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York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been caretaken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron-Wendat and the Métis. It is now home to many Indigenous Peoples. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.



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York University is committed to reducing its ecological footprint. This handbook has been printed on FSC-certified paper.

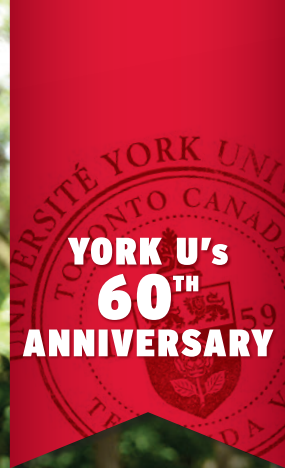
IMPACT

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

YORK
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY 

York University is committed to giving a broad demographic of students **access to a high-quality, research-intensive university experience** committed to the public good.

Cover Photo: Students exploring the universe through York University's new one-metre telescope, the largest telescope on a Canadian university campus.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The students, faculty and staff of York have accomplished a great deal over the past year as we work together as a community to fulfill the priorities and objectives of our University Academic Plan (UAP). I am delighted to update our community and partners on our progress.

This report began with the shared vision that guides our work as a university. Underpinning that vision are four pillars: access, connectedness, excellence and impact. Our vision and pillars in turn inform our priorities as an institution, outlined in the UAP and operationalized through our Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process. I am pleased to report that almost all of our actions are on track or have been completed as we approach the end of the current UAP in 2020.

York's strong planning culture enables continual progress towards our vision, and allows us to respond effectively to internal and external challenges. Over the past year, York has stayed focused on its priorities in an environment defined by uncertainty and rapid change. We have preserved and strengthened our unique role in Canada's higher education sector: a world-class, research-intensive university that emphasizes access for a diverse student body while building a sustained engagement with the local and international communities we serve. We combine these strengths to produce globally educated citizens ready to succeed in the global knowledge economy.

In these pages, you will see the progression from vision and pillars to concrete plans and extraordinary results. York University is a remarkable place; Times Higher Education recently ranked York 26th in the world in terms of the positive impact we are having locally and internationally. I have the great honour of being the President and Vice-Chancellor of this institution, and the unique privilege of sharing the story of our success with you.

Rhonda L. Lenton,
President & Vice-Chancellor

ACCESS



“I found a community at York that has changed the trajectory of my life and education.”

Since our founding in 1959, making higher education accessible has been a central part of York's mission. Students from a wide variety of backgrounds make up the diversity that defines our community.

Indigenous community members gather in York's tipi, a symbol of York's commitment to Indigenous Peoples, cultures and knowledge.

\$33M+scholarships
and bursaries awarded**1,847**

student jobs on campus

12,465

first-generation students

81%of students from
under-represented
groups graduate
within six years**11%**increase in Indigenous
students since 2017-18

Access is woven throughout the University Academic Plan (UAP), but is most evident in three key priorities: *Innovative, Quality Programs for Academic Excellence; A Student-Centred Approach and Enhanced Campus Experience*. While it is vital that we open the doors to higher education to more students, ensuring their success with flexible learning options, a supportive and caring community, and services geared to their unique needs is equally important if they are to realize the full benefits of a university education.

We prioritize access not only because of the benefits for individuals that come with a university degree, but also because of the implications for Canada - our society cannot afford to let any human potential go unfulfilled in a hyper-competitive global knowledge economy. The percentage of our population who have a university education and the diversity of that population matter to our future.

EMBRACING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, CULTURES AND PEOPLES

York is committed to putting Indigenous knowledge, cultures and Peoples at the core of our work as a university. The need for a university-wide Indigenization strategy was identified in the University Academic Plan, and in 2017, we launched the *Indigenous Framework for York University: A Guide to Action*. We have been making steady progress on fulfilling its principles with a host of initiatives across the University. In the fall of 2018, we launched our innovative Indigenous Studies program in the Department of Equity Studies in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. Relying on theories developed by Indigenous scholars, the teachings of Elders, participation in ceremonies and a focus on treaty rights and relationships, York's program is unique in its additional focus on Metis identities, non-status and/or urban Native peoples, and Indigenous-Black relations.

