what matters in a given system. It calls for bravery, humility, and respect as we work towards the economy we want and against the harmful aspects of the one we have.

Our vision speaks to a transformed economy: one that’s more just, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic. For all. This has always felt urgent to me. The economy we have continues to inflict great pain while pulling ever more of our social fabric and the natural world into its maw, and the current global pandemic only exacerbates these deep inequities. It may seem counterintuitive, then, that our team is trying to slow down. To move with more care for ourselves and each other, for our work, and for those we may impact.

We are invested in understanding what it means for an organization like ours—with a history of largely white leadership, and set within a large colonial institution—to help shape future systems “for all”. This means constantly recommitting to our principles of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonizing our own work. It means exploring new models of leadership, deep reviews of our operations and HR practices, new ethical fundraising screens, developing our voice on issues of conscience, and deeply exciting work around equity-centred approaches to innovation, incubation, and funding models—as a start.

Don't get me wrong, we are more motivated than ever to see this new economy take shape. We're incredibly proud of our team, and blown away by the impact of the programs they are developing and leading with community. We are just equally committed to being transformed by this work*. Neither shying away from the challenging, collective, and critical work of economic transformation, nor perpetuating broken models and harm through a lack of humility about our own role.

Some of you have been instrumental in nudging us forward, and we thank you for being those critical friends. We know that hasn't always been easy. Many of you have been with us from the start, and we hope you are also finding time to reflect on your own work and contributions. As we say a lot around here these days, please be gentle with yourself in these challenging times, and we're here if you need us.

- Shawn Smith, Director

**This notion of being explicit about the goal of being transformed by the work we do comes from the Refugee Livelihood Lab team, and particularly a discussion between Nada El Masry, Camille Dumond, and Jorge Salazar. Thank you as always for the inspiration.*

National Indigenous History Month



Photo by [Taylor Murphy via Unsplash](#)

As we mark National Indigenous History Month, we are particularly reflecting on the ways in which Indigenous knowledge and leadership continues to inspire us. We encourage you to check out some of the projects and people we're excited about, including: [the Fireweed Fellowship](#) by [Raven Indigenous Capital Partners](#); new Indigenous Business case studies with SFU researcher [Dr. Dara Kelly](#); the work of [Alexia McKinnon, the new Director of Indigenous Programs at SFU Beedie](#); [Skookum Lab](#) by the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee; and critical digital equity work from the [BC First Nations Technology Council](#).

Don't Miss the Nahanee Creative Speaker Series

Throughout all of June, our friends at [Nahanee Creative](#) are celebrating Indigenous Peoples History Month by amplifying Indigenous Inspiration with their inaugural [Nahanee Creative Speaker Series](#)! Join these interactive events with brilliant guest speakers. More details and links to tickets on the [Nahanee Creative website](#).



Indigenous Identities

June 18, 11am-12pm PT

Explore the intersections of Indigenous Identities including urban Indigeneity, queerness, and more with Khelsilem and Ta7taliya: both with strong community ties, both in the Squamish Nation living as urban Indigenous people on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh. [Tickets available here.](#)



Medicine Wheel Wellness & Visioning

June 22, 10am-12pm PT

Join Lloyd Attig, Plains Cree, for an interactive introduction to Medicine Wheel Wellness to balance your day-to-day in holistic teachings. Whether you are at the beginning of your spiritual practice or are an intermediate looking to open up to Indigenous ways—appreciating, not appropriating—you'll leave Lloyd's session with a new sense of self-awareness, confidence, joy, and growth. [Buy tickets now!](#)



Territorial Acknowledgments, an Interactive Introduction

June 21, 11am-12pm PT

Join Ta7taliya Nahanee, Squamish, to personalize your connection to acknowledging Indigenous Territories on National Indigenous Peoples Day! Whether you are new to these conversations & practices, or you are wanting to reconnect to, and re-inspire, your unlearning journey, join us. [Tickets available here.](#)



Land Back: Global Intersections & Solidarity

June 25, 11am-12pm PT

This hour-long interactive introduction is hosted on the shared territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples to share an overview of the Land Back movement and the possibilities within it. Grounding our action and learning in solidarity, let's explore the possibilities that can open up when we are in good relations with each other. [Tickets are available here.](#)

Program Updates

Announcing the 2021 Fellows!



