

Commitments



Canada's universities' commitments to Canadians

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We live in a world where fulfillment depends less upon what we know, and more upon what we can learn, how we think, and how we respond to what the world calls upon us to do. As centres of learning and discovery, universities play a crucial role in the preparation of one's capacity to give back, collaborate and initiate positive change. Universities transform the lives of individuals, who in turn transform our world.



At their core, universities exist to enrich the world through learning, advancing knowledge and serving their communities. To do this, Canada's universities continuously embrace change, inclusivity and innovation. They respond to the shifting needs of society while holding true to the enduring values upon which they were founded.

Learning is at the heart of the university mission to pursue truth, educate students, and build and share knowledge. Our universities are inclusive, providing learners of all ages and backgrounds with broad, dynamic and transformational educational experiences, grounded in best practices, mindful of inclusive excellence and responsive to student and societal needs. In turn, universities empower learners to apply themselves to meaningful pursuits that leverage their talents and enrich our country.

The ability to learn depends upon the freedom to question and challenge. With evidence and truth as guiding principles, this freedom to explore and discover is fundamental to democratic society. In return, universities ensure that the creation of knowledge flows from reasoned discourse, and extensive and rigorous research and scholarship. Academic freedom carries responsibilities, and warrants an extraordinary degree of openness, accountability and transparency—not only in individual research endeavours, but in the operation of institutions as well.

Universities are anchors for their communities and highly engaged in fostering social development. Often a major local employer, they also help communities build resilience and harness new opportunities and research resources to address rapid technological and economic disruption. These collaborations are driving innovation and creating more inclusive and prosperous rural and urban communities across Canada.

Canada's universities embrace their responsibilities as educators, partners and civic leaders in combatting ongoing racism and discrimination, and advancing meaningful reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous peoples. Building access and success in universities for Indigenous learners and researchers, and nurturing respectful relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities reflect the core values of Canada's universities.

We see the outcomes of the university mission most significantly in our graduates—in their contributions to society and their passion for lifelong learning. When we consider current threats to humanity—including climate change, mental health, civil unrest, global pandemics, poverty, systemic racism, overtaxed infrastructure and supply-chains, and rising food insecurity—it is clear we need to help more people than ever before attain a world-renowned Canadian university education.

By nurturing the development of people's innate and unique talents and strengths, universities improve the lives of all Canadians and help make our world a better place.



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Serving all Canadians

We prepare all students with the knowledge and competencies they need to succeed in work and life, empowering them to contribute to Canada's social, economic, and cultural vitality.

Canada's future will be shaped by the educational experiences of today's students. Universities commit to improving accessibility to higher education for all Canadians. We will work with partners to address barriers to access and support student success at university.



Pursuing excellence

We pursue excellence in all aspects of learning, discovery and social impact.

Universities are founded on a commitment to excellence. Canada's universities will continue to create the best opportunities for all who wish to learn, catalyze world-leading research and innovation, and elevate our communities and Canada by mobilizing people and ideas toward solutions that address society's evolving needs.



Responding to society

We deliver enriched learning experiences that meet the ever-changing needs of students, the workforce, communities and broader society.

The COVID-19 pandemic and resultant global upheaval accelerated how Canada's universities serve more students with unprecedented flexibility and support. Teaching and student services innovations complement universities' ongoing work with the private sector, governments and civil society to generate greater experiential and international learning opportunities for all students.



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Mobilizing people and ideas

We mobilize our best people and brightest ideas to seize opportunities and solve the most pressing problems—whether global, national, regional or local.

Canada's universities pursue and support more ground-breaking research than any other economic sector, for the benefit of Canada and the world. Universities are developing new knowledge that addresses urgent and chronic challenges in an increasingly complex world. By upholding a globally competitive environment in which innovation, curiosity and creativity thrive, we drive prosperity and improve our health and that of the planet, our communities, and our relationships with one another.



Stimulating innovation and growth

We help build a stronger Canada by working with the private sector, governments, civil society and educational institutions in Canada and around the world.

Universities serve as connectors and catalysts, bringing together stakeholders from the private sector, government, colleges and community organizations. Valuing interdependence and acknowledging that the acute problems of the world require the investment and talent of many, we will continue to facilitate collaboration and stimulate innovation for the betterment of our economy and society.