In 2018 we announced the creation of Waaban Indigenous Teacher Education, a new degree program offered in partnership between our Faculty of Education and the Toronto District School Board. Waaban is an Anishinabe (Ojibwa) word meaning "it is tomorrow." Grounded in Indigenous knowledge and pedagogy, the program will educate a new generation of teachers to address the needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students, families and communities.

These new programs join long-standing initiatives like Osgoode Hall Law School's acclaimed Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources & Governments, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Students need access to mental health and wellness supports to achieve their maximum potential. Following the launch of York's Mental Health Strategy in 2016, we continue to work toward an overall Well-Being Strategy, a key objective of the University Academic Plan (Priority 6: *Enhanced Community Engagement*). In 2018-19, York International led a mental health awareness campaign to broaden awareness about mental health challenges faced by international students while introducing the international student body to the many services available at York. We also undertook a reorganization of our Learning Disability Services, Mental Health Disability Services and Physical, Sensory & Medical Disability Services into a single entity - Student Accessibility Services. This change is helping to provide consistent and transparent wellness services for students across our campuses.

SERVING OUR STUDENTS BETTER – WITH AI

Developed collaboratively by York and IBM, a new bilingual virtual student assistant was successfully piloted at the University. The new system provides students with support services designed to improve their university experience by delivering both academic and personal guidance in real time. The virtual assistant uses information about a student's program and year of study to respond to questions submitted in a free-form chat window. This is the first time that IBM AI technology has been used in this way at a Canadian university, and more than 100 York students are engaged in refining the system, helping the virtual assistant improve its ability to guide students to the right self-service or in-person contact for academic support or counselling in areas such as advising, campus involvement and career services.

CONNECTEDNESS



“If the university wants to be engaged with the community, the best way is to be in the community.”

At York, we understand the importance of fostering strong connections - to one another, to our neighbours and partners in the communities we serve, and to the world around us, creating new relationships across sectors and geographical boundaries.

Community members at the York University-TD Community Engagement Centre, located in the York Gate Mall.



7,975

international students
from 173 countries

300+

international
university partners

315,000+

alumni network

129

Employers have posted
opportunities through
the ExperienceYU hub

Priority 6 of the UAP, *Enhanced Community Engagement*, recognizes the importance of engaging with the local and global communities we serve. Universities have an important role to play in bringing together citizens, experts, employers and policymakers to tackle the complex social, scientific and technological challenges facing society. From climate change to poverty, healthcare to smart cities, York is embracing its role as a hub for multi-sector collaboration.

Connectedness supports many other priorities in the UAP. Aspirations to further advance our scholarship, research and creative activities, create innovative new programs, and enhance quality in teaching and learning all depend on our ability to engage with the communities around us. York believes experiential learning, where education is meaningfully connected to the labour market and future careers, is vital to the success of our graduates in the global knowledge economy. By building new relationships with employers, we are able to expand these learning opportunities for our students.

COMMUNITY-LED PARTNERSHIPS

The York University-TD Community Engagement Centre (CEC) is a satellite office of the University in the heart of the Black Creek community. The CEC contributes to York's efforts to build inclusive and sustainable communities by fostering collaborative research partnerships on issues important to residents, providing innovative experiential learning opportunities for students and fostering post-secondary attainment for members of the Black Creek community. The CEC also shares knowledge and resources to a wide variety of community groups and businesses. In 2019, we celebrated a decade of impact through the YU-TD CEC alongside the TD Bank Group's announcement of a new \$1 million contribution to support the continuing success of the CEC and the development of new programs focused on student mobility, career exploration, career training and reskilling.

