

Centre for Sustainability and Social Innovation is now ISIS

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The Centre for Sustainability and Social Innovation at the Sauder School of Business has been renamed ISIS.

The research centre is an incubator for social innovation and sustainability with a particular focus on advancing the growth of the low carbon economy, supporting First Nations enterprise and developing innovative social finance mechanisms.

Projects of note include:

- an ongoing collaboration with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions in producing a weekly climate news scan and regular policy briefs for the BC government;
- Offsetters, a company that was a spinoff from the centre and is Canada's premier provider of quality climate solutions;
- the creation of a Due Diligence Framework for the Heltsiuk Economic Development Corporation which allows for a structured process in analyzing business opportunities and
- Project Blue Sky, an online public engagement initiative that was a collaboration with the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Centre for Digital Media.

“ISIS plays a critical role in society, translating research from the academic sector into real solutions to social and environmental problems,” says James Tansey, Executive Director of ISIS and Associate Professor at the Sauder School of Business. “As organizations seek to demonstrate leadership in corporate social responsibility, they need to draw on a talent pool of MBA and business students with the training and experience to meet their needs. Under a new banner, ISIS will continue to establish itself as a valuable resource in the development of applied research that marries academic research with the practical needs of industry and government.”

The name change followed a consultative process that included the founding families and various stakeholders in devising a new name to better provide the research centre with a singular, distinctive identity. ISIS was first conceived in late 2007 through a private donation from the Swift Family Foundation to establish the building blocks for a research centre that would realize Canadian leadership in social innovation. Officially launched in 2009, ISIS has also received the generous support of the Lalji Family Foundation. Jointly, the Swift and Lalji families are the official Founding Families of ISIS.

NOTE:

ISIS has now moved to a new location in downtown Vancouver. Through the support of Heenan Blakie LLP, ISIS is now located on the 21st floor of the Guinness building at 1055 West Hastings Street, Vancouver.



The new office's proximity to ISIS partner organizations in the downtown area and to UBC's Robson Square campus will allow for improved communication and integration with ISIS stakeholders.

For further information, contact:

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The Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia is Canada's leading academic business school, recognized globally for its contributions to the transformation of business practices through innovative research and teaching. The school has more than 31,000 alumni in 74 countries around the world.

