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## ▶ Leadership Team Update



As we close out 2021, I'm reminded of how so many of us were eagerly anticipating this year to begin one year ago. 2021 was supposed to be the year we would put the COVID pandemic behind us, open our social spaces, and reawaken to a more thoughtful and compassionate world. The recovery, however, has been slow. Our families and communities near and far continue to reel from the devastating impacts of the pandemic and climate change. Despite calls for Truth and Reconciliation, the Wet'suwet'en people are being denied the right to their traditional land, community, and sacred headwaters. Social and economic inequities, structural racism, generational trauma, and too many other experiences have made the world feel heavy this year. There is much healing and work to do.

Recently, I attended a celebration of life for a former professor who was a social justice activist and listened to friend after friend speak about the collective power of individuals to make social change. In this moment when my optimism jar was feeling fairly depleted, I was reminded why many of us are drawn to this work and the hope for a better future. One of the speakers recited these beautiful [words](#) of author Arundhati Roy that left me with goosebumps: "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

We know that centring equity in our work is the only way forward. It is an ongoing practice that requires us to go deep and examine current systems — root causes, power dynamics, and privileges. At RADIUS, I've been inspired by the community of care we strive to create, especially holding space for our humans who are doing the hard work of social change. We need time to rest, reflect, and re-energize to push forward the change we want to see in the world.

Let us all take some time in the last few weeks of the year to slow down, breathe, and take

care of our minds and bodies in ways that feel good to us. A new day is waiting.

In gratitude,  
Dal Sohal, Associate Director – Labs

## ▶ Behind the Scenes at RADIUS

### Welcoming Raphael, Miranda, & Evelyne



The RADIUS team has been growing over the past couple of months, and we are thrilled to introduce you to three new team members in the Education & Training portfolio! We're welcoming **Raphael Ochil** and **Miranda Eng** as Portfolio Managers and **Evelyne Kiiza** as our new Program Administration Coordinator. Together, Raphael, Miranda, and Evelyne will support RADIUS' growing portfolio of clients seeking equity-centred approaches to complex organizational challenges.



### What are we reading?

The RADIUS team is always reading, and we want to share some books that have meant something to us in 2021. Each week on Instagram, we're sharing a book recommendation, and you'll hear directly



### Office Closure

As we close out 2021, the RADIUS office and team take a short break to prepare for an exciting, mindful, and hopeful 2022. Please note that RADIUS staff will be offline

from RADIUS staff about why they are noteworthy (and why you should add them to your reading lists for 2022!).

Follow the hashtag [#RADIUSReads](#) on Instagram for updates each week.

from **December 25th, 2021**, to **January 3rd, 2022**, as part of SFU-wide closures.

We hope that you can take time to gather with your loved ones this December and reflect on the past year as we approach a new year full of new opportunities.

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## What We're Looking Forward to this Holiday Break



Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Omisoka, or nothing at all this month, we hope you're looking forward to some days off as much as the RADIUS team is. As we approach Winter Solstice (December 21st), marked by the shortest period of daylight in the calendar year, we encourage self-care. Maybe it's rest, spending more time with loved ones, time in nature, warm food, long winter walks, or socializing. December feels like the perfect time for reflection and recharging (and some fun, too!) Click above to check out what some of our RADIUS team members are looking forward to this season.

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## ▶ Program Updates

**Congrats, Migrant Systems Change Leadership Cohort!**





MSCL participants (from left to right): Amani Begende, Sean Ko, Xiaoyi Zhu, Clemon Cockett, Hermon Lay, Avigail Olarte, Hamid Shirzad, Dania Salih, Marcela Villaça, Kathleen Bono, Sergio Lopez, Nikhat Qureshi, Sukaina Rehmtulla, Christiana Onabola. Facilitators/Staff: Nada El Masry, Terri Rutty, Yara Younis

This quarter saw the closing of the inaugural Migrant Systems Change Leadership Certificate program as a part of the Refugee Livelihood Lab. We were able to celebrate the cohort and their work at a virtual closing celebration, where participants shared their stories, their art, and their work on initiatives focused around migrant justice.

We are so proud to see the great work come out of this inaugural cohort, and are excited to see where our participants take their ideas. Read more about the invaluable impact of this program in a guest blog post, written by Kathleen Bono, a Migrant Systems Change Leadership Certificate alumni.

[Read more](#)

## Student Opportunities



### Apply for Seed Funding!

Calling all SFU students and recent alumni with an idea or venture focused around social change and impact! You are eligible to apply for the **Social Innovation Seed Fund** (Round 3) to receive up to \$2,000



### Writing Contest & New Plurilingual Prize

The **Student Learning Commons Writing Contest** celebrates excellence in academic undergraduate writing at SFU. Cash prizes

from RADIUS and Embark Sustainability for your project! Whether you're just starting out or already making strides with your idea, we want to learn more about you and support the work you're doing. The deadline for Round 3 is February 3rd, 2022. [Learn more and apply today through our website.](#)

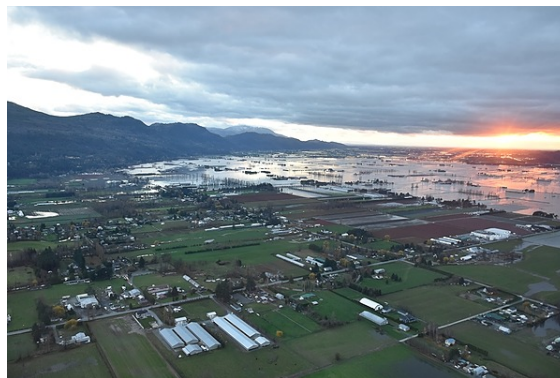
are awarded and all winners and honourable mentions are published in the SLC journal. Seeking ways to continue recognizing the diversity of student writing, the SLC restructured the 2021 contest to be more inclusive. This year, the contest includes a first-year submission category and a Plurilingual Prize. The deadline for submissions is January 2nd at 11:59pm PST. [Learn more here.](#)

## In the Community



### Grief Support for People of Colour

Former RADIUS staff member Alicia Forneret has launched PAUSE, a new project dedicated to supporting people of colour through grief and end of life with safe, culturally-sensitive, and expert-informed resources. PAUSE offers digital and in-person resources and programming to serve individuals, companies, and deathcare professionals. We're so excited for Alicia and the work she's doing. Check out [PAUSE's website](#) and sign-up for the newsletter to stay in the loop.



### Donate to BC Flood Relief

B.C. and the communities within it have experienced much pain and damage in recent months. We are thinking about these lands, and how to support those around us who are directly impacted. SFU is accepting donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries, and new, unwrapped toys across all three campuses to support BC Flood Relief until December 15th. If donating is an option for you, drop-off locations are: Vancouver Campus at the Belzberg Library, Harbour Centre Security Desk; SFU Surrey Campus at The Fraser Library, and at Burnaby Campus, Bennett Library. Learn more [here!](#)



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