BOARD QUALITY PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
BRIEFING NOTE
Date: April 15, 2026

Agenda Item	Simon Fraser University (SFU) School of Medicine - Implementation Progress
Submitted By	Dr. Ralph Belle, Vice President, Medicine
Guests Participating	None
Time Required	10 minutes
Expected Outcome	□ Decision □ Discussion X Information

Purpose
To provide an update on the implementation of Fraser Health's deliverables for the Simon Fraser University's (SFU) School of Medicine.

Background
Medical staff shortages continue to limit access to care across Fraser Health and British Columbia (BC). To help address this, the province is establishing the SFU School of Medicine, focused on primary care, team-based practice, Indigenous Health, equity, and innovative care models. The first 48 students start in August 2026 at SFU Surrey, growing to 120 students by 2035, with a permanent campus expected in 2030.

Fraser Health is the school's primary clinical affiliate, hosting learners across community and acute settings. Langley Memorial, Peace Arch, and Surrey Memorial Hospitals were selected as the initial teaching sites based on their fit with SFU's community learning model, presence of clinical services, infrastructure, accessibility, and strong preceptor engagement. Clinical placements will expand across the Fraser region over time.

Benefits of SFU School of Medicine to the Fraser Region

1. **Workforce Development & Retention:** Training learners in-region builds a reliable talent pipeline, helping Fraser Health address Human Health Resources (HHR) shortages and improve retention.
2. **Teaching & Learning Culture:** Increased medical education activity strengthens Fraser Health's learning environment and supports high-quality, team-based care.
3. **Academic–Clinical Integration:** Fraser Health's role in curriculum and postgraduate planning ensures SFU programs align with regional needs and improve care delivery.

Progress Updates and Current Priorities
Below is a summary of key milestones achieved and upcoming priorities for the project implementation team:

1. **Preceptor Recruitment:**
   - To date, over 900 physicians have been registered as clinical instructors with the SFU School of Medicine, aided by Fraser Health's support in recruiting.
   - The Fraser Health project team distributed an Expression of Interest for clinical teaching, receiving over 400 responses from medical staff.

- As the curriculum and placement structure develops, the implementation team will conduct additional focused recruitment activities, aligned with SFU's needs.

2. **Infrastructure Development:**
   - A working group of representatives from Fraser Health Facilities Management, Fraser Health SFU project implementation team and the SFU School of Medicine are managing the development of learning spaces at sites across Fraser including learner lounges, overnight call rooms, and meeting rooms.
   - Detailed Design for Stage I of these developments was completed in December of 2025. Seven sites were prioritized with the creation/renovation of 15 call rooms, six learner lounges, and 13 meeting rooms.
   - The team is currently exploring a second stage of development to support SFU School of Medicine program scaling through identification of additional space development opportunities at Abbotsford Regional and Surrey Memorial Hospitals, including modular units outside hospitals.

3. **Partnership:**
   - Fraser Health and SFU have established a Collaborative Governance structure supported by six joint working groups: Communications, Infrastructure, Clinical Coordination, Preceptor Engagement, Learning Space Management, and Clinical Scheduling. These groups ensure aligned planning, shared decision-making, and operational readiness across both organizations.
   - A tri-party governance framework between Fraser Health, SFU, and University of British Columbia (UBC) was launched in December 2025 to coordinate clinical placements across the region. Three working groups: Clinical Coordination, Faculty Engagement, and Learning Space Management support collaboration across both medical schools in Fraser Health environments.
   - The Fraser Health–SFU partnership includes Fraser Health supporting SFU School of Medicine's Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), leveraging the Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre (JPOCSC) to deliver standardized quality assessments.
   - Fraser Health subject-matter experts are actively supporting SFU in developing curriculum content related to Ethics, Planetary Health, Long-Term Care (LTC), and Research, ensuring alignment with Fraser Health's clinical environment and community needs.

Risks

- There is recognized risk associated with the extended length of time required to reach consensus with academic partners on foundational elements such as space sharing and placement capacity.

Mitigation

- To mitigate this risk, proactive engagement, clear governance structures, and time-bound decision frameworks have been created to ensure alignment and momentum across partners.

Recommendation

That the Board Quality Performance Committee receive the update that Fraser Health has met all the requested deliverables to date to support implementation of the new Simon Fraser University (SFU) School of Medicine, in collaboration and alignment with our partners at the University and the Ministry of Health.

Specific Measurables

- Preceptor Capacity: Recruited vs Required
- Learning Space Capacity: Available vs Required
- Positive learner evaluations

Timelines

- **May 2026:** SFU to attain Family Medicine Program Accreditation
- **August 2026:** Charter class begins
- **Fall 2026:** Stage I Fraser Health capital developments completed
- **July 2027:** SFU School of Medicine Postgraduate program go-live