BUILDING SMART CITIES

York Region has the fastest growing population rate of any large municipal jurisdiction in Ontario with an influx of more than 1.8 million people and 900,000 jobs expected within the next 25 years. As plans continue to evolve for a new Markham campus to meet the needs of the region, York has leveraged its academic and research resources to create a dynamic partnership with this emerging entrepreneurial hub. In 2019, we celebrated the first anniversary of YSpace, a 10,000-square-foot community innovation centre in Markham. YSpace supports entrepreneurs and innovators by providing dynamic co-working space, access to industry advisers, education, workshops and high-end technology. One year in, the innovation hub is already home to 22 start-up ventures and 11 entrepreneurs in residence, has created 63 jobs,

generated more than \$2.4 million of revenue and raised over \$1.1 million in venture funding. In addition to YSpace, the University continues to grow our relationship with York Region through our partnership with IBM's ventureLab. This fall, we will begin offering York courses at the IBM campus in a newly renovated space.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN SUSTAINABILITY

Professor Martin Bunch is spearheading York's research involvement in a major collaborative initiative with the Global Footprint Network. In 2019, York became the global data centre for the National Ecological Footprint Accounts, which are the foundation of the Global Footprint Network's ecological footprint calculator, the only metric that compares overall human demand on nature with biocapacity - what our planet can renew. Updated annually with UN data, the footprint helps determine the performance of more than 200 countries on environmental sustainability. The international hub at York not only updates the accounts, but is also building a network to coordinate methodological improvements to the ecological footprint metric among international research institutions. York is helping the National Ecological Footprint Accounts to become more dependable while showcasing the University's leadership as a global academic leader in sustainability.

EXCELLENCE



“I feel like I take away a lot more in learning from these courses than I would learning through a book or through a lecture because I actually get to apply it myself.”

At York, we strive to excel in our core academic activities of teaching and learning, scholarship, research and creative activities. By building excellence into the University Academic Plan, we keep ourselves accountable to our ambitious goals.

Students collaborating in the recording studio at the Accolade East building.

\$104 million

in research grants and awards

9,000+

students participating in an experiential learning opportunity

4 NEW

Canada Research Chairs appointed in 2018-19

#1

in Canada in publications with an international co-author

108

community-based research initiatives

We advance excellence through all seven priorities of the UAP, including the creation of innovative new academic programs responsive to labour market needs, the advancement of our research and creative activities, the continual enhancement of quality in teaching and learning, the improvement of our campus experience and the transformation of services that enable those plans. We ensure progress towards these objectives through our Integrated Resource Planning process.

The results are clear. Our researchers continue to push the frontiers of knowledge while garnering impressive awards and accolades, and we continue to enhance the infrastructure and facilities on our campuses. We have created hundreds of new experiential learning opportunities and launched programs that respond not only to the needs of our employers, but also to the communities we serve. Over the past year, we launched the Master of Management in AI at the Schulich School of Business, a BA in Indigenous Studies and Certificate in Black Studies in our Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, and a new BSc in Neuroscience, a partnership between our Faculty of Health and Faculty of Science.

INNOVATION IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

York is committed to enhancing the student learning experience through the advancement of technology-enhanced learning, international activities and experiential education. In the fall of 2018, we announced one of our most innovative offerings: DevDegree, a partnership between York’s Lassonde School of Engineering and Canadian tech leader Shopify. This unique program embeds students directly into Shopify’s development teams through a paid internship. Students split their time between Shopify’s downtown offices and their coursework at Lassonde, and earn a unique honours Bachelor of Computer Science degree.

CREATING THE SPACE TO INNOVATE

Excellence in teaching and research requires extraordinary spaces. In January, we celebrated the opening of the Rob and Cheryl McEwen Graduate Study & Research Building at the Schulich School of Business, one of the most environmentally sustainable and socially responsible academic buildings in North America. Designed to bring industry into the classroom, this state-of-the-art facility is a space for interdisciplinary research in topics ranging from business ethics and big data to global enterprise and real estate. York also completed the revitalization of our Farquharson Life Sciences Building, providing students and researchers with modern lab spaces.

REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF YORK RESEARCHERS

Research at York aspires to employ the knowledge we gain in the service of society, and this year our researchers achieved new levels of recognition. For the first time, York received more than \$100 million

in external research grants and awards. That figure includes Professor Carla Lipsig-Mummé, who was recognized with the prestigious Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Impact Award (Partnership Category) for her work on the social impacts of the workplace on climate change. Similarly, a team of researchers led by psychology Professor Rebecca Pillai Riddell, York’s associate vice-president of research, was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), SSHRC, and the Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) (plus \$387,000 in-kind contributions from community partners) to look at preterm infants’ subjective experiences of pain. As a testament to their promising and innovative research in the sciences, engineering and health, York researchers were awarded 48 NSERC Discovery Grants, an investment of almost \$8.5 million.

SPACES AND SYSTEMS FOR SUCCESS

Over the past year, York has continued to build the systems and infrastructure needed to achieve the priorities and objectives outlined in the UAP. In 2018-19, we conducted a successful consultation process that engaged the York community on the University’s 2019-20 budget. After two years of data collection, we are also launching a service transformation process that will help York become more agile and innovative. The transformation process is a collaborative partnership that uses a human-centred approach to involve community members in redesigning services and service structures to best meet the needs of users.

IMPACT



“ My humanitarian journey has followed the University’s motto of Tentanda Via: the way must be tried.”

— Pernille Ironside, JD '99

Access, connectedness and excellence come together to allow York – its faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters – to create positive change in the world.

Bryden award recipients from left to right: Paul Sanberg, BSc '76, Pernille Ironside, JD '99, Cheryl & Rob McEwen, CM, MBA '78, LLD '05, and Jamil Jivani, BA '10

4,790
entrepreneurs engaged

292
start-ups supported

11%
increase in media coverage
of York research

71%
of donations to
York are from alumni

That is what we mean by impact – tackling society’s most difficult challenges with a combination of innovative pedagogy, cutting-edge research and multi-sector collaboration and partnership. York’s Strategic Research Plan and University Academic Plan make research intensification, the growth of community partnerships, and the expansion of entrepreneurship and innovation key priorities for the university.

Our goal is to improve the competitiveness of our economy, enhance the inclusiveness and vitality of our local and global communities, and to ensure the environmental sustainability of our world.

INNOVATING SOLUTIONS TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

On any given night in Canada, there are at least 6,000 young people on the street, vulnerable to trauma, criminal exploitation, poor health and social and economic exclusion. The Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab (MtS), a new initiative jointly led by Faculty of Education Professor Stephen Gaetz, head of York’s Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, in partnership with the non-profit A Way Home Canada, is taking a groundbreaking and collaborative approach to youth homelessness. MtS’s mission is to conduct and mobilize quality research that supports governments, communities and service providers to “make the shift” from managing the crisis of youth homelessness to a focus on prevention and enabling sustainable exits from homelessness. This year, MtS received \$17.9 million through the Government of Canada’s Network of Centres of Excellence program to continue and expand their crucial work.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In addition to our successful YSpace incubator in Markham, we have also launched Glendon Entrepreneuriat et Innovation A L’international (GENIAL), a bilingual incubator and entrepreneurship training program at Glendon College, extending our support for innovators to the Francophone community. The new Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science and Technology (BEST) program at the Lassonde School of Engineering combines experiential learning, international experience and a start-up incubator to train the next generation of tech leaders.

EXPERIMENTS IN SPACE, BENEFITS ON EARTH

When Canadian astronaut David St. Jacques blasted off to the International Space Station, he took a bit of York with him – an experiment designed by Faculty of Health Professor Laurence Harris and his team, Professors Michael Jenkin and Robert Allison from the Lassonde School of Engineering, as well as postdoctoral fellow Nils Bury and graduate student Meaghan McManus. The VECTION experiment is examining the effects of microgravity on astronauts’ perception of their motion. While it may seem literally out-of-this-world, VECTION could help develop potential treatments for diseases like Parkinson’s, enhance medical procedures and improve the quality of life for people who are ill. VECTION builds upon York’s leadership in vision science, through our Centre for Vision Research and the Vision: Science to Applications (VISTA) program, funded through a Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF).