On June 2, our 2021 Fellowship program kicked off! Fellows meet online weekly to build relationships with their peers, learn from people working towards change in their communities, and explore strategies for social change. We couldn't be more excited to introduce the 2021 Fellowship Cohort to our community! These 23 humans form RADIUS' largest cohort yet, and the first with participants from across the country and worldwide.

[Meet the Fellows](#)

Meet the 2021 Health Promotion Lab Reimagine Health Cohort



Our Reimagine Health program is in full swing! Led by our Health Promotion Lab Manager, Ilhan Abdulali, and supported by advisors rooted in equity-centred design, the program explores chronic disease prevention through a systems change lens. The cohort-based program provides a collaborative space to innovate, curate, and bring together diverse ways of knowing to identify health challenges and strategize solutions. Click below to learn more about the 2021 Reimagine Health cohort!

[Meet the Cohort](#)

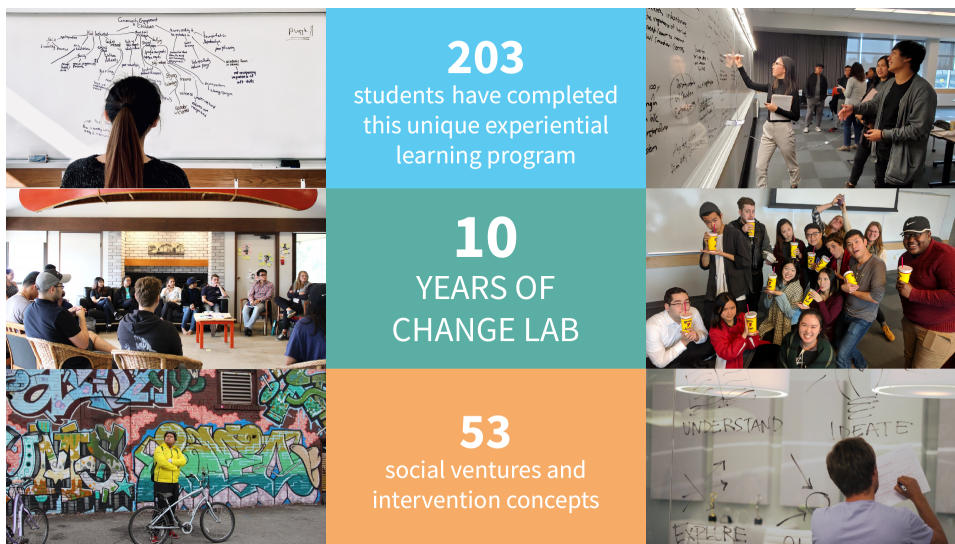
Migrant Systems Change Leadership Certificate Cohort Announcement



We are thrilled to introduce 23 incredible changemakers from the Migrant Systems Change Leadership Certificate program. This certificate, the first of its kind nationwide, is offered through RADIUS' Refugee Livelihood Lab in replacement of Beyond Borders, which has run since 2019. The Migrant Systems Change Leadership Certificate caters to racialized migrants and refugees who are passionate about shifting systemic barriers in these communities.

[Meet the Cohort!](#)

Reflecting on 10 Years of Change Lab



Coming into its tenth anniversary, we reflect on the legacy of Change Lab and why it's being put on hold for the upcoming academic year.

[Read our blog!](#)

Congratulations Social Innovation Seed Fund Recipients!



We are excited and proud to announce the recipients of the 2021 Social Innovation Seed Fund! These student-led projects are driving meaningful social change with new, innovative, and equity-focused solutions.

Finishing up its seventh cycle in 2021, the [Social Innovation Seed Fund \(SISF\)](#) provides SFU students access to early-stage financial support for their projects, initiatives, programs, and processes intended to create positive social, economic, and/or environmental change. Learn more about each of the 13 recipients this year on our blog!

[Read our blog!](#)



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