



## Provost's Report to Council

### November 2022

Hello Council Chair, members, and visitors. Bonjour.  
 tānisi. hān. ǎd̥tanet'e? taanishi. aniin  
 [English. French. Cree. Dakota/Lakota/Nakota. Dene. Michif. Saulteaux]

### GENERAL REMARKS

This report provides updates as well as indications of our progress toward achieving the five aspirations outlined in the [University Plan 2025](#).

### Fall Convocation 2022

Congratulations to the 981 University of Saskatchewan students who received 994 academic credentials during USask's [Fall Convocation](#) ceremonies, which were held on Nov. 9 at Merlis Belsher Place. The USask community is so proud of all that you have achieved, and we are pleased to welcome you into the USask alumni family of more than 169,000 graduates around the world.

The university community was also pleased to have an opportunity during Convocation to honour some of USask's highest-achieving students, including President's Medal recipient Shaoyan Wang (College of Arts and Science). Also celebrated during Convocation were honorary degree recipient Mark Abley (D. Litt); Master Teacher award recipient Dr. Soo Kim (PhD), from the School of Rehabilitation Science; and Distinguished Researcher award recipient Dr. Ajay Dalai (PhD), from the College of Engineering. Congratulations to all award recipients.

### ohpahotān | oohpaahotaan Fall Symposium

Members of the university community [attended a fall symposium last month](#) that offered an opportunity for USask schools, colleges, and units to share information on the implementation of the [Indigenous Strategy](#). The event, which was hosted by the Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement (OVPIE) on Oct. 28 at Marquis Hall, provided networking and socializing opportunities for faculty, staff, and students who want to connect with each other and find exciting ways to work together to uplift the Indigenous Strategy. The strategy, oohpahotān | oohpaahotaan ("let's fly up together"), was gifted to USask in a ceremony in August 2021 on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples who informed and validated the process as a companion to the University Plan 2025.

Thank you to Dr. Angela Jaime (PhD), interim vice-provost, Indigenous engagement, and her team in OVPIE for coordinating the fall symposium and for facilitating an inspiring day of sharing and learning.

### Living Skies Post-Doctoral Fellows Program

USask [accepted applications](#) for the [second phase of the Living Skies Post-Doctoral Fellows Program](#) from Oct. 11 to Nov. 10. This initiative, funded through a time-bounded provincial government strategic investment from 2021-2024, aims to increase interdisciplinary research activity by recruiting outstanding post-doctoral fellows (PDFs) from around the world. USask has allocated \$2 million in one-

time funding provided by the Government of Saskatchewan, as well as \$400,000 from the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), for the program. Through the pilot project, USask will recruit PDFs who have earned their PhD degrees at other universities, thereby bringing new citizens, and their talents and expertise, to Saskatchewan.

The PDFs recruited through the Living Skies Post-Doctoral Fellows Program will work with mentors on the USask campus and will also be connected to private- or public-sector entities outside of the university, such as arts groups, museums, businesses, and technology companies. These off-campus relationships will provide the PDFs with deeper connections to the larger fabric of Saskatchewan and will create new opportunities for their research, scholarly, and artistic work (RSAW) to flourish and for Saskatchewan's economic enterprises to grow as the PDFs make their homes in the province.

Another important element of the Living Skies Post-Doctoral Fellows Program is its interdisciplinary cohort approach, which brings groups of two or three PDFs together, from different disciplines, to work with two or more faculty members from different areas of the university. The groups of scholars will collaborate to address specific research questions or themes, ultimately creating new connections across campus and enhancing the interdisciplinary nature of USask's RSAW.

### **Period Poverty Project – USask Menstrual Equity Initiative**

Alleviating period poverty is a message that has been echoed through post-secondary institutions across the country, including through USask's ongoing conversations with its students, staff, and faculty. USask's new Period Poverty Project, coordinated through the Deputy Provost's Office, aims to destigmatize menstruation through education and awareness and by providing equitable access to period product supplies. The project aims to offer free menstrual hygiene products in 26 locations at USask with more than 60 washrooms (women's, men's, and gender-neutral facilities). It is anticipated that the menstrual products will be available in the washrooms by the end of the calendar year.

### **Increased funding to educate veterinarians at USask**

Saskatchewan and Manitoba are addressing Western Canada's urgent need for more veterinarians by increasing funding to educate more students in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) at USask. Saskatchewan's Advanced Education Minister Gordon Wyant and Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced that Saskatchewan will increase its annual quota from 20 to 25 seats for the 2023/24 academic year. Manitoba's Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration Minister Jon Reyes and Agriculture Minister Derek Johnson have also announced plans to add five seats to Manitoba's annual quota, for a total of 20 seats (fall 2023 entry).

