



PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

June 2022

Dear colleagues,

We find ourselves at the end of another academic year, one that has presented us with challenges we've met and opportunities we've seized. We have accomplished much, and now find ourselves in an optimistic position, as we prepare for a fall term that brings us back to our campuses in a safe and reinvigorated way.

I want to wish all Council members a replenishing summer, and I look forward to convening once again in Neatby Timlin auditorium this coming September. Thank you to the many individuals who assist with planning these meetings and have ensured seamless on-line delivery during our time in a remote environment.

Kind regards,
Peter

USask Spring Convocation returns to in-person celebrations at Merlis Belsher Place

For the first time in more than two years, USask celebrated the Indigenous Graduation Celebration and our eight convocation ceremonies, in-person at Merlis Belsher Place. A total of 3,269 graduates were scheduled to receive degrees in this year's Spring Convocation.

As a university community, we are proud of what the newest USask graduates have accomplished in these challenging times, and we will watch with pride as they go on to help shape the future and contribute to what the world needs. Congratulations graduates, and welcome to our family of more than 165,000 alumni living around the world.

Visit the [graduation celebration page](#) to watch convocation ceremonies and the Indigenous Graduation Celebration and to learn more about this spring's honorary degree and award recipients.

June is Pride month

June is Pride Month at USask, across Canada and in a number of countries around the world.

A number of initiatives are planned at USask, including Drag Queen Story Time for Adults at the Murray Library and an Instagram event, which will focus on the College of Arts and [Science certificate in Queer Theory, Gender Diversity and Sexualities Studies](#).

The Two Pride-themed crosswalks will be painted on the Saskatoon campus and new USask Pride-themed merchandise is available at Shop USask, with some of the proceeds going to the Queer Housing initiative. Saskatoon Pride Festival is June 12-18, and USask will be participating in the annual parade.

I would like to thank the cross-institutional committee that came together to plan this year's Pride celebrations at USask. For more information, please go to [USask Pride](#).

USask hosts the Prime Minister of Canada

On May 24th, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a special visit to USask and paid tribute to the contributions the university has made to scientific discovery. He wound up a day of tours meeting with staff, board and leadership from the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) at USask, and thanked them for their efforts at this moment in history. The prime minister also met with top students and toured innovative spaces and unique research facilities throughout the day. A luncheon meet-and-greet took place with students at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre, followed by tours of the university's Crop Development Centre (CDC) research plots and VIDO.

It was an honour to showcase these areas and more for the prime minister. We have taken great strides in developing local solutions to national and global problems, while also building a campus community committed to the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are grateful for the ongoing federal support for our university facilities and programs and appreciated having the opportunity to spotlight some of USask's achievements and advancements for the prime minister.

USask honours researchers for significant contributions

USask's Distinguished Researchers for 2022 are both nationally and internationally renowned and have served the university and the province for decades.

Asthma and allergen researcher Dr. Don Cockcroft (MD) has changed the world's understanding of asthma and its management, with his work over the past 47 years. The prolific research of chemical engineer Dr. Ajay Dalai (PhD) has also made major impacts for 25 years in the fields of bioenergy, heavy oil and gas processing, and environmentally safe remediation of wastewater and waste gas streams.

USask has also recognized Dr. Markus Brinkmann (PhD) and Dr. Xiaodong Liang (PhD) as its two New Researchers for this year. Brinkmann has been developing a world-class research program in aquatic

ecotoxicology since joining USask's faculty in 2018, while Liang has been building an impactful research program to improve the reliability of renewable energy-based microgrids for northern and remote communities, since arriving on campus in 2019.

I wish to congratulate each of these individuals for their accomplishments and leadership in research at USask.

USask co-leads a \$3.2 million dollar research project focused on carbon sequestration for mitigating climate change

A team led by Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (PhD), dean and professor of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at USask, and Dr. Cameron Carlyle (PhD) from the University of Alberta has been awarded \$3.2 million in funding for research on carbon sequestration in perennial forage and pastures.

The funding was announced by Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture David Marit as part of the Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) which advances research to address complex challenges faced by the agriculture and agri-food sectors. The five-year project will examine soil carbon stocks in perennial forage systems across Saskatchewan and investigate the link between producer management practices and carbon stores to identify practices that promote carbon sequestration. One of the outcomes of the project will be maps providing an accurate estimate of carbon in Saskatchewan's pasture and rangelands.