IMPACT THAT GETS NOTICED

This year, York ranked 5th in Canada and 26th in the world in the inaugural Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. Based on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, the ranking highlights how the higher education sector is contributing to international efforts to build a more socially, economically and environmentally sustainable world. York did even better on individual indicators measuring our ability to build sustainable cities and communities (12th in the world) and deliver on climate action (14th in the world). These are exactly the kinds of global challenges that universities are uniquely positioned to address, by bringing together experts, community leaders, policy-makers and leaders in the public and private sectors to collaborate on innovative solutions.

ACCOLADES



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16

- The President's University-Wide Teaching Award winners - **Russ Patrick Alcedo, Nicolette Richardson and Alistair Mapp** - were hailed for their commitment to pedagogical innovation.
- Alumna **Lilly Singh (BA '10)** has been named host of "A Little Late With Lilly Singh" on NBC, making her the first woman of colour to host a daily late-night show on a major US network.
- The University's newest members of the Royal Society of Canada are Professors **Wenona Giles, Joan Judge, Paul Sych and David Vaver**. Professor **John Moores** was named a member of the RSC's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.
- Professors **Sunil Bisnath, John Moores and Gordon Shepherd**, from the Lassonde School's Department of Earth & Space Science & Engineering, have been chosen for the Canadian Space Agency's (CSA) Flights and Fieldwork for the Advancement of Science and Technology (FAST) funding initiative.
- Three faculty members were bestowed honorary professorships: the title of University Professor was awarded to **Avi Cohen** and **Kim Michasiw**, and the title of Distinguished Research Professor was awarded to **Stephanie Ben-Ishai**.
- Osgoode student and Osgoode Indigenous Students' Association co-chair **Alana Robert** received the prestigious Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case for her focus on advancing the rights of marginalized groups in Canada.
- The York University English Language Institute (YUELI) was recognized as the 2018-19 World Language School of the Year - North America by iStudy Guide. The award is the highest recognition for a language institution.
- York's Lassonde School of Engineering welcomed **Satinder Brar** as the inaugural James and Joanne Love Chair in Environmental Engineering, whose role is to enrich faculty and student research, broaden and enliven the teaching, and inspire a deep sense of environmental stewardship in graduates.
- Faculty of Science mathematics Professor **Jianhong Wu**, a Canada Research Chair in Industrial and Applied Mathematics, is the winner of the 2019 Canadian Applied & Industrial Mathematics Society-Fields Industrial Mathematics Prize.
- The 2018 York Research Leaders were announced and recognized for leadership in their fields and a commitment to advancing innovative research. This year's President's Research Awards recipients were **Deanne Williams, Marcello Musto, Christine Till and Julia Creet**.
- Lassonde alumnus **Nima Shahbazi (PhD '18)** is a member of the computer science team that won the \$1 million Zillow Competition Prize for improving the Zestimate home valuation algorithm.
- This was another incredible year for the York Lions with the unveiling of a new logo and brand, and field team members **Pierce Lepage and Brittany Crew** being named both the 2019 U SPORTS field athletes of the year and the York University Athletes of the Year.
- York was named one of Canada's Greenest Employers for the seventh straight year.
- In partnership with the Carswell Family Foundation, York established the new Allan I. Carswell Chair for the Public Understanding of Astronomy in the Faculty of Science, and University Professor and Senior Lecturer **Paul Delaney** was appointed the first holder.
- Guggenheim Fellowships, which recognize individuals for productive scholarship or creative ability in the arts, were granted to Professors **Michael Helm and Mark Jurdjevic**.
- Sarah Cantrell**, assistant vice-president of institutional planning and analysis, was elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the Society of College and University Planning (SCUP). With more than 4,500 international members, SCUP ensures that post-secondary institutions thrive in increasingly complex environments through effective integrated planning practices.

ACCOLADES