Expanding the capacity to train veterinarians will contribute to the sustainability of the profession and will enable USask to further enhance its leadership role in the veterinary sciences and in One Health. Several factors—including a rapid increase in pet ownership, a rise in veterinary professionals reaching retirement age, and a limited number of graduates each year—have led to a shortage of veterinarians and registered veterinary technologists (RVTs) across Canada.

### **Indigenous membership/citizenship verification policy**

The [university recently released a progressive policy](#) guiding First Nations, Métis, and Inuit membership/citizenship verification at USask, the product of months of work and careful consideration by a 27-member task force of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Language Teachers, and other Indigenous community and campus leaders. The task force included representatives from Saskatoon Tribal Council, Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Métis-Nation Saskatchewan, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, and Prince Albert Grand Council. The members tackled the complicated work of developing new policy created for and by Indigenous communities and governments – rather than the university – to determine how to verify who has Indigenous membership/citizenship when it comes to applying for USask positions, grants, scholarships, and supports specifically for Indigenous Peoples.

The task force – supported by a 20-member advisory circle of university representatives – began its work in January 2022 and completed the policy six months later, in June. USask’s Board of Governors formally approved the policy on July 9, with implementation currently underway. The university is now in the process of updating the online system for uploading documentation and creating information material for members of the community, both on and off campus, to learn more about the new policy.

As Canadian institutions face the challenge of people who falsely claim to be Indigenous, USask publicly shared a new independent report on Nov. 3 that will contribute to the national conversation and inform the university’s continued implementation of policies and practices around this issue.

[USask commissioned Jean Teillet](#), a leading Canadian expert on Indigenous rights, Métis identity, and history, to look into the root causes of the problem, advise on the complexity of Indigenous identity issues, and recommend ways that USask can effectively implement its new policies and processes aimed at detecting and deterring false claims of Indigenous citizenship and identity.

Ms. Teillet’s research included an extensive literature review and interviews with 60 USask faculty, staff, and students. She stated that the findings of her 86-page report are applicable not just to USask but to all institutions across Canada that hire and engage Indigenous people. She noted that USask has “embraced the need to work with Indigenous communities and is moving quickly to implement new policies and agreements.” [The full report can be found here.](#)

USask’s efforts to advance Indigenization have been guided by the university’s strategic plan, Truth Telling consultations with Indigenous faculty and staff, the gifting of the ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan Indigenous strategy, and the Indigenous-led deywewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin policy on membership/citizenship verification. Ms. Teillet’s report offers advice on how to build on these strategies and policies, and adds to the university’s continued journey of listening, deliberating, and taking transformative action for reconciliation.

### **This month’s appreciation:**

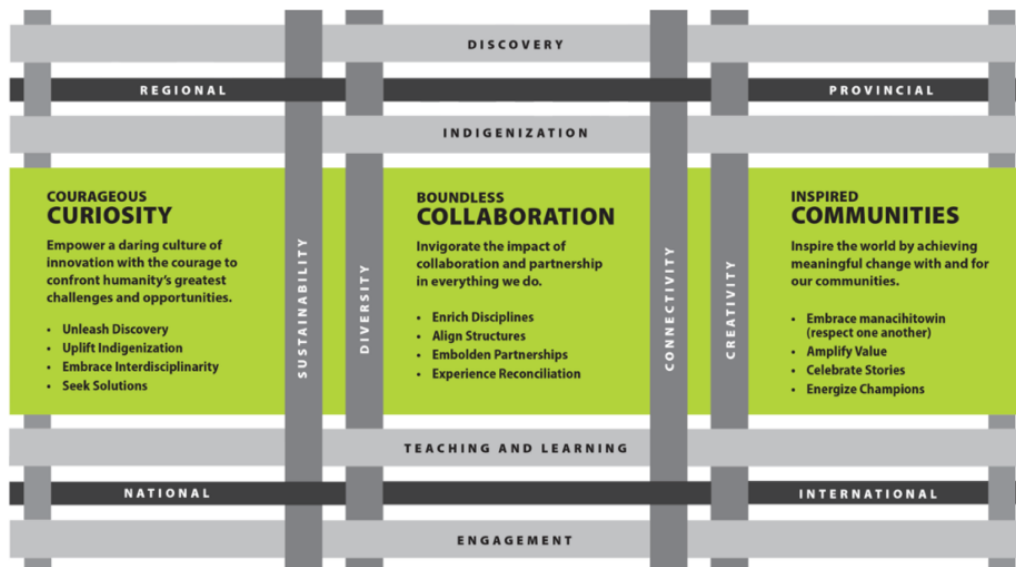
Thank you to University Council for your support of Fall Convocation, and to the faculty, staff, students, family members, friends, community members, and alumni who attended Convocation ceremonies on Nov. 9 and who helped to make the day a special one for our graduates.

