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Saint Paul University Announces $2.5-Million Gift for New School of Social Innovation

OTTAWA, June 12, 2015 – Saint Paul University (SPU) is proud to announce that an anonymous donor has bestowed upon SPU the largest gift in its history to establish a School of Social Innovation.

''I can't think of a better home than Saint Paul University considering our vision statement: *Guiding Transformation. Together.* This will be Canada's first school of social innovation committed to tackling the issue of poverty reduction in its many forms - health poverty, poverty of civic involvement, intellectual poverty through access to education, situational poverty due to natural disasters, and spiritual poverty, just to name a few. This gift will make it possible for us to impact marginalized communities while enabling the launch of social enterprises that will be commercially viable," said Saint Paul University Rector Chantal Beauvais. The donor has asked to remain anonymous until the official opening of the School, anticipated in early 2017.

The new School of Social Innovation will offer a unique opportunity for community engagement with local and national leaders toward the development of programs and service offerings based on SPU's social innovation vision. "The Telfer School of Management congratulates SPU for this gift and the forthcoming creation of a School of Social Innovation. We are looking forward to exploring avenues of collaboration with SPU as this initiative aligns with our own social entrepreneurship efforts," said François Julien, Dean of the Telfer School of Management.

The enthusiasm for this project is also shared with leaders in the private, public, and philanthropic communities. "We are extremely pleased to see this gift come to Saint Paul University, which will inspire generations of social innovators to be the face of change through financially sustainable businesses and programs that focus on empowering people, enriching communities, and protecting the planet,'' said Marco Pagani President and CEO Community Foundation of Ottawa. ''Ottawa aspires to be the most Innovative city in Canada and a great initiative like this will bring us that much closer to that ambitious goal," added Bruce Lazenby President and CEO Invest Ottawa.

SPU remains an established collaborator in social innovation partnerships through its Counselling and Psychotherapy Centre providing affordable mental health services, its involvement with the Youth Futures initiative and research program to encourage youth to approach post-secondary education, and Discovery University to ensure equal access to education for those who are poor and marginalized. We are extremely grateful to our donor and look forward to the opportunity of publicly expressing our gratitude at the official opening of the School.

Saint Paul University (1848) is the founding college of the University of Ottawa, with which it has been federated since 1965. Bilingual and on a human scale, it offers programs in social communication,

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counselling and psychotherapy, canon law, public ethics, conflict studies, philosophy, human relations, and theology.

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