

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

January 2026

It is with great honour, gratitude, and excitement that I present my first report to University Council as the 12th President of the University of Saskatchewan. I hold deep respect for the essential role council plays in the governance of the university, and I value the guidance and academic oversight it provides.

As a community deeply committed to research and teaching, USask continues to be a proud member of U15 Canada and a world-class university with a growing global reputation. Our community is comprised of visionary thinkers whose expertise sparks innovation, empowers learning, and drives research that shapes the future, while ensuring our campuses remain dynamic and thriving communities. I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for the role you play in this institution

In this report, I will share the values that will guide me in my leadership as President and outline the strategic planning process that will shape our collective work in the years ahead. I am sincerely thankful to the members of council for their support, confidence, and shared commitment to the future of our institution.

STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

In the coming months, we will work together and engage in conversations inside and outside the university to develop a new strategic plan for USask. This plan will clearly articulate our university's identity and will set a path for USask to advance on a set of shared goals that will demonstrate the incredible value this university offers Saskatchewan, Canada and the world. With a strong and growing international reputation for impactful research, our new strategic plan will leverage our research enterprise, including our unique cluster of infrastructure and expertise. The plan will also focus on enhancing the quality of student experience and teaching across the institution. I look forward to working with

many of you this year as we learn from and listen to each other to develop a strategic plan that will serve all areas of USask.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT 2024/25

In December, USask released its *Economic and Social Impact Analysis 2024/25*, a robust report that highlights the institution's substantial contribution to both the provincial and national economies. The study finds that USask generates \$2 billion annually for Saskatchewan's GDP and \$2.4 billion nationally, accounting for nearly 2 per cent of the entire provincial economy. As one of Saskatchewan's largest employers, the university supports 13,320 direct and indirect jobs, and for every \$1 invested by the provincial government, USask returns \$3.64 in GDP and \$2.00 in labour income. Visitor spending alone contributed more than \$100 million to the province in 2024-25.

The report also underscores USask's long-term workforce and social impact. The university produces roughly 4,500 graduates each year, with 70 per cent remaining in Saskatchewan, adding 27,000 skilled workers to the provincial labour force over the past decade. Alumni see significant personal economic gains as well, with each degree increasing average annual earnings by more than \$13,000, translating to \$850,000–\$1.4 million in additional lifetime income. The study further highlights USask's strong research performance with \$321 million in annual research revenue, and its leadership in Indigenous education with 2,940 self-declared Indigenous students representing 14 per cent of undergraduate enrolment.

The contributions of every member of the university community cannot be understated in the success shown in this report. We will continue to build on USask's tremendous contributions to Saskatchewan and Canada within our strategic plan development and in future years. I encourage everyone to take a moment to peruse the full report at usaskimpact.usask.ca.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

USask receives millions for innovative crop research projects

More than \$4.5 million is going to 24 USask-led, crop-focused research projects through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), a joint federal and provincial government program for supporting crucial agricultural research projects, as announced by the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture David Marit on Tuesday, January 13. Along with government funding, an additional \$3.2

million was contributed across all 39 crop ADF projects this year by 13 industry partners critical to the agriculture research and production sector. In addition to the ADF funding, multiple USask experts are part of a research team led by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada that received \$2.5 million through the Strategic Research Initiative for a project studying the management of herbicide-resistant kochia and wild oat plants. [A full list of funded projects is available here.](#)

National consortium formed to accelerate Canadian pea breeding through genomic selection

Protein Industries Canada announced a new two-year project in its Capacity Building Program with GIFS Ag Tech Enterprise Inc., and DL Seeds, to create a pea variety development database that will consolidate genetic information and data for breeders across Canada. With the USask Crop Development Centre and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada serving as fundamental partners in this effort, the consortium will integrate genetic, phenotypic, environmental and pedigree data from across the country. This new data analysis platform will empower pulse breeders to leverage thousands of data points simultaneously, improving the quality and speed of breeding decisions and accelerating the development of new crop varieties.