I want to acknowledge the hard work of our USask staff members who coordinate and organize the many aspects of our detailed Convocation ceremonies—thank you for all that you do to ensure it is a memorable day for our newest alumni.

I am also grateful for the ongoing support of Convocation from our President, Chancellor, Deans, and senior leaders across campus. The Convocation ceremonies held each spring and fall are a wonderful time of celebration and are supported by a full stage of members from our USask academic community. Thank you for representing our USask community and for celebrating this meaningful day with our students.

## UNIVERSITY 2025 PLAN: THE UNIVERSITY THE WORLD NEEDS

### nīkānītān manāchitowinihk / ni manachīhitoonaan



### Meaningful Impact

#### **Career Services: Engaging students in virtual work-integrated learning and internships**

Riipen is a project-based learning platform that connects instructors and students to work-integrated learning, community-engaged learning, internships, and practica opportunities. USask is currently using the platform in two ways. The first is through [Level UP](#), an innovative work-integrated learning program powered by Riipen and sponsored by the Government of Canada to prepare post-secondary students and employers to thrive in the future of work. The second is for [curriculum-embedded projects](#) for students. The Riipen all-in-one platform is used for connecting, communicating, sharing documents, and managing deadlines between instructors, students, and community/industry partners.

For 2022-23, Career Services has access to a minimum of \$350,000 in stipends through Level UP. This equates to a minimum of 250 USask students eligible for an 80-hour, \$1,400 project-based placement. Information sessions were hosted in October to share information about Riipen Level UP with students. USask has four courses in 2022/23 using the platform to connect students with community/industry projects in the following subject areas: engineering, agriculture (two classes), and career education/professional skills development.

### Productive Collaboration

#### **Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy: Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Nation-Building**

The Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (USask and University of Regina campuses – JSGS) and the First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) have launched a new certificate program to support Indigenous leaders in advancing the priorities and needs of their communities. The [Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Nation-Building](#) will be offered across Canada and will feature three online graduate-level classes focusing on traditional and contemporary Indigenous governance and worldviews. Students will also explore the impact of colonialism on political, social, and economic institutions and developments in Indigenous communities and the role of Indigenous self-governance and self-determination in transforming economic, social, health, and environmental outcomes. The certificate also includes an in-person community residency where students will share knowledge and best practices, build networks, and learn from the Old Ones, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers.

JSGS and FNUUniv have worked together for many years to support emerging leaders and community capacity through programs and research partnerships. With this new graduate certificate, JSGS and FNUUniv are expanding opportunities for Indigenous leaders and other public servants to learn about Indigenous governance practices, values, and systems to support the rebuilding of nations.

### **Distinguished Learners**

#### **Edwards School of Business: Fourth annual Pinning Ceremony**

The Edwards School of Business hosted the fourth annual Pinning Ceremony last month at Convocation Hall. The ceremony brought together students and alumni to celebrate their current and future professional journeys. Attendees heard from three inspiring speakers: Elder Roland Duquette, Allison McMillan (BComm'06, MPAcc'08), and Jeana Myers (BComm'22). They also took part in reciting the Edwards pledge. In total, 120 people attended the event and 15 picked up a pin or received one by mail.

The Canadian Construction Association has also announced that it is recognizing three Edwards Executive Education programs with Gold Seal Certification. Gold Seal Certifications signal to employers and to the marketplace that the Edwards School of Business is closely tied to professional practice.

#### **College of Dentistry: CADR-NCOHR Student Research Award winners**

Eight students representing the College of Dentistry were recently chosen [as recipients of CADR-NCOHR Student Research Awards](#). USask College of Dentistry students claimed almost half of the 18 total awards given out across Canada. Congratulations to the following award recipients: Andrea Escalante-Herrera, Ibrahim Hoja, Angha Himanshu Naik, Rima Siauciunaite, Bradley Bigsby, Juan Buitrago, Sara Hasell, and Kovie Luu.

Trainees working in dental and oral health research in Canada submitted a manuscript describing their studies in an application for the award sponsored by Canadian Association for Dental Research (CADR) and Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (NCOHR). The eight USask award recipients will present their research at the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) and CADR annual meeting in Portland, OR., in March 2023.

### **Transformative Decolonization Leading to Reconciliation**

#### **University Library: I-Portal: Indigenous Studies Portal**

After nearly two years of consultation, data cleanup, and design work, the University Library launched the refreshed, re-designed [I-Portal: Indigenous Studies Portal](#) on Nov. 8. The new I-Portal, found at [iportal.usask.ca](http://iportal.usask.ca), is built on a software platform that offers users increased functionality, improved search capabilities, and a more intuitive and inclusive design. The redesign includes a new turtle that serves as the I-Portal logo and as a way to navigate the extensive I-Portal content.

The I-Portal is a tool for faculty, students, researchers, and members of the broader community to access digital Indigenous studies resources, such as articles, e-books, theses, government publications, videos, oral histories, reports, and digitized archival documents and photographs. First launched at USask in 2006, the I-Portal has grown from an initial collection of 6,000 records to more than 71,000 records. The I-Portal collection focuses primarily on Indigenous Peoples of Canada, with a secondary focus on Indigenous Peoples of the United States, Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand, and other areas of the world. Wherever possible, the I-Portal links to openly accessible resources.

### **Global Recognition**

The Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic and the Office of the Vice-President Research (OVPR) are co-leads for the university rankings project coordinated in OVPR.

There are two rankings reports to note this month. First, USask [achieved its best-ever subject ranking](#) in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject, with education garnering a spot in the 151-175 category, moving up four tiers from a ranking of 301-400 one year ago.

USask moved up in three other subjects among the 11 broad subject areas assessed by THE for its 2023 rankings, with arts and humanities moving to the 301-400 category (previously 401-500), physical sciences to 301-400 (previously 401-500), and law, previously unranked, moving into the 201-250 band. Compared to 2022, USask remained constant in six other subject areas: computer science, engineering, life sciences, social sciences (all in the 301-400 band), psychology (401-500), and business and economics (501-600). The only decline was in clinical and health, down one tier to 501-600.

Second, [USask is among the top tier of all universities in tackling the world's biggest environmental, social, and governance challenges](#), according to the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings: Sustainability. The rankings, released on Oct. 26 by QS, is the agency's first foray into assessing universities on sustainability, and analyzes institutions based on environmental and social impact. It evaluates the performance of each university across multiple domains in each category.

In Canada, USask placed fourth in environmental impact and No. 14 in social impact, with a combined rank of ninth among 26 Canadian universities as well as Canada's U15 group of research-intensive universities. Globally, USask ranked No. 91 out of 700 universities evaluated, including No. 42 in environmental impact and No. 265 in social impact. The ranking is a holistic measure of performance, weighing social and environmental performance equally for a combined sustainability score.

Eight measures comprise the rankings, including research collaborations between countries that donate international aid and those that receive aid, assessments across 16 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and alumni who have made major contributions to address social and environmental challenges.

<b>Transformative decolonization leading to reconciliation</b>	A university in which Indigenous concepts, methodologies, pedagogies, languages, and philosophies are respectfully woven into the tapestry of learning, research, scholarship, creativity, and community engagement.
<b>Productive collaboration</b>	A university in which research and innovation are inspired by and accountable to community partners.
<b>Meaningful impact</b>	A university resolutely committed to measuring its own success in terms of the aspirations of the communities it serves.
<b>Distinguished Learners</b>	A university whose graduates have the drive, the curiosity, and the humility to work with others in addressing the greatest challenges and opportunities the world faces.
<b>Global recognition</b>	A university that sets the standard in learning, research, scholarship, creativity, and community engagement.

## REVIEWS, SEARCHES, APPOINTMENTS

### Appointments:

- Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins has been re-appointed as associate dean, University Library, for a period of up to five years, beginning Jan. 1, 2023.
- Nicole Fernandez has been appointed acting associate dean, academic, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, for the period of Nov. 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023.

### Reviews:

- Dean Suzanne Kresta, College of Engineering (fall 2022)

### Searches:

- Dean, College of Education (completion fall 2022)
- Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience (completion fall 2022)
- Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement (winter 2023)
- Executive Director, School of Public Health (winter 2023)
- Dean, College of Kinesiology (winter 2023)
- Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations (winter 2023)
- Dean, College of Arts and Science (winter 2023)

thank you

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